



What do parents do at meets?

Parents not only support their children at meets and galas but also help run them. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year where parents should consider volunteering. These include helping with coaching & officiating and when we hold our own meet, catering, fundraising & selling programs.

Timekeeping & judging are important jobs at swim meets as without officials, meets cannot run. At Garioch ASC we would like to ensure all official responsibilities are shared by all families in the club.

How to become a STO (SWIMMING TECHNICAL OFFICIAL)

When your child starts competing at swim meets it is now required that a parent or family member become a technical official.

The advantages of becoming a technical official at meets are numerous; you are poolside & can watch your child swim, you are kept busy & hence time passes quickly, you too learn about your child's sport and have a better understanding of swimming & it's rules, and a huge bonus, you can be entitled to a free lunch!!

STEP 1: Become a timekeeper & attend a timekeeper's workshop

A great way to get involved in your child's swimming & to get to know other parents in Garioch & other swimming clubs in Aberdeenshire is to volunteer as a timekeeper when your child swims at an official meet.

The role of timekeepers is to accurately time & record times of swimmers. To become an official timekeeper for the club you need to attend a Timekeeper's Workshop coordinated by Scottish Swimming. This involves a short theory session followed by a poolside practical assessment usually held at the Garioch Community Centre and at the Inverurie Pool.

Depending on the number of swimmers competing in a meet/gala, Scottish Swimming states that all clubs are obliged to provide a minimum number of officials per meet session (can be up to three sessions a day) and at least one official should hold a minimum qualification of a Judge 1. If clubs do not provide this minimum number, then a monetary fine can be imposed by Scottish Swimming. Competitive swimming is a sport that requires many technical officials – at times up to 55 officials can be required for one session.

All technical officials at meets & galas are volunteers and start out by attending a timekeeper course/workshop. Anyone who has a swimmer in the family and is 14 or over can become an official, but so too can parents/grandparents and siblings.

Please attend a timekeeper workshop as soon as the opportunity arises. You can contact us at officials@gasc.co.uk

Dress code for a STO

According to British Swimming all technical officials are required to wear the following uniform for all competitive swimming events:



Men: White open-necked short sleeved shirt, white trousers, white accessories. NOT SHORTS. White poolside shoes and white socks, if worn.

Women: White dress or white blouse and skirt or trousers, white poolside shoes. Always take your STO badge & license (orange timekeeper badge) when on poolside too.