

My Lane – Kayleen Murphy

1. What Club did you start your swimming career?

My first club was Junee in the Riverina Area of NSW. I started competitively swimming in 1970 at 5 years of age. In 1976 my family moved to Sydney where I swam with the Wenden and Padstow Swimming Clubs. I was fortunate to swim at National Level from 1978 to 1982.

I joined Wagga Wagga Swimming Club in 2003 as a coach.

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

My first Technical Accreditation was Timekeeper and Chief Timekeeper which I completed in 2007.

3. Why did you become an official? Why do you still Officiate?

I suppose it was my love of swimming and the natural next progression from competitive swimmer and coach. I wanted to make sure that what I was teaching the squad swimmers was correct and in line with rules of swimming.

I originally wanted to follow in my Father's footsteps and become a Multiclass Technical Classifier. However, the Criteria changed and was made harder to pursue as I did not possess the required tertiary degrees.

I started officiating in 2005 when I was approached by the Local Schools to assist with their swimming carnivals.

My Journey towards Referee began after I met Chris Hayes at a SISA Development Day in Wagga just after SISA was formed. I began to officiate at our local meets working my way through all the credentials.

I love to officiate at the 'grass roots' level where I get to see swimmers compete at their very first meet, then over the following years witness their development and improvement in the sport of swimming.

I have been fortunate enough in this early stage of my officiating journey to officiate and witness some truly amazing athletes competing for their club, area, state and country.

I really enjoy officiating outside my SISA area and regularly attend other area's meets just so I can learn from them. I especially enjoy officiating at Multiclass meets.

Lastly, I have made many life-long friendships with other Technical Officials.

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

Referee Level 2 and Referee (SWD) Level 1



5. What is your goal(s)?

Stay healthy and fit so that I can continue to do what I thoroughly enjoy.

I like to continually set small achievable goals. My next goal is to reach Referee Level 3 and Referee Multi-Class Level 2.

If successful in those I would then like to learn more on officiating Multi-Class meets. My ultimate goal is to reach the lofty heights of being a FINA accredited Referee in both able-bodied and Multi-Class swimming.

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

In 2018 I attended my first Age Nationals in Sydney. In 2018 I attended State Teams in Canberra where I had the opportunity to perform the Role of Referee. In February 2019 I attended the World Para Trials in Melbourne. In April, 2019 I have been selected to officiate at the Australian Open swimming Championship and the Australian Age Swimming Championships in Adelaide.

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?

At local meets I like to take the mysticism out of officiating by encouraging potential officials to walk with me where I explain to them what I am looking for in respect to arm and leg movements in each discipline being swum. If after that they wish to pursue their officiating I offer to help and mentor them.

Don't let a mistake put you off reporting an infraction or continuing to perform your role. Have confidence in yourself. We have **all** made mistakes. However, the longer you officiate and more experienced you become the time frame between these mistakes will lengthen – till hopefully they are years apart.

Continually refresh your knowledge of the rules and regulations of swimming and any changes to those rules and regulations.

I would strongly encourage any official to, if practical, attend and officiate at a SOPAC meet where you can observe some of the best officials in the country in action. Ask them questions and learn from them, they are all more than happy to impart their knowledge.