

Club help required

Officials

Whenever we run internal meets, attend team galas or enter open meets, we have to provide officials. These include timekeepers (basically time swimmers with stop watch and record the time, plus checking that the starts and finishes are "legal"), judges (who have increased responsibilities in terms of ensuring compliance of swimmers during a race) and referees (who have overall responsibility for the meet or gala).

Without these officials, the meets and galas simply can't run, and we have a dwindling supply of officials in the club.

What does the role require?

You would start by qualifying as a time keeper – this involves attending an easy short course and practical assessment. You can then assist at our internal galas recording times of swims. If you choose to, you can then do an online training course to train as a level 1 judge, which would enable you to carry out various simple roles at external meets and galas.

Level of commitment involved

This can be as much or as little as you want. We are always keen to have officials helping at our one length galas, sprint meet and club championships. In terms of open meets, it is up to you how much or little you want to commit to. Many officials will sign themselves up for the sessions their child is swimming in, or just one session a day – there is no minimum requirement – anything you can offer is a great help. Sessions do not often exceed two to three hours.

Benefits

There are many unknown benefits to being an official:

- best poolside view of all of the action – you will still see your child swim, and are away from the heat and crowds (although you might get splashed occasionally!)
- At most open meets, lunch and refreshments are provided to officials free of charge
- At most open meets, travel mileage is paid – this can often cover your child's entry fees plus your petrol for attending. In addition, there is often a bottle of wine thrown in as an extra thank you

Who to talk to for more information?

Derek Wyatt email: dj_wyatt@lineone.net or Mark Procter email: markprocter5@icloud.com

Poolside helpers

In order to provide the best swimming and training experience to every single swimmer, we need to have more help poolside. Kevin Rickards is the only employed coach in the club. Everyone else you see helping out either poolside or behind the scenes is an unpaid volunteer. With the numbers of swimmers we want to accommodate in the club, Kevin cannot possibly coach on his own. Therefore, we need as many helpers as possible to help on poolside during training sessions.

What does the role require?

Attending training sessions to assist Kevin. Whilst obviously beneficial, no swimming coaching or even knowledge is required. You would just need to be able to assist in relaying information to swimmers in your assigned lanes and keep them on the right track and focused. This would allow Kevin more time and space to provide coaching to each and every swimmer.

Level of commitment involved

We understand that many potential helpers are put off by not feeling that they can commit to being there every week and every session. That is absolutely fine. The more helpers we have, the more we can put together a schedule to ensure that the commitment is not too high for anyone, and that there is no concern about cover if you can't make a session for any reason.

Benefits

- Learn more about the sport that you and your child invests so much time into
- Sense of satisfaction of seeing the swimmers improve
- You are probably there anyway! You might as well be helping 😊

In addition, as an incentive to help out, regular helpers receive discounted fees for their swimmers.

Who to talk to for more information?

Kevin Rickards, Jane Bickley or Derek Wyatt