

BRIEFING DOCUMENT on the Fully Funded SW CLOSED COURSE (3139) J1 Online AND the Fully Funded SW CLOSED COURSE (5020) J1 online without Timekeeper.

Swim England South West Region are proud to announce that following the successful PILOT supported by and delivered in our region, Monday 27th January 2020 saw the launch of the new online theory modules for the training of the pool Judge 1 technical officials.

The Region are generously FULLY FUNDING the SW Closed version (course 3139) at the cost of £20 per candidate covering the training and first licence.

This brought to a close a considerable amount of work by Swim England in partnership with the IOS and British Swimming to ensure we are delivering a quality product to our volunteers.

This was followed in June 2021 by the launch of a shortened version of the course exclusively for candidates who have followed the Online Timekeeper course introduced during COVID or been a successful candidate on the revised group timekeeper course launched in June 2021.

The Region are pleased to be FULLY FUNDING the SW Closed version of the shortened J1 course without timekeeper (course 5020) for all eligible candidates.

The success of the PILOT with high completion rates achieved within short timescales has resulted in Regional support for all our J1 candidates for a trial period of two years.

Whilst the content of the training remains largely unchanged, the move to an online format will allow trainees to undertake the training at their own pace and to fit with all the other lifestyle commitments which we know our volunteers have. Despite the pandemic by June 2021 88 candidates had from the issue of their voucher to the completion of their practical work.

Supported by the Institute of Swimming, the course will form part of the British Swimming portfolio of officials' training and will be delivered in the same format by all of the Home Countries, ensuring consistency of experience for all candidates.

Poolside training can only commence once all online modules have been completed. Upon completion of all online modules, candidates will be prompted to upload their certificate and a photograph onto swimmingresults.org, which will trigger the central despatch of the redesigned training resources. This will include a log book folder, a Judge 1 training record and a copy of the FINA Rules extracts. This will also trigger Regional and County Officials' Coordinators providing candidates with approved local contacts to guide them through their practical training.

There is no requirement to be a timekeeper before enrolling on the J1. Becoming a timekeeper meets the needs of those who at first only want to work to support their club at low level events. Timekeepers cannot become licensed and cannot work at level 3, 2 or 1 Open Meets, County or Regional events. Therefore after this first self-funded activity some may wish to upgrade to a J1 and this upgrade is being fully funded in the same way as any candidate who knows from the start they wish to become a J1.

For the direct J1 candidate there is a facility to undertake the timekeeper competency after those modules have been completed and evidenced by screen shots. However, our experience in the PILOT and first year of the full scheme, suggests candidates for the most part complete all their ONLINE learning very quickly so this interim option probably will only need to be used on rare occasions. Before the disruption of COVID the majority of PILOT

candidates completed their qualification, both theory and poolside practice, in two to four months.

J1 Trainees are required to undertake a minimum of 15 hours mentored poolside experience and in England this must include a minimum of three hours at Levels 1 or 2 AND a minimum of 3 hours at Levels 3 or 4. The remaining hours should be spread over a variety of levels of meet, which can include club training sessions. Guidance is included in the candidate logbooks on the suggested timescales for completing each competence, with an overall time limit of 11 months for completion being introduced. **NOTE: To compensate for the disruption caused by COVID the requirements to attend different levels of meets and to complete within 11 months have been waived FOR THE TIME BEING.**

The Region has a What'sApp Group for all the Referees who may be asked to act as Tutor/Mentors. This group is where information is shared about the training process so all tutors and coordinators are aware of progress and developments.

Only a Technical Swimming Official qualified to at least Judge 1 level can carry out mentoring on poolside for the J1 qualification and only a licensed Referee can sign off the candidate as being competent or evidence them not being competent. **NOTE: As competition gradually returns there is additional Swim England guidance on how poolside training can take place in a COVID secure way and has been shared with all officials and trainees.**

Judge 1 candidates will also need to complete the Contemporary Issues CPD course <https://www.swimming.org/ios/free-resources-cpds/>

Upon completion of all Judge 1 training the online scheme candidate will register their own pass by uploading their countersigned competency page to their membership record. There is no longer a final poolside assessment, as trainees will have already been judged to be competent in all areas. The candidates will keep their logbooks. The candidate/tutor are asked to confirm their completion with the South West Regional Officials Training and Development Coordinator so the success of the voucher scheme can be monitored.

Once Swim England has verified the pass individuals will automatically be issued with a certificate, additional inserts for their logbook and their first licence, which will be valid for 4 years.

After qualifying as a Judge 1, individuals will be required carry out a MINIMUM of 20 hours in the role before progression onto Judge 2.

Summary

1. Minimum age to commence training as a timekeeper is 14 years and a J1 is 15 years old.
2. The upfront J1 fee of £20 (training and licence fee combined) is being generously funded by the Swim England South West Region on the SW closed course 3139 for two years based on the assumption that, despite the interruption of Covid, the high completion rates will continue.
3. Online theory modules must be completed in full prior to commencement of any poolside work (with the exception of the Timekeeper assessment which may be carried out after completion of the Timekeeper and Chief Timekeeper modules if necessary).
4. Trainees must have a current membership of Swim England before commencing any work on poolside.
5. Final Poolside Assessment has been removed.
6. The SESW Regional and County Officials Training and Development Coordinators have developed local support mechanisms.

7. Eligible Timekeeper candidates who wish to upgrade can apply for funded SW Region voucher to use on the SW Region closed course 5020.
8. All J1 trainees will become licensed officials at the end of the process.
9. Dispensations re levels of meet and time limits have been granted to recognised the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic

What do Prospective candidates need to do to take advantage of a fully funded SW Regional J1 Online training place? There are two help sheets giving full guidance included with this briefing. One for the full J1 and the other for the shortened course for eligible recently qualified timekeepers.

In summary this is an individual process and no group lists of candidates will be accepted.

1. **The candidate FIRST must themselves register and verify an individual learning account with the IOS**

2. **The individual must then email swofficialsj1online@gmail.com**

Message line: Request for J1 Online Voucher

Body of email:

Name;

SE Membership Number;

Club;

The exact email used to create their IOS learning account.

(Proof of Timekeeper theory completion required for a voucher to redeem against the shortened course)

3. **The individual will be then able to redeem the voucher.**