

## My Lane – Faye Lewis

### 1. What Club did you start your swimming career? What Club are you with now?

I joined Blacktown City Swimming Club in 2001/2002 when my children joined the swim club and am now a life member. I go to Club Night most Friday nights to officiate.

### 2. What was your first TO credential and what year did you attain that credential?

My first credential was time keeper which I obtained in 2003.

### 3. Why did you become an official? Why do you still officiate?

I became an official to support the club as they required help at club night and I didn't like sitting in the stands all day. I was fortunate at that time to have an experienced official in the club that encouraged me to develop as an official. We would sit together early Saturday mornings to do the theory, in preparation for exams. There were plenty of opportunities to practice skills in a supportive environment. I officiate now as I enjoy officiating at all levels from grass root to international meets. I have developed some great friendships over the years. It took a lot of hard work to develop the skills I need to officiate and to get to the level I am at and I wanted to continue to use these skills. I now enjoy mentoring and training other officials having the opportunity to share my learning.

### 4. What is the highest credential attained?

I am a level 3 referee and have been fortunate to be currently be on the FINA list as a referee.



### 5. What is your goal(s)?

When I first started officiating my goal was to become a referee to help out the club. My referee training was conducted by a FINA level referee who encouraged me to attend state and national meets. I had some success at State Level getting good assessments being encouraged by assessors

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to continue on my journey. In 2011 I was fortunate enough to be on the NOSP (National Officiating Scholarship Program) and the goals I set then were to gain Level 3 accreditation, become a FINA level referee and gain an appointment to the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. I have achieved all this and more. My goal now is to continue to improve my skills and to coach and mentor other officials.

### **6. What is the highest-level meet at which you have officiated?**

I have refereed at the Pan Pacific Games on the Gold Coast, the World Cup in Japan and Open National Championships. I officiated at the Junior World Championships in Singapore, and more recently at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

### **7. With respect to your answer to Question 6, can you please pass on some of the strategies/tips you used to help you achieve your appointment?**

My advice to others is to find a mentor and a good group of friends to officiate with, it makes the experience more enjoyable. Make connections with people that can support you in your pathway.

Have a thorough knowledge of the Rules and refresh and keep up to date regularly.

Be open to learn. Take as many opportunities as you can to officiate, ask lots of questions, learn from others. Every opportunity no matter the position you are appointed in is an opportunity to learn and watch others officiate. Ask questions about what you observe and why decisions were made.

Attend the SAL and State provided training and development opportunities.

Make sure you have the support of your family as it can be time consuming.