

GCSC Volunteer Pathways

As you are probably aware, EVERY person helping your swimmer to compete is a volunteer. As a club, we need a consistent stream of volunteers to ensure that we can participate and run GCSC Open Meets.

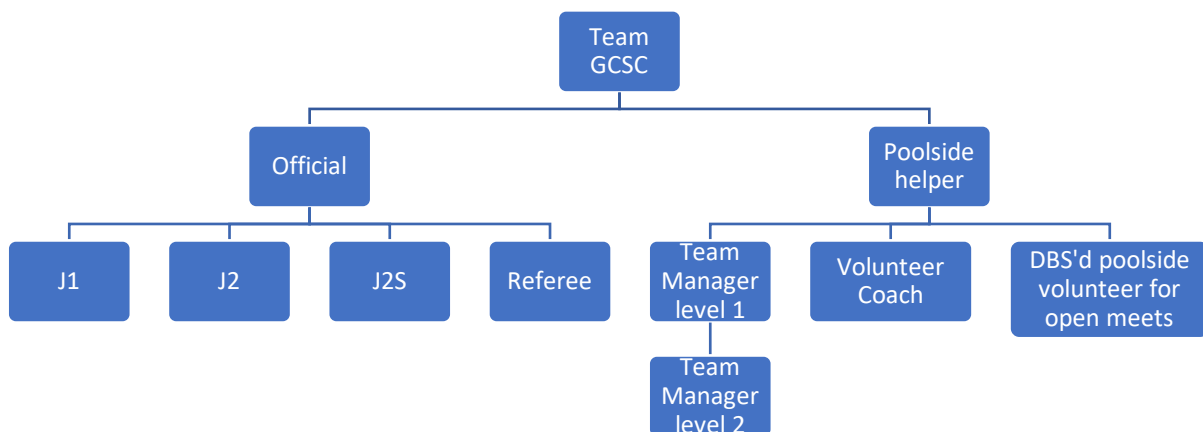
Once your swimmer enters SSK3 (or earlier if you are interested) we will provide the necessary training to parents / guardians to support the club. **This document will help you choose your GCSC volunteering pathway.**

In addition to the chance of watching your swimmer when spectators aren't permitted, volunteering allows you to learn more about your child's sport and to meet people from across the Club. It also contributes to the success of Team GCSC.

NOTE: ALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING IS FUNDED BY THE CLUB

If your employer supports you in taking volunteer leave, it may be possible to use this to do your training. At least one of the parents who has recently signed up as an official is using this approach to do their online J1 training.

Volunteer Pathways



NEXT STEPS:

The next pages give a brief overview of the start of each pathway, to help you decide which direction to take. You are welcome to take more than one pathway, e.g. you may already be a Team Manager but now want to train as an Official.

When you have read the information, let our Workforce Coordinator know which pathway you will be taking.

1. Officials

These are the people 'in white' at licensed meets (note: there are no written exams until Referee level). The region urgently needs people to volunteer as officials.

At least 22 officials are needed per licensed meet. We are aiming for a GCSC officials 'squad' of at least 30 people.

This is an ideal time to volunteer, because the South West region is supporting training for the first stage of JUDGE LEVEL 1 (J1).

Monday 27th January 2020 saw 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 in partnership with Swim England and the Institute of Swimming to ensure we are delivering a quality product to our volunteers.

Whilst the content of the training remains largely unchanged, the move to an online format is designed to allow volunteers to start the training at their own pace and to fit with all the other lifestyle commitments which we know our volunteers have.

Access to local support is available on request, with a dedicated new email address (swimmingofficials@swimming.org) to provide ongoing additional support as we seek to grow our number of qualified officials.

Once their theory training is complete and registered, candidates will be provided with local contacts to guide them through their practical assessments. Training resources have been updated, and clear guidance is now included on suggested timescales for completing each competence, with a time limit of 11 months being introduced.

Upon completion of all J1 training, individuals will automatically be issued with their first licence, which will be valid for 4 years, which then enables them to apply to volunteer at all events up to and including National level.

2. Poolside Helpers

A. Team Managers (TMs)

We aim to maintain a ratio of 10 swimmers : 1 TM at events and need a balance of male and female volunteers.

Participating in ALL competitions (including 'fun' leagues like the PGL League) rely on accompanying TMs. Many of our current devoted bunch of TMs belong to our older swimmers, so it is essential that we have TMs across our younger swimmer base too.

The Team Manager 1 Course is an online course aimed at those who are starting out on their volunteering journey. It focuses on single-day competitions (meets or galas) or training camps where there is no club-organised overnight stay.

Once you have completed the Team Manager 1 training online, you will need to complete a specific Safeguarding Training. Again, this can be completed online.

The Club will also organise a DBS check and will make sure you are able to shadow experienced TMs until you feel confident.

B. Volunteer Coaches

We are more than happy to support parents interested in coaching and can assist you to achieve formal qualifications. If you can commit to regular sessions, please speak to the Coaching team. Our coaches have a huge amount of experience and are willing to share it with you to develop your skills.

C. Poolside Volunteers at Open Meets

Competitor Marshalls

We always need Competitor Marshalls at Open Meets. These very important people make sure that the right swimmer ends up in the right heat and the right lane. If you are organised and can herd swimmers – this is for you!

The Club will also organise a DBS check and will make sure you are able to shadow experienced Marshalls until you feel confident.

Open Meet Helpers - general

For every competition we host, as well as Officials, Team Managers and Competitor Marshalls, we need around 15 additional volunteers. These roles do not need a Club DBS and include the following: announcer, control room helpers, warm-up marshalls, medals desk, monitoring entry.