



# **So you want to become a Swimming Official**

# Welcome

You may have tried volunteering and you fancy being an swimming official but how do you become that person clad in white and armed with a stopwatch and a clipboard.

This booklet gives you a brief overview of becoming a swimming official and whether you want to be involved in the local galas or national competitions the route is the same.

The only equipment needed is generally a white t-shirt (sometimes provided) and a pair of light and comfortable black or white trousers. All other equipment such as stopwatches etc. will be provided by the club.

## What are the different roles at poolside?

You will have noticed that there are a variety of roles that require attendance of a theory workshop and a practical component. To become a swimming official you will start as a timekeeper if you are between 14 - 16 years. If you are older than 16 years you can commence the Judge Level 1 course that will incorporate the timekeeper course..

The roles available are as follows, It is important to know that you have to undertake each role in sequence so getting to race referee for example does take commitment and time.



## So how do I sign up?

If you are interested in the power and the glamour of becoming an official, just contact any member of the committee, talk to a parent you know is an official or email the club secretary at the address below. The more qualified officials we have in the club the better and it will not cost you a penny as the club will cover the fees. So why wait and a world of officialdom, free entry to galas and buffet lunches await you.

[secretary@torfaendolphins.com](mailto:secretary@torfaendolphins.com)

# Timekeeper

- Introduction to the world of the Official
- Must be 14 - 16 years and registered to a swim club
- Required to undertake a short theory session and demonstration of practice competence at poolside

## Judge Level 1

- Required to undertake online training and demonstration of practice competence at poolside. If you are over 16 years you can enter at this stage, the timekeep course will be incorporated into your training
- A local contact will be allocated following completion of the training course. This contact will support the individual through the practical sessions. The competence assessment needs to be complete within 11 months
- Once passed you will be given a licence that is valid for 4 years and you can volunteer up to national level.

## Judge Level 2

- The training covers the role and duties in all facets of judging and the role of the starter
- Must be a minimum age of 16 years and volunteered for 20 hours at Level 1
- Theoretical training and poolside mentoring is offered via a workbook. The candidate will need to show poolside competence.

## Judge Level 2 (Starter)

- Candidate must have volunteered for 20 hours at Level 2
- Training consists of a pre-determined number of practical experiences as a starter before undertaking a practical assessment

## Referee

- Candidate must be a minimum age of 19 years
- Training consists of theoretical training and specified practical experiences. A formal examination is required followed by a final practical poolside assessment.