

Swim England South West Return to Officiating Survey Results

Executive Summary

- Circa 1100 officials were surveyed by the SESW Regional Board over 4 weeks and 377 responses were received
- Reassuringly 300 SW Officials are intending to return to supporting competition
- 45% were extremely confident/very confident; 38% were somewhat confident; 11% not so confident; 4% not at all confident.
- 59 officials express some uncertainty and need reassurance and support
- 165 licensed officials were unaware of aspects of the renewal process requiring urgent communication to rectify
- There is significant appetite for further training and development with over 200 indicating either a desire to acquire a new qualification or attend one of the British Swimming CPD courses
- It is recommended that any Swim England *Return to officiating* ZOOM sessions and FAQs are utilised and promoted, augmented by the issue of regional FAQs and ZOOM sessions to focus on the points raised in the survey about licensing, anxieties & training opportunities.

Background

The Regional Survey was launched on March 16th by emailing 1100 SW officials, all of whom were members of Swim England. The survey tool used was Survey Monkey and the questions followed those used in other Swim England Regions.

The intention was to keep in touch after a year disrupted by the COVID pandemic; gain a picture of when South West Officials might be likely to return to competition; what issues might affect return; what help and further training the Region's officials might require.

The survey was also promoted on social media platforms and finally in the Regional Newsletter on March 28th. The Survey closed after three weeks on 6th April which was before the Swim England Return to Competition Guidance was relaunched. All respondents therefore had a common frame of reference.

369 responses were received before the final push for replies in the newsletter and 8 more replies were received giving a response of 377 or approximately 34%.

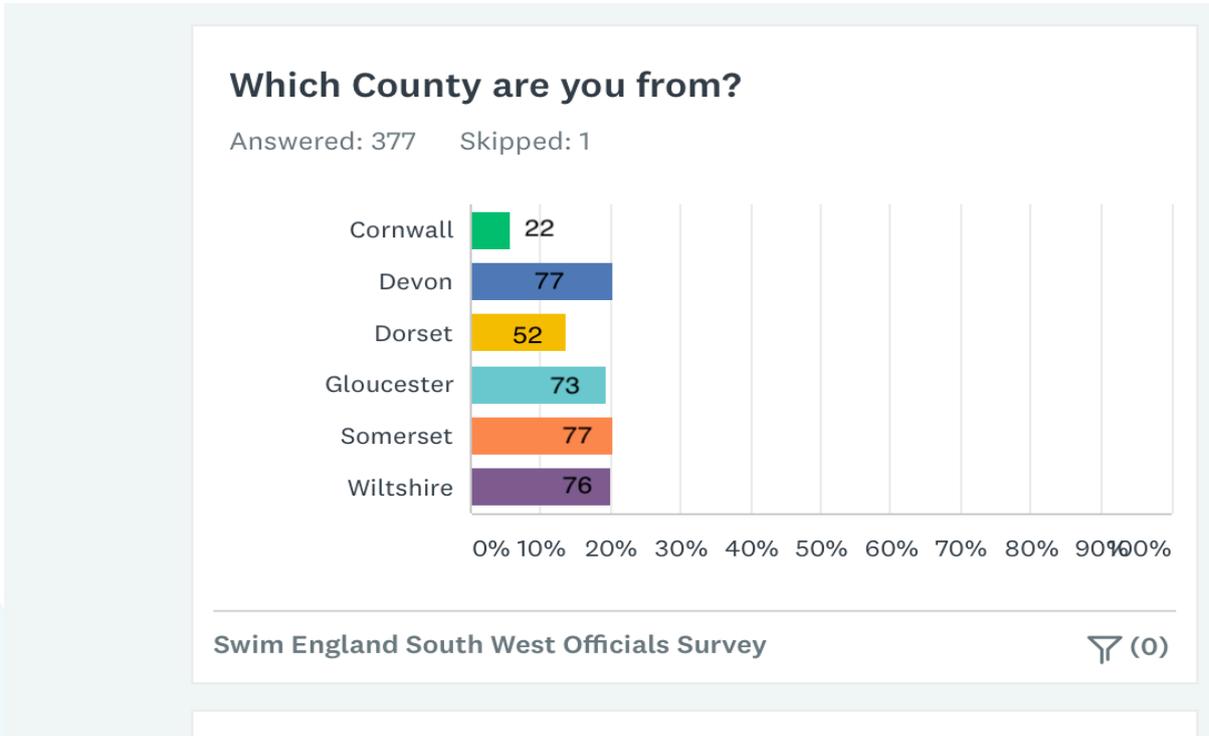
South West Regional Membership is known to have reduced post pandemic but to date there is no hard information from Swim England on how many officials, with what qualifications and club affiliations have renewed their membership for 2021. What the survey has shown is that of the 377 officials who took the time to respond only 18 said they would not return and only 59 were unsure.

