

Volunteering

BODASC is run mainly by volunteers and parental and guardian support is essential in the running and wellbeing of the club.

There is an expectation that parents or guardians give some of their time to help at the club and there are numerous ways in which parents can become involved. The more volunteers we have the less time each volunteer needs to give up.

As your child progresses through the squad structure at Bridge of Don Swimming Club and if they are attending swimming competitions there is an expectation that the parent or guardian of each swimmer will volunteer.

There are a number of different routes that are available to you that will allow you to get involved.

1. Swimming Technical Official (STO).

- a. Timekeeper (everyone should have completed this by end of JD2)
- b. Recorder
- c. Judge 1
- d. Judge 2
- e. Judge 2S (starter)
- f. Referee

In order for a swimming competition to qualify for SASA accreditation, in a 6-lane pool, the competition needs to have a minimum of 34 officials. The majority of these are Timekeepers and Judges. It is a pre-requisite for every club to provide sufficient technical officials – a failure to meet this obligation can result in fines for the club. An unintended consequence of this may result in an increase in club fees. All the technical officials from the Timekeepers to the Referees volunteer their time to enable these competitions to take place.

We are always in need of new swimming technical officials (STOs) in the club. Details on upcoming courses are sent via email and posted on the BODASC Facebook page, the website and noticeboard. You can also contact the STO Convenor at stoconvenor@bodasc.co.uk for any information. Please note from 2020 many of these will become online courses.

Advantage of being an official is that you can guarantee a good position at the poolside.

2. Committee Member.

BODASC is managed by an elected committee which comprises of up to 18 members, all of who are volunteers. The role of the committee is to ensure the smooth running of the club, represent members views and support the coaching staff. A full description of all the roles are within the handbook. If you would like to get involved or if you would like to ask questions please talk to any member of the committee.

As swimmers get older, stop swimming or move away their parents also move and therefore the committee is always changing. It is a revolving door and we are always looking for volunteers.

Advantage of being committee member is that you can get to be involved in making decisions about how the club is run.

3. Swimming Meet Volunteers.

Bridge of Don organise a number of meets during the calendar year including September Splash, Spring-Time Banded Meet and BODASC Club Championships. The club is also requested to volunteer at some of the North District and UOA Competitions which take place at the Aberdeen Sports Village (ASV).

Volunteering at these meets allows you to get to know more people involved in the club and other clubs.

Examples of the help that is required is:

- Marshalling - swimmers have to be organised in lane order prior to coming onto poolside and that is the job of the Marshalls;
- Runner - at the end of each event the Runner takes all the Timekeepers and Referee slips to the Recorders desk;
- Door - we have limited seating at the September Splash and Spring Banded Meets so we need someone to ensure that the people whose children are swimming can go into watch them and once they are finished, they swap out with the next group or parents/guardians;
- Organising raffles and tombola;
- Organising the food and drinks for the officials and the coaches from all the clubs;
- Selling teas and coffee;
- Helping at the swim shop.

Advantage of being a Swimming Meet Volunteer is that you get to know people involved in the club - very sociable.

Volunteering Expectations

Please see below for the examples of opportunities to get involved in the club as your children advance through the squads.

Squad	Committee	STO	Meet Volunteer
JD1/ JD2		Timekeeper (everyone should have one parent/ guardian who has completed this by the end of JD2)	

Bronze	Committee Member	Recorder or Judge Level 1	Help at home competitions that your child is swimming at. These include but are not limited to: Beta Leagues, Club Championships, Spring Banded Meet and September Splash.
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Silver	Committee Member	Judge Level 2	Help at home competitions that your child is swimming at. These include but are not limited to: Beta Leagues, Club Championships, Spring Banded Meet and September Splash.
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Gold	Committee Member	Judge Level 2S (Starter) or Referee	Help at competitions that Bridge of Don are hosting. These include but are not limited to: North District, UOA Long Course Meet, Club Championships, Spring Banded Meet and September Splash.
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STO Roles

Timekeeper

At a meet up to three Timekeepers are required per lane depending on use of electronic timing and availability of volunteers. You record time along with the other Timekeepers in your lane which provide swimmers with accredited times which allow them to enter meets and be seeded for events. Timekeeper courses are only 2-hours long and the STO Convenor for Bridge of Don organises these at regular intervals throughout the year.

Recorder

The duties of the Recorder is to document any official withdrawals from a race and to ensure all the results are entered in to the official meet management system. They advise the Referee of any discrepancies or issues with the results and advise all involved of the starting sheets for the races.

Judge 1

These judges are usually at each end of every lane depending on availability of volunteers. They are the turn judges. Their role is to ensure swimmers abide by FINA rules. A Judge 1 cannot disqualify a swimmer, they report an infringement to the Referee or Chief Inspector of Turns who reports it to the Referee. The only person who can disqualify a swimmer is the Referee.

Chief Inspector of Turns

Judge 1's can be nominated as Chief Inspector of Turns and they are the link between Judge 1 and the Referee.

Judge 2

These judges are positioned at the side of the pool, often referred to as stroke judges. There can be 2 or 4 depending on the size of the pool and availability of volunteers. They ensure the strokes performed by swimmers are in line with FINA rules. Judge 2 can also be used as a finish judge, reporting the finish order of each race to the referee.

Starter

You will often hear the Starter "Take your Marks..." as they start each race along with the referee. This important role also looks at the swimmers to ensure there are no infractions at the start of the race.

Referee

The Referee is in overall control of all aspects of the meet and is responsible for health and safety as well as ensuring that the competition is fair. The Referee decides if reported infringements will be accepted.

He or she is responsible for enforcing the rules, settling disputes between coaches and other officials and calling swimmers to their respective blocks.