

Volunteer Roles

Every year we call on volunteers to help run the County Swimming Competitions – without them our events cannot run safely and effectively.

Every year we are extremely grateful to see volunteers return but are always pleased to welcome new volunteers who are willing to offer a little of their time to support the competitions and the swimmers who compete.

If you are considering volunteering here is a brief overview of what roles there are and what you will be expected to do.

Whatever role you choose, you can be assured of a friendly, interclub community, and:

- free drinks and snacks throughout your session;
 - free lunch if you're volunteering all day;
 - a volunteer T shirt if you're a regular helper; and
 - the best seat in the house to watch your child swim – we always make sure you can leave your post when your child is racing!
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ALL ROLES - PLEASE SIGN-IN WITH THE VOLUNTEERS COORDINATOR AT THE FRONT DESK AND PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A WATER BOTTLE AND A RESUABLE CUP FOR HOT DRINKS.

MEET MANAGER: Reporting Time: 60 minutes before Warm-Up. This role-holder is in overall control of the meet in coordination with the Referee and begins many weeks before the racing with promoting the meet and organising the core delivery team.

ASSISTANT MEET MANAGER: Reporting Time: 60 minutes before Warm-Up. This is a new role for 2025 – ideal for any club meet manager who would like to gain mentored experience at a higher level meet.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Reporting Time: 60 minutes before Warm-Up. This role holder manages the recruitment and coordination of all our non-technical volunteers.

OFFICIAL'S COORDINATOR: Reporting Time: 30 minutes before Warm-Up. The Official's Coordinator is responsible for recruiting and coordinating the army of technical officials required to run a Level 1 County Championships.

RECORDER: Reporting Time: 30 minutes before 1st Race. The Recorder imports the times from the heats and produces the results. This role is great for those who can keep calm and focused, who enjoy computers or organising paperwork and are a super-duper stapler handler! - a busy job but involves working with some great people at the heart of the meet.

SOMERSET AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

ASSISTANT RECORDER: Reporting Time: 15 minutes before 1st Race. This role is mentored by the Recorder and Meet Manager and provides an essential 'second pair of eyes' at the Recorder's desk.

ANNOUNCER: Reporting Time: 10 minutes before Warm-Up. A crucial role for the running of the championships, this role is the link to keeping everything moving to time. Role-holders will need to be cool under pressure, enjoy talking over the microphone and have a clear and commanding voice. It is great if you have a playlist of songs suitable for the meet, we can link it up to the PA system to build the atmosphere, but don't worry if not, we always have a backup plan and a playlist on Spotify. We are happy to mentor anyone who wants to have a go, it really isn't that bad when you get going and it's the second-best seat in the house!

FRONT OF HOUSE/DOORS: Reporting Time: 35 minutes before Warm-Up. On the front desk you will be meeting and greeting spectators as they arrive at the complex. As well as safeguarding our swimmers, the role includes receiving money or taking online payments from spectators for their daily or weekend pass, issuing a wrist band, and tracking how many types of spectator wristbands are sold to ensure we don't exceed venue capacity. A great job that sets the scene of the event for all those who visit. You will be good in this role if you love meeting people and are super helpful!

POOLSIDE MARSHALS: Reporting Time: 10 minutes before 1st Race. Working on poolside, this role involves checking the swimmers in for their events and organising them into heats/lanes as they progress towards the blocks – a busy but rewarding job with lots of interaction with the swimmers. Please bring shoes for the poolside and be prepared to get a little wet!

COMPETITOR STEWARD: Reporting Time: 10 minutes before Warm-Up. The postholder will be responsible for checking that all adults entering the swimmer balcony area have the correct accreditations on display. This important safeguarding measure has been introduced by Swim England who issue the accreditations via the SE membership system.

MEDALS DESK: Reporting Time: 10 minutes before 1st Race. You will be on the medals desk handing out Gold, Silver & Bronze medals to our Age Group winners. You will be given two-full sets of results following each event, one copy is for you to display on the wall and the other is to make a note of the medals collected by swimmers. A very rewarding job, hectic at times! Helps to be organised.

TROPHIES MANAGER: Reporting Time: 10 minutes before 1st Race. You will be on the trophies desk preparing the awards for our new Junior and Senior County Champions. You will support the Meet Manager (or other VIP) with the Podium Presentations by handing out preparing the podium trophies and medals and taking photographs.

RUNNER: Reporting Time: 30 minutes before 1st Race. You will be working with the Meet Management Team, producing and taking the heat sheets to clubs, the results to the medals desk, passing any messages to Officials, other volunteers, the Official's caterer and also walking around with sweets/water to keep everyone going! You'll be sat with the recording and announcing team so a great seat!

SOMERSET AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

STANDBY: Reporting Time: 15 minutes before 1st Race. You will need to be ready to stand in for anyone who is unable to fulfil the role they volunteered for. This can be a varied role (or a very boring role!) and you get to watch from the volunteer seating area.

REFRESHMENTS: Reporting Time: 10 minutes before 1st Race. This is a new role designed to support our Caterer with organising and clearing the Official's refreshments area.

YOUNG VOLUNTEERS: Reporting Time: 10 minutes before 1st Race. YVs get involved in everything, preparing heat sheets for coaches and officials, taking results to the medals desk, checking in with Front of House to make sure they are happy, taking refreshments around to Officials and other volunteers etc. You will need to wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to sit around a bit when things are ticking over nicely!

For anyone who wants to have a go at any of these roles we would be happy to mentor you - this is a great meet to try a new role out so that you can then support your own club's events with confidence! Get in touch!

Sign up using this link:

<https://www.swim-meet.com/VolunteersSignup/Somerset/>

Here's what some of our previous volunteers have said about their experience.....

Having never volunteered before, I really enjoyed it. Everyone was so friendly, supportive and worked really well as a team considering we had never met before.

I was even lucky to get a back massage sat in the chair - the lady I volunteered with in the afternoon was a Chinese Dr specialising in Chinese massage and acupuncture- you'll never know who you'll network with 😊😊

I was a poolside marshal in today's afternoon session. Although it was a busy role, I enjoyed chatting to the swimmers and would volunteer to do the same again, without hesitation.

I used to swim as a child, so it's nice to give back to a sport that did so much for me. I really enjoyed announcing. I was a little nervous at first, but Kelly and her team soon put me at ease. I'm already looking forward to the next event.

A lot more fun than I thought it was going to be... 😊