Clearly there is much work to do to boost the strength and depth of the SW officiating pool but the indications should give grounds for optimism.

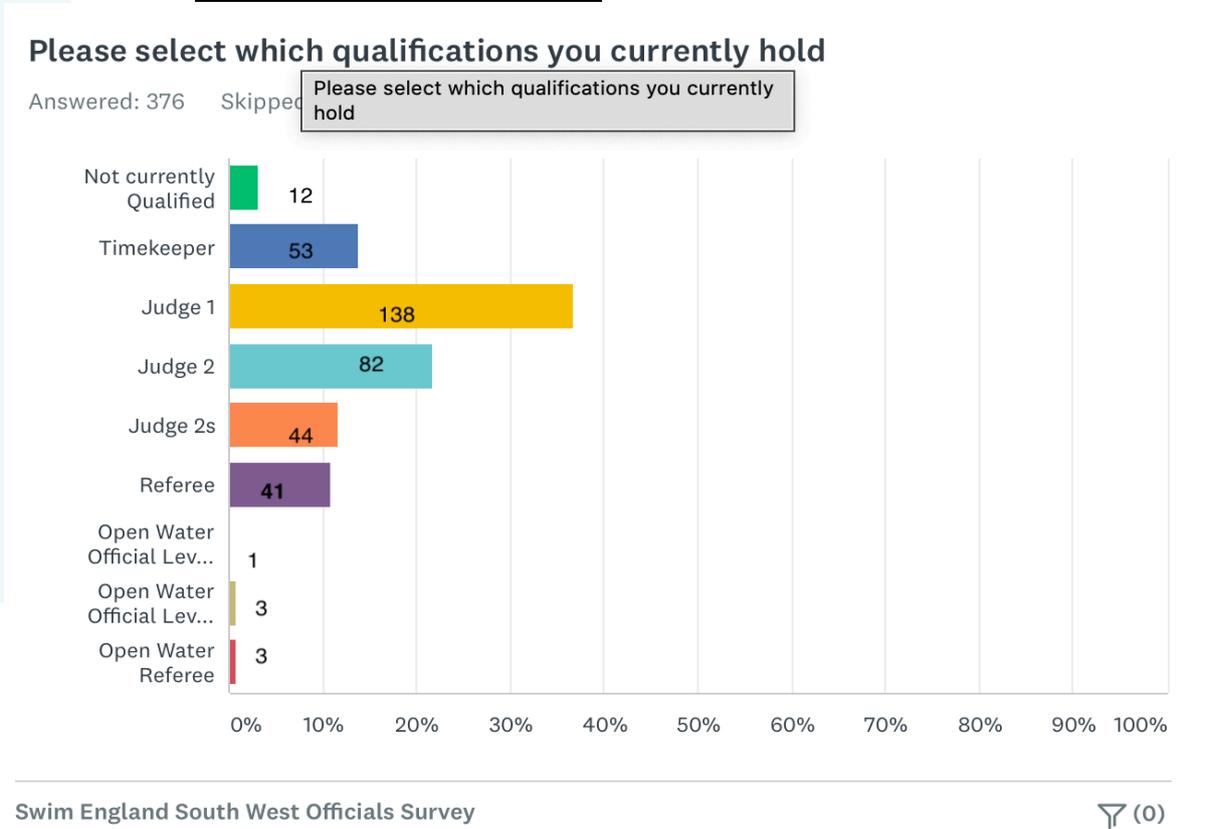
1. The Results

The results are presented as a series of annotated graphs followed by a summary of the themes itemised in the free text comment sections.

