

BRIEFING DOCUMENT on the NEW J1 Online for all Swim England South West Region Referees and Officials Coordinators at club and county level.

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 sees the launch of the new online theory modules for the training of the pool Judge 1 technical officials. This brings 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.

The success of the PILOT with high completion rates achieved within short timescales has resulted in Regional support to fund the £20 fee for all our 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.

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.

The online modules are replacing face-to-face delivery of the theory training. There will be access to individual support on request, with a dedicated new central email address being set up - swimmingofficials@swimming.org. Any queries that require local resolution will then be forwarded to the SESW Regional Officials Training and Development Coordinator.

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 trigger Regional and County Officials' Coordinators providing candidates with approved local contacts to guide them through their practical training.

Although there is a facility to undertake the timekeeper competency after those modules have been completed and evidenced by screen shots, our experience in the PILOT 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. The PILOT candidates completed their online learning phase in less than two months.

Trainees will be 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. **The PILOT already has seen 15 of the 61 candidates who did their online learning between September and November complete their J1 qualification.**

Further information will be shared in the coming weeks with all Referees in the Region to introduce the guidance on competency acquisition and sign off. This will include the reminder that whenever timekeeper competency has been acquired this should be communicated promptly to the SW Regional Training and Development Coordinator who will

register the competency and inform our Regional Licencing Officer and the relevant County Coordinators. **51 out of 61 the Pilot candidates are already timekeeper competent.**

Only a Technical Swimming Official qualified to at least Judge 1 level can carry out mentoring and only a licensed Referee can sign off the candidate as being competent or evidence them not being competent.

Judge 1 candidates will also need to complete the Contemporary Issues CPD course <https://www.swimming.org/ios/course/494>.

Upon completion of all Judge 1 training, local contacts will need to notify the SW Regional Officials Training and Development Coordinator by sending a scan/photo of the competency and mentored sheets from the candidate's log book. There will no longer be a final poolside assessment, as trainees will have already been judged to be competent in all areas. The candidates will keep their logbooks.

Once the Regional Coordinator 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 is still 15 years old.
2. The upfront fee of £20 (training and licence fee combined) is being generously funded by the Swim England South West Region for two years based on the assumption that 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 are developing local support mechanisms based on our success with the PILOT scheme.
7. All trainees will become licensed officials at the end of the process.
8. 11 months to complete the training from date of completion of online modules.

What do Prospective candidates need to do to take advantage of a fully funded SW Regional J1 Online training place? There is a help sheet giving full guidance included with this briefing. 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.
3. **The individual will be then able to redeem the voucher.**