

Criteria for the Training of Officials at Licensed Meets

With effect from 1st April 2022

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Swim England facilitated the return of training for technical officials by temporarily waiving the requirement for trainees to attend various levels of meet until 31st March 2022.

It remains both desirable and necessary that trainee officials across the board gain their poolside experience at the broadest possible range of events. With this in mind trainee officials who are members of Swim England affiliated clubs will now again be encouraged to gain poolside experiences across all levels of meets.

As such, trainee J1, J2 and J2S officials will be required to evidence attendance at two sessions (where a “session” is a morning, afternoon or evening) at meet(s) licensed at either Level 1 or 2, two sessions at meet(s) licensed at Level 3 and mentored experience signed off by a qualified licensed referee at Level 4 meets. Any variances in this process will need to be sanctioned by the candidate’s Regional Officials’ Coordinator, during the candidate’s training period prior to final assessment/sign off.

The requirements for Referee candidates are as laid out on their Record of Poolside Duties form.

Whilst there are currently no government restrictions in place, training, mentoring and assessments must only take place if they can be conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with any restrictions laid down by the pool provider or event organiser.

Level 1 and Level 2 Licensed Meets

Given that Officials are required to be both qualified and licensed in the role which they are performing, trainee officials shall be permitted to attend and observe all aspects of officiating at meets licensed at levels 1 and 2, in order that they can gain valuable experience of meets at these levels and how they are run.

Mentoring **MUST** be to a level of one to one and should an infraction be observed it will be the qualified official who completes and submits both the verbal and written disqualification report to the referee. (Though clearly, the trainee will be afforded the opportunity to practice/experience both the delivery of the verbal report and the compilation of the written disqualification report).

J2(S) trainees will not be permitted to “start” at meets Licensed at levels 1 and 2. However they shall be permitted to shadow the qualified starter, practice/be mentored in voice projection/clarity and use the starting equipment and start (with no swimmers).

Referee trainees can be mentored at a level of one to one, with the final decision on any matter being the responsibility of the qualified and licensed mentor.

For all levels of qualification, the candidate's workbook will be able to be signed off by one of the meet's Licensed Referee(s) as normal, including any competencies that the Referee feels the candidate has demonstrated.

Final Assessments of candidates will not be permitted at either Level 1 or Level 2 meets unless such an assessment has been sanctioned by the candidate's Regional Officials' Coordinator prior to the assessment itself.

Level 3 Licensed Meets

There are no restrictions placed upon the training of officials at meets licensed at level 3; however suitable ratios of licensed officials acting as mentors to trainees are required. This should be one mentor to a maximum of two trainees and those mentors should be qualified to at least the level of qualification they are mentoring at.

Level 4 Licensed Meets

There are no restrictions placed upon the training of officials at meets licensed at level 4; however suitable ratios of licensed officials acting as mentors to trainees are required. This should be one mentor to a maximum of two trainees and those mentors should be qualified to at least the level of qualification they are mentoring at.

It should be borne in mind that though meets licensed at level 4 will no doubt provide the trainee with a large range of observational experience, they will not be able to have poolside competencies signed off in their workbooks unless the referee is a qualified and licensed Referee and not a J2(S) acting in the role of referee.

Judge 1 in training

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

- 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 11 month period of completing their poolside competencies

All "old" style face to face Judge 1 training ceased with effect from 31st March 2022 and these individuals will not be able to act as a "Judge 1 in Training" at a licensed meet unless they meet the above requirements.

Judge 1 Training Deadlines

The deadlines for Judge 1 candidates to complete their training remain as previously published:

- Anyone who completed their Judge 1 online theory training by the 31 August 2021 will have until 31 July 2022 to complete their practical training
- Anyone who completes their Judge 1 online theory training from 1 September 2021 onwards will have 11 months from the date on their theory certificate to complete their practical training