

Changes to the education and training of Swimming Officials

England, Scotland and Wales have been working towards common standards in the education and training of all Swimming Officials. This has been made possible now that all three Home Countries use FINA Technical Rules. In future such trained officials will be listed as British Swimming Officials.

Timekeeper: This is an introduction into the world of the swimming official. This will cover the practical aspects of what is required of a timekeeper by means of a short theory session followed by a practical assessment. The minimum recommended age for candidates to undertake this training is 14 years. All candidates do need to ensure that they are registered members of a British Swimming affiliated club or a member of the Institute of Swimming (IoS)

Judge Level 1. This is the first level of British qualification. This will encompass the role and duties of a Timekeeper, Chief Timekeeper and Inspector of Turns. The minimum age to commence training is 15 years. Candidates may undertake some instruction and will be required to complete a course workbook, following which a practical assessment will be undertaken. There is no formal theory examination however, during the practical assessment candidates will be required to answer oral questions. Upon qualification candidates will be attributed with the qualification Judge level 1 on the British Swimming Database and will be encouraged to become a Licensed Official.

Judge Level 2. This is the second level of qualification. This will encompass the role and duties in relation to all aspects of Judging and the theoretical role and duties of Starter. The minimum age to commence training is 15 years. Candidates may undertake some instruction and will be required to complete a course workbook, following which a practical assessment will be undertaken. There is no formal theory examination however, during the practical assessment candidates will be required to answer oral questions. When qualified, candidates will be attributed with the qualification Judge level 2 on the British Swimming Database.

Starter. Candidates who wish to qualify as a Starter will be required hold the Judge Level 2 qualification and be a minimum age of 15 years. Training will consist of a prescribed number of practical experiences as a Starter before undertaking a formal practical assessment. Successful candidates will be attributed with the Starter qualification. Judge Level 2S

Referee. Candidates for this course are required to be qualified at Judge level 2S. A candidate may register to commence training aged 17 years but must be 18 years old at 30th November in the year of the course. This course contains theoretical instruction and specified practical experiences and is followed by a formal examination in November after which successful candidates will undertake a final poolside practical assessment leading to qualification as a British Swimming Referee. Several months have been allocated between registration and the formal examination to enable candidates to undertake all the practical experience required to complete the course as well as the theoretical instruction. Application Forms must be submitted by 31st January in order to allow sufficient time to complete training in preparation for the November examination.

Final Reminder

All clubs, promoters and competition organisers are reminded that, for insurance purposes, all those officiating on poolside at any competition must be registered members of a British Swimming affiliated club or a member of the Institute of Swimming.

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