1.1. Which County did the respondents come from?



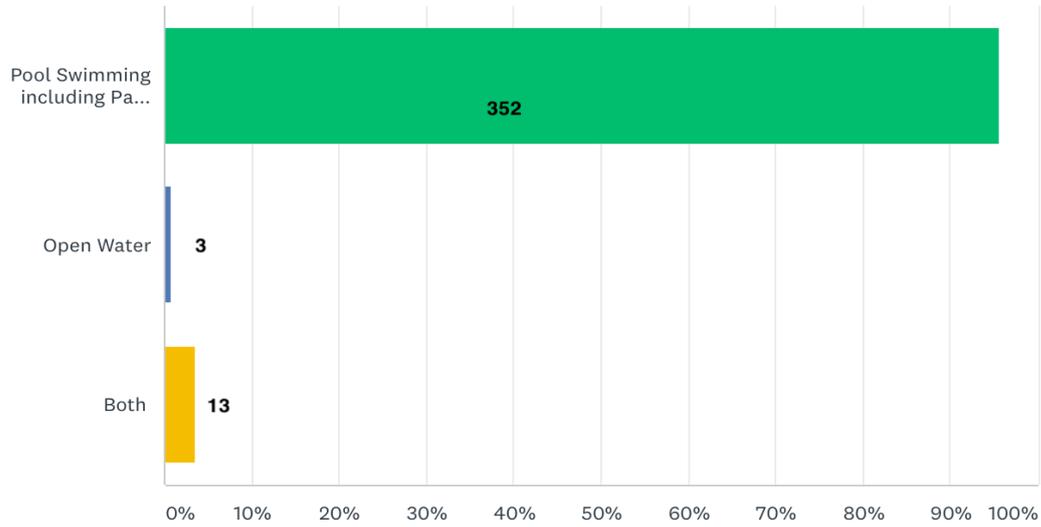
1.2 Which qualifications are held?



1.3 Where do respondents officiate?

I officiate in

Answered: 370 Skipped: 8



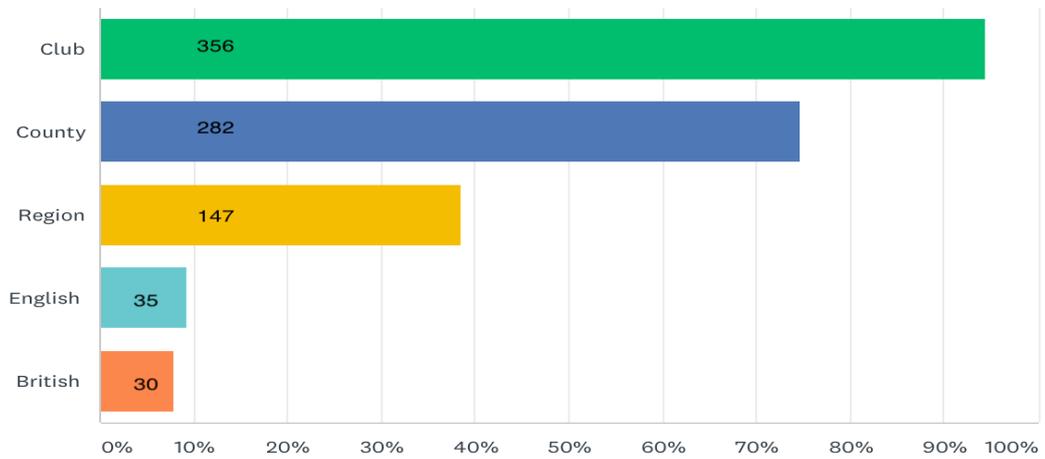
Swim England South West Officials Survey

🔍 (0)

