

My Lane – Isaak Wilson

1. What Club did you start your swimming career?

Wollongong Swim Club

2. What Club are you with now?

Wollongong Swim Club

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

Timekeeper and Chief Timekeeper in 2015.

4. Why did you become an official?

I became an official because I felt like I needed to give back to the community. As a competitive swimmer myself, I advanced to higher-order meets as I became older. I came to the reality that I would not be there if it was not for all the people that sacrifice their time, family and any other commitments so that the sport became one where fairness is achieved the simplest way (A sport cheat-free!). Sacrificing their time away from family and friends really allowed me to become a better swimmer in and out of the water. My first meet was a squad development meet down the South Coast, where I was encouraged to begin the journey of assisting others and see them come through the ranks and eventually represent their club at major meets like I have.

5. Why do you still officiate?

I still officiate for many reasons. The first reason is that I have gained fantastic relationships, with people that share the same interests and most importantly, share a commonality of officiating swimming. These relationships have provided me with opportunities that I would never even thought of when I started this journey. These relationships have also taught me specific life-skills that are relevant in everyday life (yes, I know, school inclusive). The ability to be able to socialise with people of different ages, different personalities and different beliefs is so important for future life situations. The third and final reason is simply for the love of the sport. Officiating the sport of swimming gives another perspective to the sport regarding knowledge and expertise. With knowledge and expertise mixed with competition, integrity, excitement and enjoyment, swimming, by far, is the best sport to be a part of the community.

6. What is the highest credential received? (i.e. Starter Level 1, Referee Level 3, JOS, etc)

Judge of Stroke. I have just very recently gained my Level 1 Starter accreditation.

7. What is your goal(s)?

I have numerous goals and my first one would be to gain my Level 1 Referee accreditation once I have finished school. Eventually, I would love to travel Australia as technical official and officiate at Swimming Australia meets. In the future, I would love to officiate at an international meet.



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8. What is the highest level meet at which you have officiated? (eg Area, State, National, Pan Pacs etc).

The early weeks of October saw me officiating at the 2018 Swimming Australia State Teams Meet in Canberra at the AIS. This was the best learning environment I have ever participated in and I was so fortunate to have that opportunity. I also have officiated at NSW State Open Championships, where I was fortunate enough to learn so much about the sport and even meet a few Olympic Gold Medallists.

9. 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?

There are so many strategies and tips that I have to allow myself to officiate to the best of my ability and achieve my recent appointment at State Teams. My first bit of advice would be to plan ahead. In my situation, planning is key (due to school, work and my own swimming) so that I can find the right balance. This is important so that your body does not become tired and can still enjoy everything you do. My second tip is to take any new opportunity that is given to you. I believe that taking risks and stepping outside your comfort zone is what allows you take that extra step in achieving your goals or whatever you endeavour. My third tip is to open yourself up into any sort of conversation where your knowledge of the sport may assist you in the area of officiating. I believe that having another view of the sport may allow that extra appreciation of why you officiate and who you officiate for. My final tip, and most important tip for me, is to enjoy the sport holistically and to always have a positive attitude to everything you do.

