

Licensing of Officials

There has been concern about the licensing of officials in Scotland. The process has not taken place as quickly as expected and the pack/logbook has not been issued. There was a rather unsatisfactory discussion of the issue at the STO Seminar. Since then Allan Fletcher (President) has been working to move the situation forward.

Licensing was introduced to monitor the activity of STOs (many are registered but never appear on poolside) and to give more control over who is on poolside. At present licensing for all Judge 1s and above is voluntary but it will become compulsory (2010?).

Historically it was intended that the Scottish scheme would mirror the British scheme and that all officials would receive an information pack ,logbook etc.

It has been decided that Scotland will not license its own officials, but will be part of the GB scheme. In the long term this seems to be a good idea as all training etc is now GB based, so we should be GB officials. A negative is that the Scottish licence was to be free and the British licence costs £10; this charge will apply on re-licensing in 2010.

The following are the proposals:

1. Those people who currently hold a Scottish licence will be transferred to the British scheme by Scottish swimming at no cost. Further info/pictures may be needed and these officials will be contacted by Scottish Swimming. They will be provided with a GB licence and pack.
2. Anyone who has not applied for a licence so far should complete a British Swimming Licence application form and send it to Scottish Swimming who will forward it and pay for the application. All applications must be received by 12 December. These people will be provided with a British Swimming licence and pack. It is essential that applicants meet this deadline.
3. After 12 December, those applying for a licence should send the completed British Swimming application form and the fee (£10) directly to British swimming. They can then reclaim this first application from National STO Committee if they wish.

At present the British licence is issued by the Institute of Sport but in future it will become a British Swimming licence.

There is a more detailed document about licensing on the Scottish swimming website, please look at it. Please encourage the STOs in your club to complete a licence application before the deadline.