

British Swimming Referee Training

Timetable

The training period is based on a **maximum** 2 year training cycle. Should the training and successful sitting of the theory examination not be achieved in this time scale then a candidate will need to re-apply to start the training process from the beginning.

Application

The Candidate must apply on the appropriate form to the British Swimming Swimming Officials Co-ordinator who will check the following: -

- Applicant is a current registered official.
- Applicant must be a minimum of 19 years of age (**20 years as at date of exam**).
- Applicant is qualified as a Judge 2S and has completed a minimum of 50 recorded hours across all roles of officiating and at a variety of levels of meet since the date of qualification as a J2S. (This is in addition to the 10 hours consolidation required post-J2S qualification.)
- Applicant must obtain the approval of their County/Regional Officials Co-ordinator/District Convenor before applying and provide them with evidence of the 50+ signed hours (by officials' log book or similar).
 - Swim England – Signed or email confirmation from County and Region Coordinators
 - Swim Wales – All applications to be approved by the Swimming Officials Group
 - Scottish Swimming – Signed or email confirmation from District Convenor
- **Scotland only** - Applicant must have passed the Recorders Exam prior to submitting their application form to British Swimming.
- **England only** – Applicant must have completed the online course “Refereeing Swimming – A Beginners Guide”, available via the Institute of Swimming.

Application is by written document to the Swimming Officials Co-ordinator by the 31st December of the year prior to the training period commencing, or other date as advised on the application form. The applicant must enclose the relevant fee (cheque payable to British Swimming Ltd).

Theory examination re-sits must enclose the relevant fee (cheque payable to British Swimming Ltd) and apply within the timescales advised in their results notification.

Training

Once an application has been approved and accepted, the Swimming Officials Co-ordinator will allocate the Candidate a Course Leader for the training cycle which commences on 1st January of Year 1. If the Candidate has not indicated a choice of Course Leader they will be allocated one on a geographical basis.

The course of training then continues with a mix of theory and practical training sessions throughout Year 1 which the Course Leader will arrange with the Candidate.

The Course Leader will arrange for Licensed Referees to undertake the supervision of the training of the Candidate as per the instructions on the Poolside Duties form.

Training is expected to include around 16 hours of theoretical study and a minimum of 10 Referee poolside duties sessions.

Theory Examination

The objective is to complete all theory training and practical modules in preparation for the theory examination in November of Year 1.

Should the Candidate fail or for some reason not feel prepared to enter the November (Year 1) examination they may enter to re-sit or defer to the May (Year 2) examination.

Should the Candidate then fail the May (Year 2) examination or still not feel prepared, one further attempt may be taken in November (Year 2).

In summary **a Candidate has a maximum of three opportunities to pass the examination**; any Candidate taking the exam for the first time in November (Year 1) will have up to three opportunities, any Candidate taking the examination for the first time in May (Year 2) will have up to two opportunities and any Candidate sitting the examination for the first time in November (Year 2) will have only one opportunity.

If the Candidate is not successful in the written examination, a debrief between Course Leader and Candidate should be undertaken before the decision is taken to enter for a further attempt.

If the Candidate is not successful by November (Year 2), a thorough debrief with the Candidate should be undertaken and a realistic view taken as to the Candidate's suitability to re-enter the training cycle.

Should the Candidate be considered suitable to re-enter the training cycle, they will be required to take a year's break before reapplying for a new 2-year training cycle to commence January (effectively Year 4).

During this time they will be expected to complete a further minimum of 50 signed hours across all roles of officiating and at a variety of levels of meet.

Final Practical Assessment

Should the Candidate be successful in passing the theory examination, then a final practical assessment must be successfully completed within 9 months from the theory examination pass date.

The practical assessment should be taken in a location not too familiar to the Candidate, with assessor/s who have not been involved in the Candidate's training process.

If not successful on the first occasion, the assessment may be retaken on one further occasion (at a different location and with one of the original assessors) within the 9 month period. The period between the two attempts should be discussed and agreed between Course Leader and Candidate.

If the Candidate is not successful on the second attempt then a thorough debrief with the Candidate should be undertaken and a realistic view taken as to the Candidate's suitability to re enter the training cycle.

Should the Candidate be considered suitable to re-enter the training cycle, they will be required to take a year's break before reapplying for a new 2-year training cycle to commence January. During this time they will be expected to complete a further minimum of 50 signed hours across all roles of officiating and at a variety of levels of meet.

Any extenuating circumstances arising in the case of an individual Candidate relating to compliance with this timetable should be discussed with the Candidate's Course Leader in the first instance. Agreement to vary the timetable will be considered by the British Swimming SOG only in exceptional circumstances.