

Joining the Officials Team at Pirates

The sport of swimming revolves around both training and race meets. Race meets are where swimmers compete in different swimming events. For the swimmers times to be “official times” and therefore be recorded, the meet needs to achieve FINA officiating regulations.



As a club we need to have enough qualified officials in our parent team to enable the continuity of events/meets for our swimmers and to ensure our officials team is sufficiently big enough to enable the job to be shared around.

The most important official for our club to recruit is called the IOT, Inspector of Turns. This person monitors the turn part of swimming races. A key challenge of this role is it takes 6-12 months to train and become qualified and only around four IOT's can be trained at a time. Therefore it is really important that the club has new IOT recruits commencing training every 6 months. ***The training is outlined here:***



Swimming is a technical sport with detailed rules around technical execution. In other sports umpires and referees also regulate sport. The difference with swimming is that a swimmer receives the penalty of a disqualification when they breach a rule, rather than a penalty. While the system is tough on our young swimmers, it does allow for a fair swim for all our swimmers and embeds legal technical racing skills at an early age. Most of our IOT's have no swimming background themselves. All you need to be is willing to give it a go and come along to the meets to train.

For more information about getting started as an IOT in the next round or to put your name on an interested list for future intakes please contact Catherine Bell (Club IOT and Officials Coordinator) at karori.pirates.officials@gmail.com. Also check out this video on the backstroke if you are keen to see the sort of things officials at swim meets are looking at. [Backstroke Officiating](#)