**Poolside Officials**

Officials are those people dressed in white that you see on poolside at all swimming galas. Without them galas can't function. They are crucially important to swimming both in our club and in clubs throughout the country. We have a constant requirement for swimmers’ parents, and older swimmers, to train as new officials.

Swim England licensed galas such as our Sprint and Distance meets and the Annual Galas have a prescribed number of officials that need to be in attendance to meet the licensing conditions. It's only by attending these types of licensed galas that your children can achieve qualifying times for higher level meets, and for County, Regional and National level competitions. There is a constant demand for new officials because many leave the sport as their children move off to university and out of the club.

**The Role of Officials**

There are 2 basic levels or roles:

**Judge Level 1**: A Judge at Level 1 is trained to carry out the following duties: Timekeeper, Chief Timekeeper, Inspector of Turns Chief Inspector of Turns, Relay Take-off Judge

**Judge Level 2:** A Judge at Level 2 is trained to carry out the following duties: Judge of Stroke, Finish Judge and Chief Finish Judge. Training as a Starter can be incorporated as an additional skill to achieve the Judge Level 2(S) qualification. J2(S) is a pre-requisite to undertaking Referee training.

**How Does the Training Work?**

The training for J1 Level takes place over the course of the swimming season from September to July. The training is workbook based and there will be a couple of classroom sessions and practical sessions on poolside during galas where you will be mentored.

We should emphasise there is no cost involved to the individual. The club pays Swim England a small fee for your training.

**Benefits of Becoming an Official**

* Increase your technical knowledge of competitive swimming
* Supports the swimmers, club and sport
* Most clubs/events will provide free parking or parking expenses
* Most clubs/events will provide free entry and lunches
* Regional and National events will provide overnight accommodation expenses
* Looks good on CVs/Personal Statements of those doing sports A levels and GCSEs/BTechs

**Other volunteers**

At any other gala that the Club runs we will always need help! This takes many forms and you don’t need a background in swimming to help.

Entrance desk – this is situated near the spectator gallery at the pool. There is normally an admission charge for galas and often a raffle! Once the swimmers are about to start racing (after the warm-up has finished) you will be free to watch the competition. Assistance will be given in setting up the entrance area.

Poolside helpers – the Coaches value the support of the parent volunteers on poolside who help us get the children to the start of their races. This is a hard but rewarding job and you get to know the children in the Club very quickly! You will need to be DBS checked for this role and attend a Team Manager course.

Inputting of Results – this is often now spreadsheet based – so if you are good with technology and like numbers then this is the role for you! It’s a behind the scenes role but we will let you know when your swimmer is in the water so that you get to see them race!

Announcer – at Loughborough Leisure Centre we don’t always have a good sound system – but if we host galas at other pools or assist at County Championships an announcer may be required – don’t be shy – if you don’t mind speaking in public this is the role for you – full guidance about what to say will be provided!

Refreshments – we like to keep our officials/helpers refreshed on poolside – providing water to those on poolside is always gratefully received.

Medal/trophy desk – at some events – especially Counties – help is required giving out the medals to the swimmers. The desk is on poolside, so you will have a good position for watching the swimming.

Any parents interested in volunteering to help the Club out in any capacity please speak to a member of the Committee or poolside Coach.