1.4 What level do respondents officiate at?

What level do you currently Officiate at (select all that apply)

Answered: 377 Skipped: 1



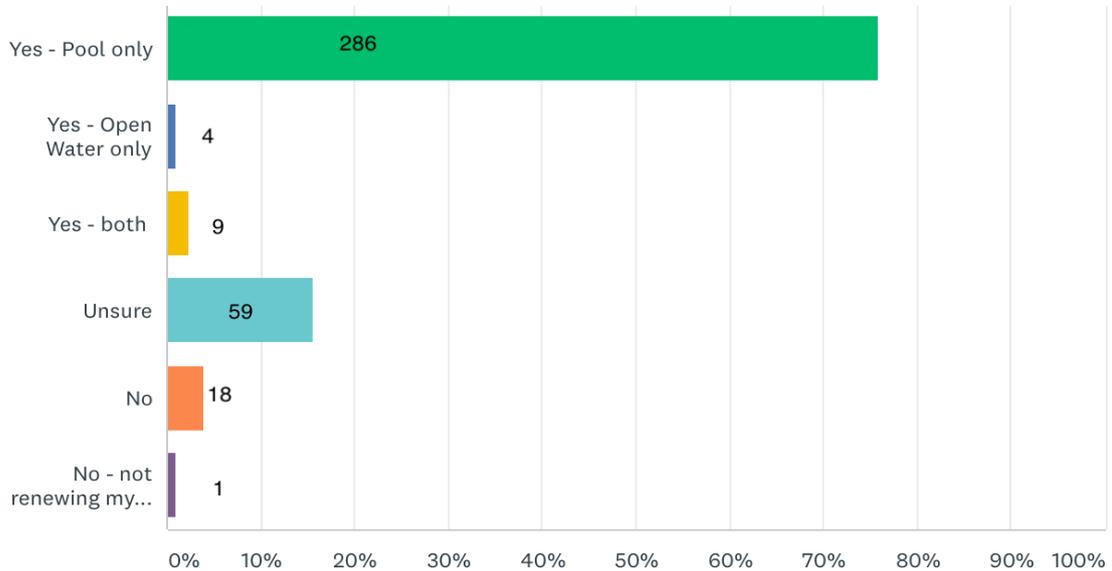
Swim England South West Officials Survey

🔍 (0)

1.5 Will you be returning to competition straightaway?

Will you be returning to officiating straight away when competition r...

Answered: 377 Skipped: 1



Swim England South West Officials Survey

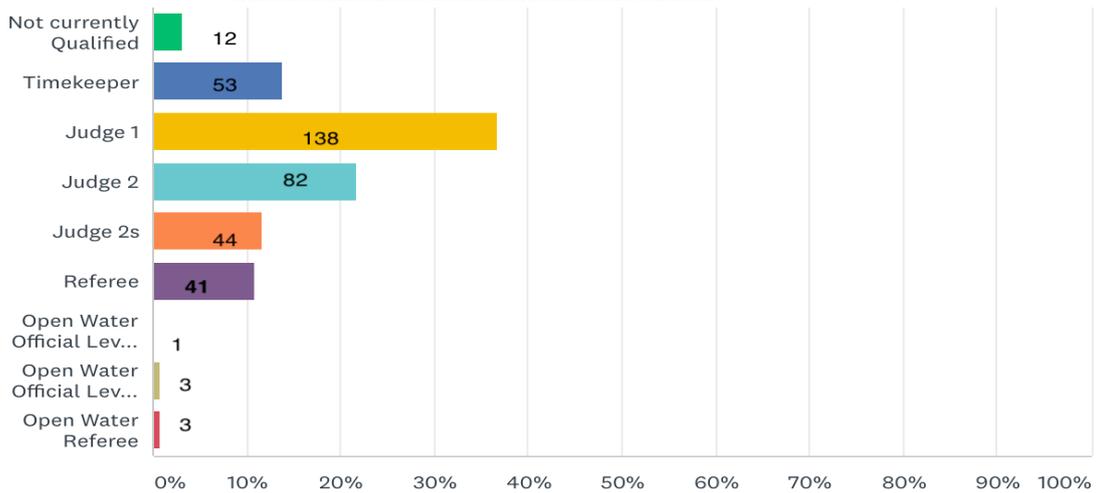
🔍 (0)

