



ESSEX COUNTY AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

County Association of East and London Regions

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Hon.Sec., Swimming Officials Committee:
Mrs K P McGuire,
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Dear Club Secretary

As you may be aware the ASA has changed the system for Swimming Officials qualifications. This means that there will no longer be courses held in the Autumn with theory examinations in November.

Qualifications are divided into the following levels:

Club timekeeper
Judge level 1
Judge level 2
Judge level 2 (S)

More details can be found on the British Swimming and Regions' websites as well as the application forms, but the main difference is that there is a progression through the levels with a pass required before going on to the next level, however, entry can be at either club timekeeper or Judge level 1.

Courses will consist of workshop and assessment sessions. Candidates also have to undertake practice in the relevant poolside duties before having a final assessment. I have copied the relevant section from the British Swimming website for your information:

Work is in progress to develop the process to cover all the remaining roles of officials. In order to develop this it has been agreed to re-define the qualifications to fit the functions required. Training for these new qualifications will commence from 1st October 2007. The process for these qualifications will place a greater emphasis upon practical application through the completion of a course workbook and formal practical assessment.

Club Timekeeper: This will not be a recorded British Swimming Official qualification but it is intended as 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. There is no minimum recommended age for candidates to undertake this training, however, all such poolside officials 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 will be 15 years old. 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 1 on the British Swimming Database. In addition, such individuals, if they wish, may apply 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 will be 15 years old. 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. In addition, such individuals, if wished, may apply to become a Licensed Official.

Starter. Candidates who wish to qualify as a Starter will be required to 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

As mentioned in the timekeeper section of this letter all prospective candidates must be members of their club or the IoS and have received their ID numbers before applying for the course. This is most important as a large proportion of these courses takes place on poolside and registration includes insurance cover.

Courses will be run for between 6 to 10 candidates and if you are unable to find enough candidates from your own club you could get together with another one in the vicinity. Candidates will be able to work at their own pace and some may reach the standard required for their final practical assessment before others and in any case only 3 candidates (apart from timekeepers) can be assessed at one gala.

As you can see from this letter candidates need to obtain practical experience under the new system so I hope that you and you officials running your galas will be receptive to candidates asking to shadow officials or practice their duties with experienced officials mentoring them. If anyone is able to assist in this role I would be very pleased to hear from them. I would also be grateful if gala organisers could let me know about galas which are suitable for assessment purposes.

I hope this clarifies the position re Examinations, bearing in mind that any new system has teething troubles, but if you have any further queries please contact me

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KM McGuire". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Kay McGuire