

News from the **Technical Swimming Committee**

Welcome to the **February 2019** Edition of the Technical Swimming Committee Newsletter.

SNSW Technical Swimming Committee

The SNSW Office has called for Expressions of Interest for all Management Committees, including the Technical Swimming Committee. The EOI can be found [HERE](#) and closes at 5.00PM on Monday 11 March 2019.

Country Regional Championships

The NSW Country Regional Meets were held in Eden, Wagga Wagga and Armidale on 26th and 27th January 2019. Numerous assessments were held and from all reports the three meets ran extremely smoothly (despite the heat).

Thank you to all Officials who were involved and for making the TSC representatives feel most welcome.

Referee Exams

Level 1 Referee exams have been scheduled to coincide with upcoming meets –

- Country Championships – Friday 22nd February 2019. SNSW Office (10:00AM);
- NSW State Open – Friday 15th March and Saturday 16th March. SNSW Office.
- Junior Metropolitan – Friday 1st March 2019. SNSW Office (9:00AM or 1:00PM).

Please fill in the relevant form on [this page](#) and send to [Josh Karp](#) should you wish to attend.

Survey Results

Thank you to the many Officials who took the time to complete the recent Survey following Big State last year.

The TSC is currently working through the feedback. The results are essentially grouped into the following main categories; - the time of notification of appointments, meals/snacks, length of sessions/reserve officials and better scheduling of the backstroke events (to minimise the time taken to install the backstroke ledges).

With respect to notification of Appointments, the TSC has agreed to close nominations for the Winter Meets earlier to allow more time between the issue of appointments and the meet start date. This change will be in place for all nominations, beginning with the Sydney Open Meet.

Tasmanian State Age, Open and 11 under Swimming Championships

Swimming Tasmania are still looking for Technical Officials to assist at their State Championships 8-11 March 2019.

Unfortunately, Swimming Tasmania are not in the position to assist with funding of Airfare or Accommodation but they are able to “supply great company and refreshments during the day”.

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? (ie 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.

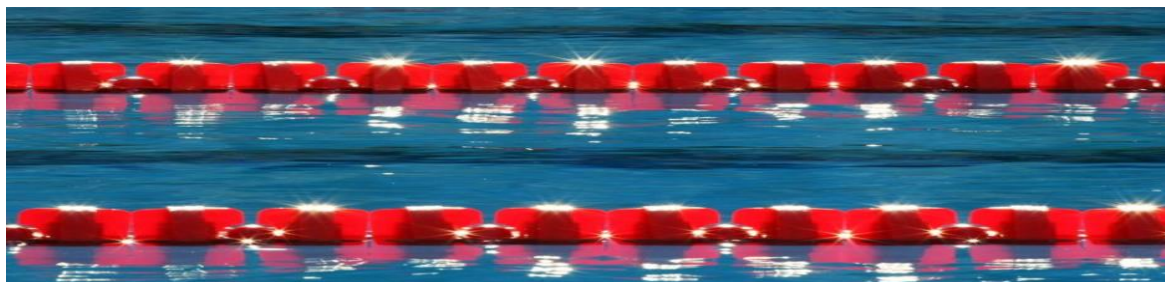


8. What is the highest level meet at which you have officiated? (eg Area, State, National, Pan Pacs etc).

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.



Titles for the Scoreboard at SOPAC

To ensure consistency of Scoreboard titles during SNSW Meets held at SOPAC, the TSC has developed guidelines to be used by AOE Operators during set up of a meet through the Quantum timing system.

The document can be found within [this page](#) (*Resources that will assist you on pool deck*).

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all our Technical Officials. Good luck for another busy year ahead.

2019 State Open Championships

A reminder that the TSC Appointments Policy for State Open Championships states that Referees and Starters appointed to this meet “should be FINA, Level 3 and Level 2”.

2019 Hancock Prospecting Australian Swimming Championships

Congratulations to the following SNSW Technical Officials who have been recently appointed to the Australian Swimming Championships to be held in Adelaide from 7th to 12th April, 2019.

Faye	Lewis	John	Hart
David	Cooper	Cherry	Smith
Ken	Jones	Chris	Hayes
John	Rohloff	Murray	Smith
Robert	Alford		

2019 Australian Age and Multi Class Swimming Championships

And, further congratulations to the large contingent of SNSW Technical Officials who have been appointed to the Australian Age Swimming Championships, which are also being held in Adelaide from 15th April 2019.

Murray	Smith	Matthew	Neale
Kayleen	Murphy	Brett	Patrick
Philip	Jobling	Ben	Ramsden
David	Cooksley	Peter	Shell
Jacqui	Currey	John	Williams
Christine	Etter	John	Hart
Nick	Keith	Cherry	Smith

SNSW Mentor

Thank you to Neil Rogers who as agreed to mentor our newer officials at the upcoming Australian Age and Multi Class Championships.

Next SNSW Meets

Nominations are open for the remainder of the 2018/19 Summer Season, which include the following Meets. To nominate, please click [HERE](#).

Meet	Location	Dates	Closing Date for Nominations
NSW Junior Metro Championships	SOPAC	2 nd – 3 rd March 2019	20 th February 2019
Speed Sprint Series Finals	SOPAC	9 th March 2019	27 th February 2019
MC Meet #1	SOPAC	10 th March 2019	28 th February 2019
NSW State Open Championships	SOPAC	15 th – 17 th March 2019	5 th March 2019
SNSW 2019 Sydney Open	SOPAC	10 th -12 th May 2019	12 th April 2019

The QUIZ

December Quiz Answer

To recap on the December Question – You have been appointed Referee to Session 3 of the SNSW 13 & over SC Championships. During the start of the first heat of the Women's 16 Years 100m Butterfly, you observe that the swimmer in Lane 5 was clearly not stationary before the starting signal was given. However, as the Starter does not confirm this you allow the race to continue.

Shortly after the conclusion of the event, a protest arises against Lane 5 winning a silver medal.

As Referee, how do you respond?

Answer

In this example, there is doubt between the Starter and the Referee as to whether or not the swimmer was stationary before the starting signal. SW 2.1.11 states that "a disqualification for starting before the starting signal must be observed and confirmed by both the starter and the referee"

February Question

No question for February, but rather clarification from the SAL TSC following an inquiry in relation to the Start Rule. The question raised with SAL was "The Start Rule SW4.4 states that any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be disqualified. This used to be 'stationary = no apparent movement'.

"The Interpretation from FINA, Nov. 2017 states that any swimmer who initiates a start shall be disqualified. Does this mean that movement is allowable as long as they do not initiate a start?"

SAL's response:

As per SW4 The Start, the interpretation of the term "initiating a start", has replaced the previous interpretation of "who moves" before the starting signal -

- 2015 version - "After all swimmers are "stationery" (SW 4.1), any swimmer **who moves** before the starting signal may be disqualified..."
- 2017 version - "After all swimmers are "stationary" (SW 4.1), any swimmer **initiating a start** before the signal may be disqualified..."

Following the publication of the 2015 interpretation, there was confusion about the term "moves" and some federations were disqualifying swimmers for any movement prior to the start signal - this was never the intention of the rule interpretation.

The 2017 version aims to provide greater clarity. In any case, in Australia we already teach as per the intent of the interpretation and we do not have to change anything with respect to this part:

- If any swimmer is not stationary (e.g. one or more are flinching etc.), the starter is trained to wait.
- Once ALL movement has ceased and the starter is satisfied ALL are stationary, the Starter gives the start signal.
- As the starter goes to press the start signal (and are past the point of no return), any movement (e.g. flinching etc.) immediately before and during the start signal may result in that swimmer being disqualified.



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
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