



The USATF Lake Erie Association is always looking for new officials.

The sport of track and field depends on dedicated volunteers to conduct its competitions. Apart from competing as an athlete or serving as a coach, there's no better way to be involved with the sport than serving as an official. Officials not only have the best spots to see some of America's greatest athletes, they're a vital part of every track and field meet. Track meets require dozens of volunteer officials who work together to ensure the SAFETY of the athletes, coaches, spectators, and other officials. Officials also ensure every event is conducted FAIRLY, by the rules and procedures that govern the meet, and that no athlete has an unfair advantage or is at an unfair disadvantage so that every athlete has the opportunity to compete to the best of their ability.

USA Track and Field (USATF) is the national governing body for the sport in the United States. Training and certification of officials is central to USATF's goal of ensuring safe and fair competitive opportunities for athletes.

Officials are certified on an overall basis, and also for specific event skills, in one of four progressive levels of certification. As an official gains experience, exposure to correct officiating practices, and additional training, they may be advanced to the next level. Advancement isn't automatic; it's earned through service and demonstrated proficiency.

In order to be a Certified Official, you must first join USATF and get a USATF membership. You can join and/or renew (if already a member) at the following link: <https://www.usatf.org/membership/application/index.asp>.

You must then complete USATF background check. The check, conducted by NCSI, is now the same one as required for coaches. However, a check completed for any other purpose (i.e. school teachers, the President of the United States) does not satisfy the USATF requirement. To initiate the background screening (\$16.00 cost) process click on the following link and follow the directions listed below:

Go to: <http://www.usatf.org/Resources-for---/-groups-officials-/Certification/Background-Screen.aspx>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the "Begin the Application Button".

Enter your USATF membership number and password in two locations: in the body of the page, and in the grey boxes at the very top of the page (note: the boxes at the top may be pre-filled, but you must delete the entries and manually fill them in). When the number & password are entered in both places, click on "Login."

You'll be taken to a page titled "USATF Officials Background Screen." Click on "Submit Application" which will take you to another page titled "USATF Officials' Background Check." Click on "I understand" and you'll finally be at the page where you enter your payment information and submit the request for the check.

You must successfully complete or have completed the United States Center for SafeSport's SafeSport training course. Take the training can be taken online at <https://www.safesport.org/>. On the SafeSport training website, be sure to add your USATF membership number by selecting "USA Track and Field" under "Memberships" to receive completion credit.

New officials shall complete, sign, and submit the 2017-2020 New Official Application Form. The recertification form can be downloaded at:

<http://www.usatf.org/usatf/files/08/080d7bc3-7fbd-46d7-bde2-b76b5f0ca39a.pdf>

Complete and achieve a passing score on the rules review appropriate to your certification level and discipline. Click on the link below to get the rules review you need. Rule reviews can be downloaded at:

<http://www.usatf.org/Resources-for---/-groups-officials-/Certification/Forms-and-Reviews.aspx>

At a minimum, you must take the Apprentice Level Track & Field Test/Rules Review. Download the test at:

<http://www.usatf.org/usatf/files/26/265fb2f0-559a-4541-ba13-757c20b7329c.pdf>

Optional certifications can be in LDR/Cross Country/Off-Track Events and Racewalk. You can download those tests at:

<http://www.usatf.org/usatf/files/c5/c5f7edd5-f19c-4dcb-bd0f-f875295e4dc9.pdf> and
<http://www.usatf.org/usatf/files/25/256d67d7-f80b-45fa-8818-4cd932cc0560.pdf>

Then you must make payment of the Association certification fee (good for the 4-year Olympiad). Make check payable to "USATF Lake Erie" in the amount of \$20.00. Send the check to Dave Woytek at 3985 Ramblewood Drive, Richfield, Ohio 44286.

Lastly, I will need a picture. Photos must be similar to a 2"x2" passport type photo and should have a white background. If sending in electronic format, please send it in a jpeg format. Pictures can be emailed to Dave Woytek at dwoytek@lightningtiming.com or they can be mailed to the address listed below.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Dave

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