

Open Meet Licensing Criteria

Effective from 11th March 2022

Officials' Requirements

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Swim England facilitated the return to swimming competition by temporarily reducing the total number of technical officials required at each licence level. At the same time, the level of qualification required to perform certain officiating roles at some licence levels was also temporarily relaxed.

This period of relaxed requirements will expire on 10th March 2022, in readiness for the start of the national qualifying window. From 11th March 2022 the minimum number of technical officials and the required qualifications will revert to the pre-pandemic situation as outlined below. It should be noted that, in late 2018, these numbers were themselves reviewed and reduced and consequently, the minimum requirements are not considered to constitute a significant increase in expectation over those in place during the pandemic.

Whilst the numbers and qualifications in this document are the expected minimums, it should be noted that Licensing Officers have always been understanding in those rare instances where unforeseen circumstances have resulted in the late withdrawal of a qualified official. Referees should never feel inhibited about noting any such issue on their meet report as falling short by one official in one session over a weekend of racing would not normally be considered as a reason to rescind a meet licence. That said, Promoters should always seek to appoint more than the minimum number to ensure that an event is well covered and Licensing Officers may take action where there has been a wholesale or repeated failure to meet the minimum requirements.

These requirements form part of the Licensed Meet Criteria and should be read in conjunction with them.

All individuals officiating at any meet of any level must be a member of a club affiliated to either Swim England, Scottish Swimming or Swim Wales or be a member of the Institute of Swimming, or be a FINA listed official if from a foreign country.

Expenses must be offered.

LEVEL 1 and 2

All Officials are required to be qualified and licensed for the role to which they are appointed.

Referee [2]

Starter [1]

Judge of Stroke [2]

Chief Inspector of Turns [2]

Timekeeper/Inspector of Turns (start end) [1 per lane]

Inspector of Turns (turn end) [at least 1 per 2 lanes] i.e a pool with 8 lanes in use requires at least 4 Inspectors of Turns at the turn end

LEVEL 3

At least one qualified, licensed Referee shall be appointed for each session.

Referee [1] – Licensed and qualified as a Referee

Starter [1] – Qualified to at least J2(S)

Judge of Stroke [2] – Qualified to at least J1

Timekeeper/Inspector of Turns (start end) [1 per lane] – a minimum of J1 in training (see definition below)

Inspector of Turns (turn end) [1 per 2 lanes] - a minimum of J1 in training (see definition below) i.e a pool with 8 lanes in use requires at least 4 Inspectors of Turns at the turn end, all of whom must be at least J1 in training

LEVEL 4

Referee [1] – Licensed and qualified to at least J2(S)

Starter [1] – Qualified to at least J2

Judge of Stroke [2] – Qualified to at least J1

Chief Timekeeper [1] – At least J1 in training (see definition below)

Timekeeper/Inspector of Turns (start end) [1 per lane] – At least qualified Timekeeper

Inspector of Turns (turn end) [1 per 2 lanes] – a minimum of qualified Timekeeper i.e a pool with 8 lanes in use requires at least 4 Inspectors of Turns at the turn end, all of whom must be at least qualified Timekeepers

Judge 1 in training

In order to act as a “Judge 1 in training” for meet licensing purposes the individual must:

Online training

- Have enrolled on the Judge 1 course and completed all of the online theory modules
- Have passed the poolside timekeeper’s assessment (unless already qualified as a timekeeper)
- Be within the requisite period of completing their poolside competencies

Face to face training

- Have enrolled on a Judge 1 course and attended both the timekeeper theory session (unless already qualified as a timekeeper) and the first judging theory session
- Pass a poolside timekeeper's assessment (unless already qualified as a timekeeper)
- Have undertaken at least 1 mentored session within the last 6 months, recorded in their workbook and signed off by a qualified and licensed Referee.

With effect from 31st March 2022, all "old" style Judge 1 training (based on the face to face theory session) will cease and only the online definition will apply.