

News from the **Technical Swimming Committee**

Welcome to the **December** Edition of the Technical Swimming Committee Newsletter.

2018 Commonwealth Games

It is very pleasing to see such a large contingent of NSW Officials appointed to the upcoming Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Congratulations to the following SNSW Officials on their appointments:

Cherry Smith (Referee)	Nick Keith	John Hart
Ken Jones	Faye Lewis	Phil Jobling
Jann Fathers	John Rohloff	David Cooper
Neil Rogers	Pam Weste	

FINA Rule Changes

A FINA Technical Congress was held in conjunction with the recent 17th FINA World Swimming Championships held in Budapest.

The relevant Rule changes and amendments from the Congress are valid for Swimming NSW Meets from –

- [Metropolitan Championships – 24 November 2017](#)
- [Open Water Championships – 9 December 2017](#)

An Explanatory Memo, which highlights the changes and amendments to the Swimming Rules can be found [HERE](#)

The SNSW Rules, training notes and Quick Reference Rule Infraction Card have been adjusted accordingly.

On 13 September 2017, FINA also issued an Interpretation to Swimming Rules:

- The Start – “After all swimmers are stationary, any swimmer initiating a start before the signal may be disqualified when such movement is observed and confirmed by both the starter and referee”.
- Breaststroke and Butterfly – Clarification of the word “separated” to mean “that the hands cannot be stacked one on top of the other. It is not necessary to see space between the hands. Incidental contact at the fingers is not a concern”

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

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

SAL Short Course Swimming Championships – Adelaide

Congratulations to the following SNSW Officials who were appointed to the SAL Short Course Championships held in Adelaide during October –

Christine Etter
Jann Fathers
John Hart
Ken Jones

Faye Lewis
John Owen
Brett Patrick
Peter Shell

Murray Smith
Gloria Wiegmann
John Williams

The SNSW TSC also appointed a Mentor to accompany the NSW Officials and to provide advice and feedback to our new or relatively new officials to SAL meets. Following the EOI process, the TSC appointed Cherry Smith to undertake the role of mentor and the TSC would like to express its appreciation for Cherry's commitment to the role. The TSC has received positive comments from a number of Officials highlighting the benefits of appointing a mentor and the TSC will look to continue this initiative into the future.

2017 State Age Championships

The TSC will be holding a BBQ between sessions at Big State on Saturday 16th December. Please note that you must be officiating on the day to attend the BBQ. A formal invitation will be disseminated closer to the time.

Also, during days 4-6 of Big State, the TSC will host interested parents/Timekeepers to a “behind the scenes tour” of how a meet is conducted. Each tour should last approximately 15-20 minutes. Again, further information will be disseminated soon.

Please note that changes have been made to the Club timekeeping rostering system. These changes will commence at the upcoming Metropolitan Championships. Clubs will now be advised on pre-allocated lanes and the lanes will remain for the duration of the meet. This will ensure a smooth changeover process and alleviate confusion. The roster will be provided to Referees, the Technical Manager and Chief Timekeepers prior to the first session of each meet.

Appointments for both Little and Big State will be disseminated soon. To respond to a number of comments, the TSC would like to provide the following information on the Appointment process for State Age Championships –

In finalising the appointments, the TSC considers both Little and Big State to be one meet, so jobs are shared over both meets. Therefore, for example if a person nominates for the position of Referee for both meets, they will most likely only be appointed to the position of Referee at either Little or Big State, not both. However, this can be varied depending on an individual’s pathway and assessment requirements.

Also, for key positions at Big State (Referee, Starter, AOE, and Marshal) preference is given to individuals who nominate for both sessions (Heats and Finals) on any particular day. This helps to ensure a consistent approach in key roles across both sessions.

Relay Procedure

The Board recently approved a change to the relay entry procedure that essentially requires the Chief Recorder to be notified in writing prior to the session commencing, only if there only if there are any changes to a relay team’s electronic entry, or if the team members were not included in the on-line entry process.