1.6. What qualifications are held?

Please select which qualifications you currently hold

Answered: 376 Skipped: 1

Please select which qualifications you currently hold



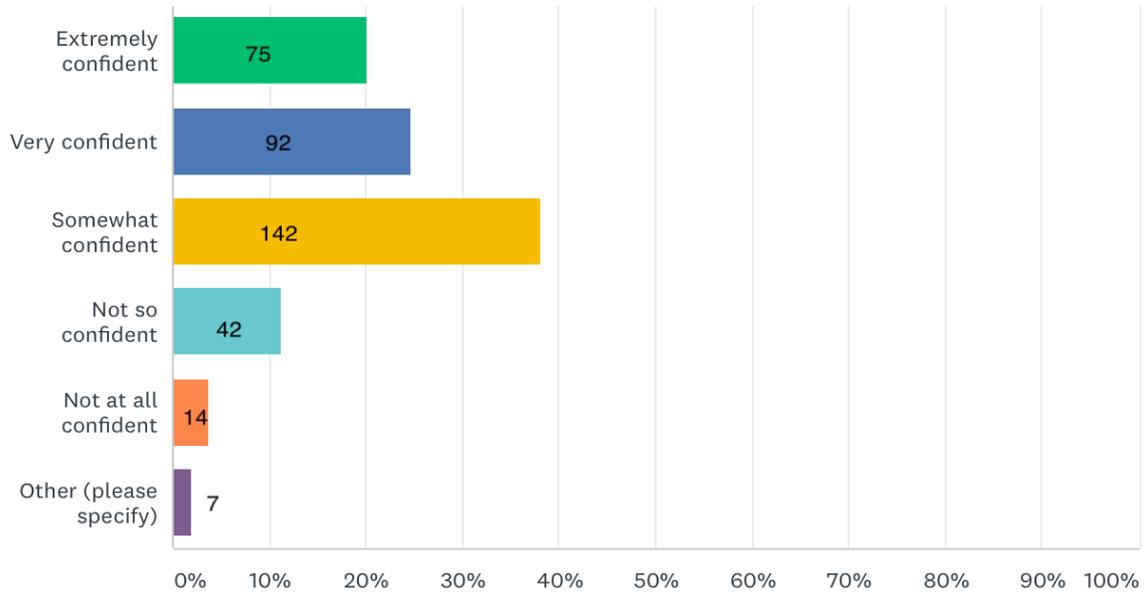
Swim England South West Officials Survey

🔍 (0)

1.7 What confidence level do respondents have?

How are you feeling about returning to officiating when competition ...

