

My Lane – Ken Jones

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

I started with Nepean Swimming club in around the mid 90's. I am now with Sydney Swim PLC.

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

My first credential was as a Timekeeper in around 1996.

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

Like many others in the official's community, I started as a parent helping out at club night. I was lucky that my first club and district, Nepean club and Cumberland district, had a strong culture supporting its parents to become officials. My kids eventually stopped swimming but I was happy to continue as I was very much enjoying the challenges, opportunities and friendships that are part of this fun hobby.

I continue to enjoy officiating but also do especially enjoy being engaged in the development activities for officials via mentoring and training programs. I find this a great way to keep engaged and as a mentor/trainer, you have the opportunity to share and learn from each other's experiences. Happy to say I am still learning.

4. What is the highest credential received?

I attained my Referee Level 3 and have also been fortunate to be selected as a FINA referee over the past 7 years.

5. What is your goal(s)?

I am very fortunate to have achieved the majority of my goals as far as credentials and meets attended, however I still always enjoy any opportunity to Referee and I am especially crossing my fingers and hoping to attend the Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast. In addition to those personal officiating goals, I am also keen to continue to be involved in the development of swimming officials as I truly enjoy that interaction.

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

My highest achievement was attending the Olympic Games in Rio, Brazil.



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?

First tip: I think the best strategy is ensuring you attend as many and as varied meets as you can and when an opportunity arises, take it with both hands and run like mad.

Second tip: Be open to learn. Though I have not had a formal mentor over the years, I have had many informal ones, all of whom have provided guidance and helped shape

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my views. Any success I have had is well and truly founded on watching and listening to those people.

Third tip: Officiating isn't Rocket Science and as such anyone has the capacity to achieve their goals if they put the time and effort in.



Ken Jones at the Rio 2016 Olympics