



Kent List of Swimming Officials

Qualification

General

All persons wishing to be included in the list should already have some experience at club or school level and have attended one of the courses that are held around the county for candidates intending to become a swimming official. They must be a member of a club affiliated to a Region of the ASA and pass the appropriate parts of the examination as set out in the following paragraphs. They are required to take practical tests as appropriate. Details may be obtained from the Swimming Officials Examinations Coordinator.

Before taking the courses candidates will be required to be members of the ASA as officials through their club at the fee prevailing at the time. All officials, in any capacity, working on poolside must be members of a club affiliated to a Region of the ASA.

Timekeeper

This qualification is the entry level into officiating at swimming events. It is not a pre requisite towards Judge Level 1 and is based around a single theory session followed by poolside practice and assessment. The outcome will be the ability to understand the requirements of race timing and to take times for swimmers in races.

Judge Level 1

This qualification is the first level of official recognised for officiating at ASA National events and also licensing. It encompasses the theory and practice of FINA officials' roles of timekeeper, chief timekeeper, inspector of turns (including relay takeovers) and chief inspector of turns. The process undertaken to qualify includes progressing through a workbook of theory and knowledge questions plus poolside shadowing and mentoring through the various elements of the roles (approximately 10 hours). When the workbook and poolside work is complete a final oral and practical examination and assessment is undertaken.

Judge Level 2 (Judge Level 2S if the starter practical assessment is passed)

Qualification at Judge Level 1 is a pre requisite before Judge Level 2 or Judge Level 2S can be completed. In addition to the roles involved in Level 1 this qualification includes the theory and practice of the roles of finish judge, chief finish judge and judge of stroke. In addition it includes the theory of starter. The practical element of starter is optional and if successfully taken the official's qualification would be Judge 2S. The process and timescale is similar to that undertaken for Judge 1.

Referee

Qualification of Judge Level 2S is a pre-requisite before starting training as a potential referee. The training takes place over an extended period of several months and consists of modules to be shadowed and then performed whilst being mentored and assessed. On completion of these modules the candidates sits an examination covering the theory of the referee role and the theory of determining 'race results'. In addition to achieving a pass mark in the theory examination the candidate must pass a composite practical assessment encompassing all elements of the role. At present the closing date for application for the course is 31 December for the examinations in the following November.

Re-qualification

Officials on the Kent list are accepted throughout Kent as qualified people who work to a high standard with confidence and authority. They are therefore expected to keep in practice and up-to-date in their knowledge of the laws of swimming. Any who have been inactive for a period may be asked to undertake an oral and practical test before being used again. The Management Committee reserves the right to remove from the list the name of any official who is no longer active and/or does not reply to invitations to officiate at County Championships.

Hand-held electronic watches

Timekeepers must use hand-held electronic watches recording to hundredths of a second. Watches with 'split' action are not essential but are often useful.



Appointments

During October/November, each registered official on the active list will be advised by email through the county website or will receive a form on which they will be asked to state their availability for the Kent County Championship meetings to be held early in the following year. It is essential that they email advice back to the website and/or the form be returned by the specified date, so that the appointments may be made and notified, if possible, before the end of the year. Officials who neglect to do so may be removed from the list. Returns of non-availability are just as important.

Officials will from time to time be nominated by Kent County ASA or invited by other gala organisers to officiate at a variety of galas in Kent. There is at least a moral obligation upon officials to undertake some of these jobs, if they are available, so that properly qualified officials are used widely in the county and the standard of officiating is raised to and maintained at the highest level.

Promotion to the Regional lists of swimming officials

Officials who have been on the Kent list for at least two years, and who have officiated regularly, are from time to time recommended by the Swimming Officials Committee to be added to the Regional lists in one or more of the capacities for which they are qualified on the Kent list. They must have passed the appropriate examination. This will enable them to act as officials at Regional championships and at other meetings at Regional and National level. They may select to which Region's list they wish to be added, however there is no restriction as to where they officiate.

ASA List of swimming referees

FINA (World Swimming)

FINA operates two live lists of officials at any one time. Each list is valid for four years and they run two years apart, for example, List 13 (2005-2008), list 14 (2007-2010). It is from these lists that officials may be nominated to officiate at LEN and FINA events. Each list consists of a number of referees and a number of starters. FINA allocates the numbers each affiliated country can nominate. Great Britain is allocated three referee and two starter nominations.

An upper age limit of 60 years has been set by FINA for officiating at world and Olympic events and there is a possibility that the age limit may further reduce.

It is with knowledge of this background that British officials must have a realistic view when considering opportunities to apply for assessment and consideration to become a nomination for FINA listing.

Referees and starters are invited on an annual (or bi-annual intervals depending upon numbers) basis to apply for pre-FINA assessment. From this list potential nominees are invited to participate at national events to get a greater understanding and exposure to competition at this level.

FINA and LEN appoint referees for international event from within their respective technical swimming committees. At present British Swimming allows its officials to serve two four-year terms on FINA lists. It is for this reason that British swimming is seeking referees and starters who are in the region of 40 years of age or less to train and assess before nomination to a FINA list.

This is the list from which referees are appointed for ASA Championship meetings and for any international contests which are held in England. Entry to the list is restricted to officials who have been qualified as timekeeper and judge for at least three years by examination since 1970 and have passed the ASA Examinations for starter. They must have passed the ASA written examination for referee, which is held in the late autumn each year. The referee examination is in two parts: interpretation of race results and the referee's duties. This makes successful candidates eligible for nomination by the Region to the ASA List of Referees, in due course. Interested and qualified people may get further information from the Swimming Officials Examinations Coordinator.