

My Lane – Matthew Neale

1. What Club did you start your swimming career?

What Club are you with now? I started at Glenbrook in 2004 and am still there

2. What was your first TO credential

What year did you attain that credential?

My first credential was timekeeping in 2005 which most achieve first. Then moved through to Check Starter, Marshall etc.

3. Why did you become an official?

Why do you still officiate?

Like most other officials, I began as a parent after a season of sitting in the sideline looking after the kids then I started helping out at club nights. Glenbrook is a very much a family orientated club and it was an easy process to work through the officiating modules without too much stress. All three of my children were competitive swimmers at some stage with Claudia still competing for the Knox/Pymble club. I am happy to continue to officiate as I enjoy the challenges, opportunities and friendships that officiating brings. It's always good to catch up with people you may not have seen for some time and find out what they have been up to.



4. What is the highest credential attained?

Level 2 referee – waiting for my first Level 3 assessment with Swimming Australia

5. What is your goal(s)?

My goal is to become a level 3 referee and ultimately a FINA referee.

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

Australian Age Championships

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?

Nominate for every swim meet you are available for and don't spit the dummy out if you don't receive the appointment you believe you deserve or are entitled to! Speak with other officials as there are always items of information that you can pick up on and use when officiating in the role you have been given. Listen to what other officials have to say however adopting the "I am always right" attitude can lead to other officials perhaps not freely sharing information and their experiences – be an open book and always be willing to learn. Know the rules and protocols of the position you have been given, concentrate on the task at hand but most of all enjoy the experience and remember we are there for the swimmers to ensure they all have an enjoyable, fair and safe swim meet.