Answered: 372 Skipped: 6



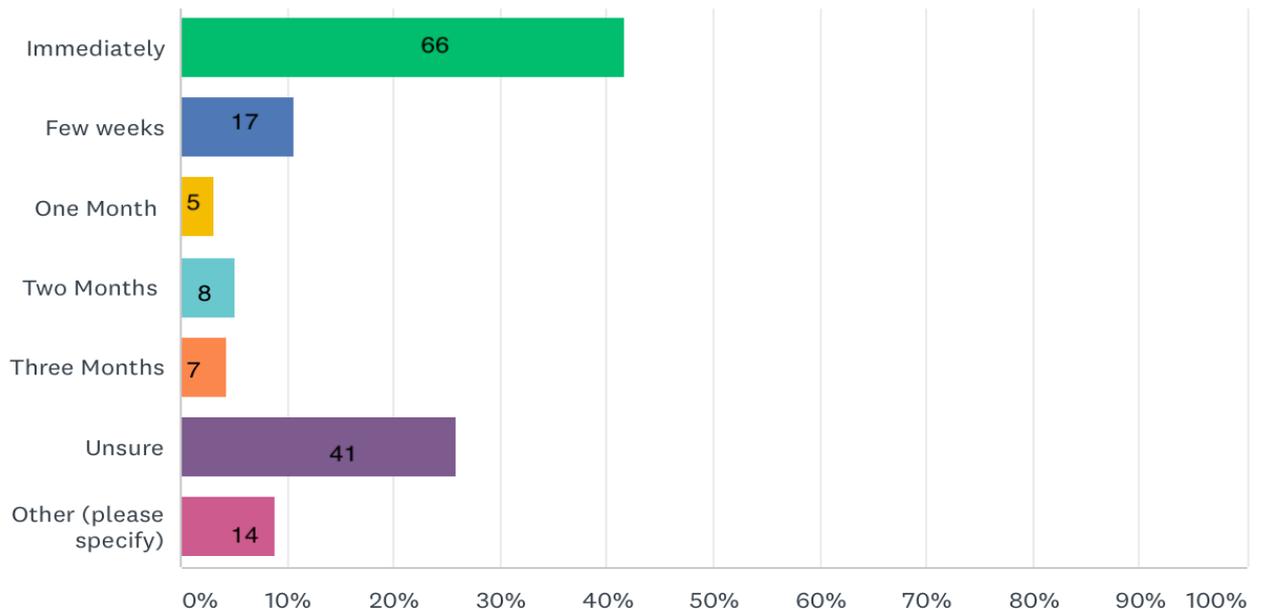
Swim England South West Officials Survey

0

1.8 When do officials estimate they will return? [the question was supposed to only be answered by those who had not indicated "immediately". However, some replied again.]

If you do not plan to return to competition straight away, what sort o...

Answered: 158 Skipped: 220 158 responded when only 78 didn't reply immediately to earlier question



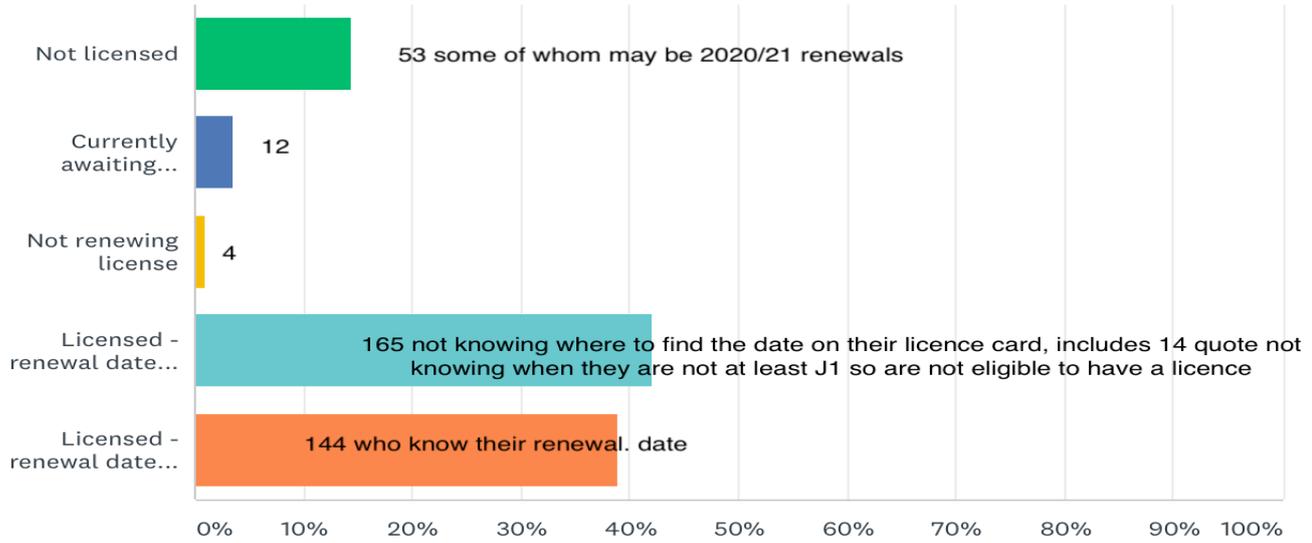
Swim England South West Officials Survey