GR9.1.3 has been amended to read “In relay events the names of swimmers and the order in which they are to swim shall be submitted in *accordance with the Swimming NSW Entry procedures. Any changes to the swimmers and/or the order in which they are to swim must be submitted in writing* to the Chief Recorder or delegate prior to the commencement of the sessions at which the relays are to be swum”

Marshalling Procedure

The Board also approved a change to the Marshalling Procedure. GR 9.1.1 now reads “*For Heats, Semi-Finals and Finals, swimmers shall report to the Marshal/First Call Room at a time determined by the event management. A swimmer failing to do so shall be deemed to be withdrawn. Once reported, a swimmer is not permitted to leave the marshalling area unless approval is first obtained from the Marshal. All heats of each event shall be deemed to be one event for the purpose of the Rule.*”

The Note that followed GR9.1.1 has been deleted and event management will incorporate the relevant meet marshalling protocol in the Manager and Coach Briefing Notes for each meet. The Briefing for Metro can be found [HERE](#) and for Little State can be found [HERE](#).

New Technical Officials

Congratulations and welcome to our newest Technical Officials. The full list of new Officials can be found on the *Swimming NSW* Facebook page (post from 14th Nov), and also at *The Officials Swimming NSW Technical Officials* Facebook group!

NOAP Level 1 Referee Exams

Referee Examinations have been scheduled for the following dates and will be held at the SNSW Office. Please contact Josh Karp should you wish to sit for the exam –

- Between Little and Big State on Thursday 14th December 2017; and
- Prior to NSW Country Championships on Friday 23rd February 2018

Country candidates who are unable to travel to Sydney to sit their examination may arrange to be assessed before the Country Regional meets in January. Please contact the SNSW Office to arrange a suitable time to undertake the examination.

Next SNSW Meets

Nominations are open for the following SNSW Meets.

Meet	Location	Dates	Closing Date for Nominations
2018 NSW State Open Championships	SOPAC	19 th -21 st January 2018	9 th January 2018
2018 NSW Country Regional Meets	Goulburn Orange Port Macquarie	27 th -28 th January 2018	16 th January 2018
2018 NSW Country Championships	SOPAC	23 rd -25 th February 2018	13 February 2018
2018 Speedo Sprint Finals	SOPAC	10 TH March 2018	26 th February 2018
2018 SNSW National Prep Meet	SOPAC	24 th March 2018	13 th March 2018

To nominate, please click [HERE](#)

Thank You

Many thanks to all who officiated at the recent NSW LC MC Championships and the Long Course Qualifying Meet.

The QUIZ

October Quiz Answer

To recap on the October question – “You have been appointed as an IoT to Lane 9 at the turn end of the SNSW Metro Long Course Championships. The second heat of the

Women's 800m Freestyle is in the water. As your swimmer is about to turn at the 150m mark, an adult male (who you find out to be the swimmer's father) hands the swimmer in your lane a pair of goggles. As IoT, what do you do?

Answer

Having seen the incident, the IoT should report what they observed to the Referee, and then return to their position on pool deck. Note SW 10.17: "Unauthorised persons shall not be permitted in those areas of the pool designated for competition for the swimmers or officials for the duration of any competition."

Also, when making the report to the Referee, the IoT needs to be mindful that the swimmer touched the wall at the 150M mark (SW5.2 – "Some part of the swimmer must touch the wall upon completion of each length....") and did not take a step (SW10.4 – "Standing on the bottom during freestyle events.....shall not disqualify a swimmer, but he shall not walk").

December Question

As Referee, having received the report from the IoT, what do you do?

Best wishes to all Technical Officials for a very Happy Christmas and safe New Year.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please email Josh Karp:
josh.karp@nsw.swimming.org.au

Swimming New South Wales Technical Swimming Committee
November 2017

