

Welcome to the first edition of the online newsletter.

Where are we?

We hope that everyone has found the Swimming Officials section on the new website.

From the Home page go to Disciplines – Swimming – Officials

English, Scottish, Welsh or British?

Although all Judges, Starters and Referees are now qualified as British please remember that you are registered through your Home Country and there are differences in the way each Home Country charge and process their officials.

There are also some significant anomalies between the ways the Home Countries interpret FINA Rules. At this technical level we will be removing the anomalies by consultation with all. If you find an anomaly please report it to us so that we can add it to the list.

So far we are aware of differences in the way the finishing order is decided and times adjusted when manually timed and there are less than three timekeepers per lane. A panel of referees will discuss this and other issues in November.

British Swimming Officials

On the 1st of October all swimming technical official qualifications recorded on the database were converted to the new British Swimming qualifications.

Prior to this conversion, an audit was undertaken to check that swimming officials qualifications were up to date. Unfortunately this highlighted many instances of qualifications that were missing and also cases where officials were not in membership of an affiliated club.

Every technical official must be a member of a club affiliated to the ASA, SASA or WASA or be a member of the Institute of Swimming. All club members should have received a membership card. If you have not done so please can you check with your club to ensure that you are still a registered member?

If you do not wish to be a member of an affiliated club you may join the Institute of Swimming as a technical official for an annual membership fee of £25. Contact ios@swimming.org for information.

New Courses

The new courses have been completed and training has commenced. Course workbooks for Club Timekeeper, Judge level 1 and Judge level 2/2S are now available for download from the British Swimming website.

Those wishing to commence training should contact their local organiser. A list of the English Regional contacts is available on the website together with an application form. England have also provided copies of the Course workbooks for Judge level 1 and 2/2S to each Region for those who have signed up to undertake the course.

British Swimming Referee

Many of you will have seen Referee candidates doing their practical training on the poolside during the course of the year. Most of them have completed their prescribed duties and will be taking their theory examination on 12th November. We wish them all well. Unfortunately, there are a few who have not completed all the course work and consequently must defer to a later date.

If you are considering training to be a Referee please be aware that you need to think about getting your application in now and certainly no later than 31st January 2008 in order to allow sufficient time to complete everything. There is another incentive. Course Fees will rise on 1st January so get your application in now.

Licensed Officials

Have you completed your application form to be a licensed official?

An official who is already qualified as a Judge level 2/2S or Referee has until 31st December 2007 to complete an application to be licensed. After this date only newly qualified officials can apply for a licence without completing all the required mandatory and elective elements.

The official's awareness module renamed "Contemporary Issues" has now been completed and distributed.

National Championships- Dates for your diary
British Championships- 31 Mar-6 Apr- Sheffield
British Masters- to be confirmed
ASA National Championships- to be confirmed
ASA Age Group Championships- 24-27 July- Sheffield
ASA Youth Championships- 29 Jul-2 Aug- Sheffield
ASA Masters 24-26 October- Sheffield

Application forms to officiate at any/all of the above events will be posted on the website in November.

Queries and Issues:

Please contact Jane Davies on jane.davies@swimming.org