0

1.9 Licensed Status

Please let us know your license details

Answered: 369 Skipped: 9



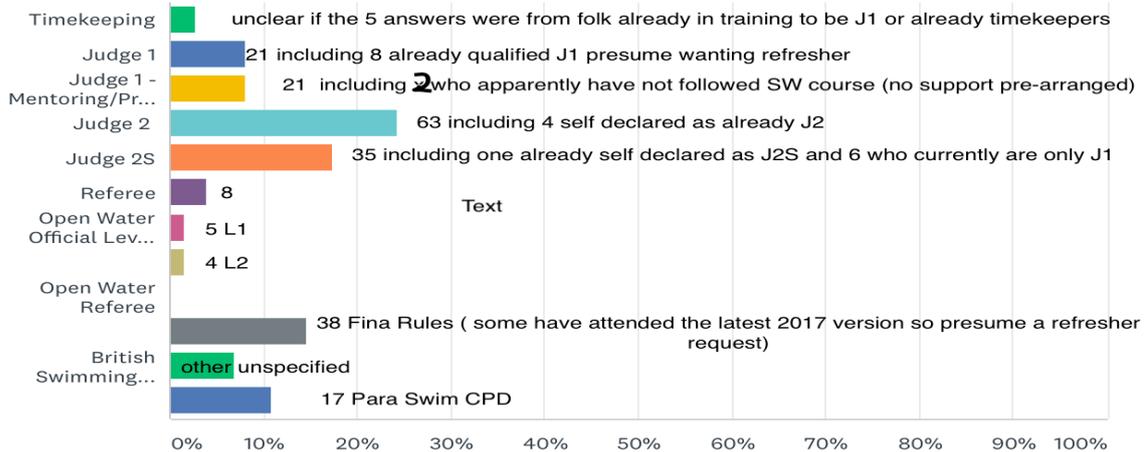
Swim England South West Officials Survey



