

Club Secretaries/STO Reps

Becoming a swimming technical official starts as it always did with a Timekeepers course, organised through me. This qualifies anyone over 14 to act as a timekeeper at any gala.

However the rest of the progression has changed; judge 1 follows timekeeper (equivalent to registered timekeeper and turn judge), judge 2 (equivalent to stroke and finish judge) follows judge 1 and judge 2S (starter) is the third level. Those who are timekeepers can, if they wish, become recorders by sitting an exam every May/November. The three new qualifications are all continuous assessment, based on workshops, a workbook and practice on poolside, and there is no exam.

It is proposed to start the first group of Judge1 training and the first group of Judge 2S training in February. If your club has any candidates, please ask them to submit an application form (from the website) with the correct fee to me before 31 January. It would be helpful if they could indicate whether they are presently club timekeepers or registered timekeepers on the form. I will then organise the initial workshops at appropriate venue where workbooks and instructions will be issued. (Anyone who wishes can look at the materials on the ND website but to begin training they must apply to me and be given a signed, numbered booklet)

After the initial workshop(s) all candidates will proceed through the booklet, at their own pace. There will be further workshops arranged at suitable points. Candidates must work through the booklet/practical signatures in order, and must realise that it may not always be possible for them to gain a signature at a particular gala; this will depend on the referee and the number of suitable officials willing to act as mentors, as well as the candidate's competence. When officials names are submitted for a gala it is vital that any signatures needed are included on the officials sheet.

Candidates wishing to start training later on will simply submit an application and workshops will be arranged when convenient.

I look forward to receiving applications
J E Young