1.10 Training Opportunities identified

What training opportunities would you be interested in

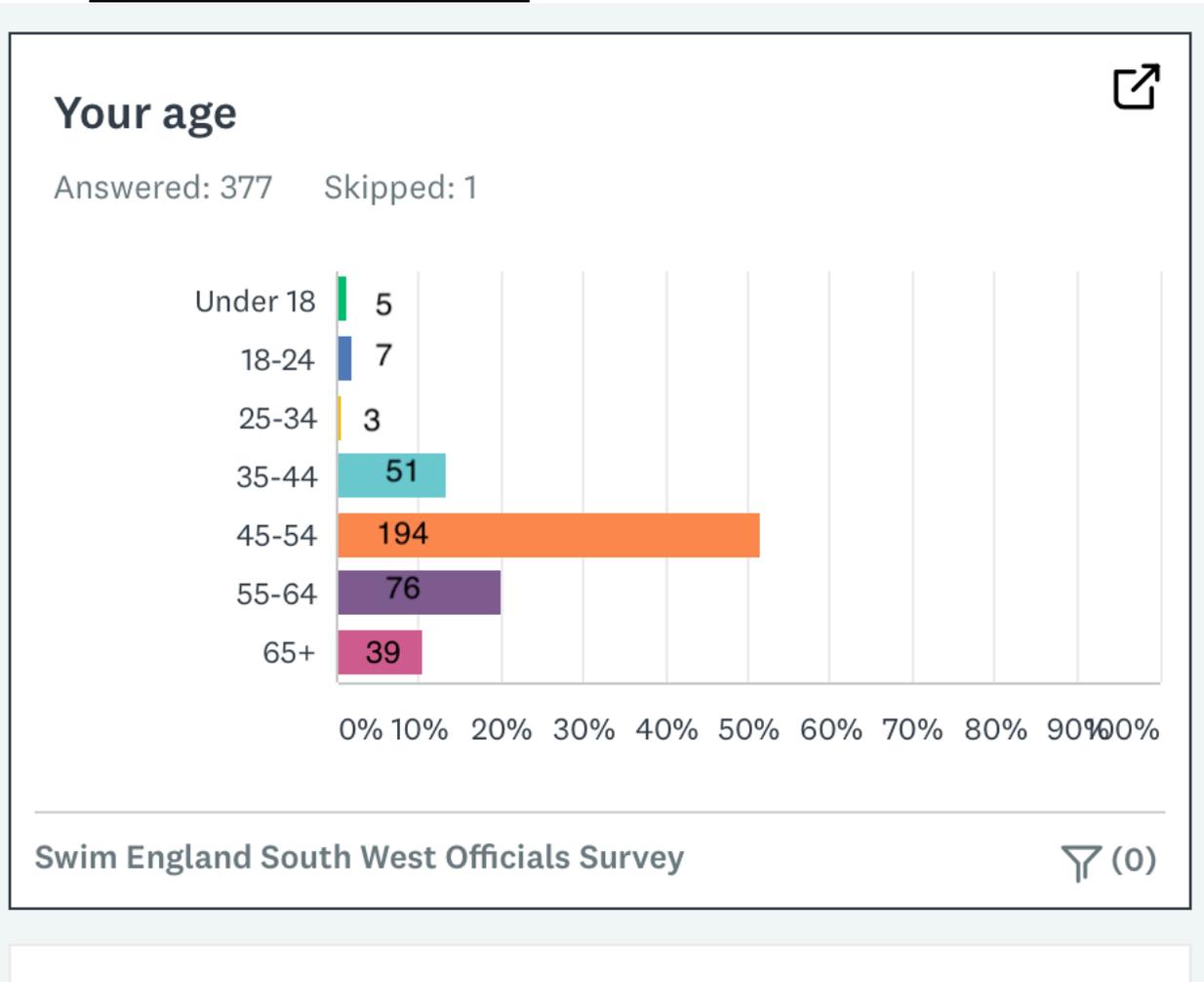
Answered: 259 Skipped: 119



Swim England South West Officials Survey



1.11 Age Summary of the respondents



2. The Comments

Analysis of the free text comments grouped by themes

2.1 Reasons for not continuing [15 comments from 19 respondents]

- Vulnerability of self or others [5]
- Child no longer competing, nearly finished or official retiring [6]
- Too busy [1]
- Out of practice, need refresher [2]
- Don't want to continue [1]

2.2 **Unsure about returning** [23 comments from 59 respondents including 12 comments from the final free text option]

- Covid worries/need vaccination/health/anxiety [10]
- Only return if needed/asked [3]
- Very Busy [1]
- Out of practice need refresher [3]
- Uncertainty about what is happening when [5]
- Uncertainty about if child will carry on [2]
- Worry about whether might have to repeat training/length of time as a trainee/lack of mentor support [4]
- Concern over open water qualification completion [2]
- Need to renew licence [2]
- Personal focus on competing [1]
- Child stopped swimming [1]
- Lost interest [1]
- Post Covid competitions should be held with fewer officials for a year [1]
- Please communicate by email not social media [1]
- New to region [1]
- No way of answering for artistic swimming [1]

2.3 **Comments from “Other”** [14 additional comments from the end of the survey]

- Not returning [3]
- License renewal challenges [4]
- Covid/health issues [4]
- Refresher needed [1]
- Only if and when child returns to competing [1]
- Return to competition should be restricted to club run events to avoid travel and minimise risk and help club funding [1]

3. **Suggested Actions**

- 165 licensed officials were unaware of aspects of the licensing and renewal process requiring urgent communication to rectify.
- There is significant appetite for further training and development with over 200 indicating either a desire to acquire a new qualification or attend one of the British Swimming CPD courses. The Region and the Counties should promote opportunities in a coherent and timely way once training can recommence.
- It is recommended that any Swim England *Return to officiating* ZOOM sessions and FAQs are utilised and promoted, augmented by the issue of regional FAQs and ZOOM sessions to focus on the points raised in the survey about licensing; anxieties & training opportunities.
- Individual responses should be made when the question is not suitable for an FAQ.
- County Coordinators should be briefed on specific training issues raised.