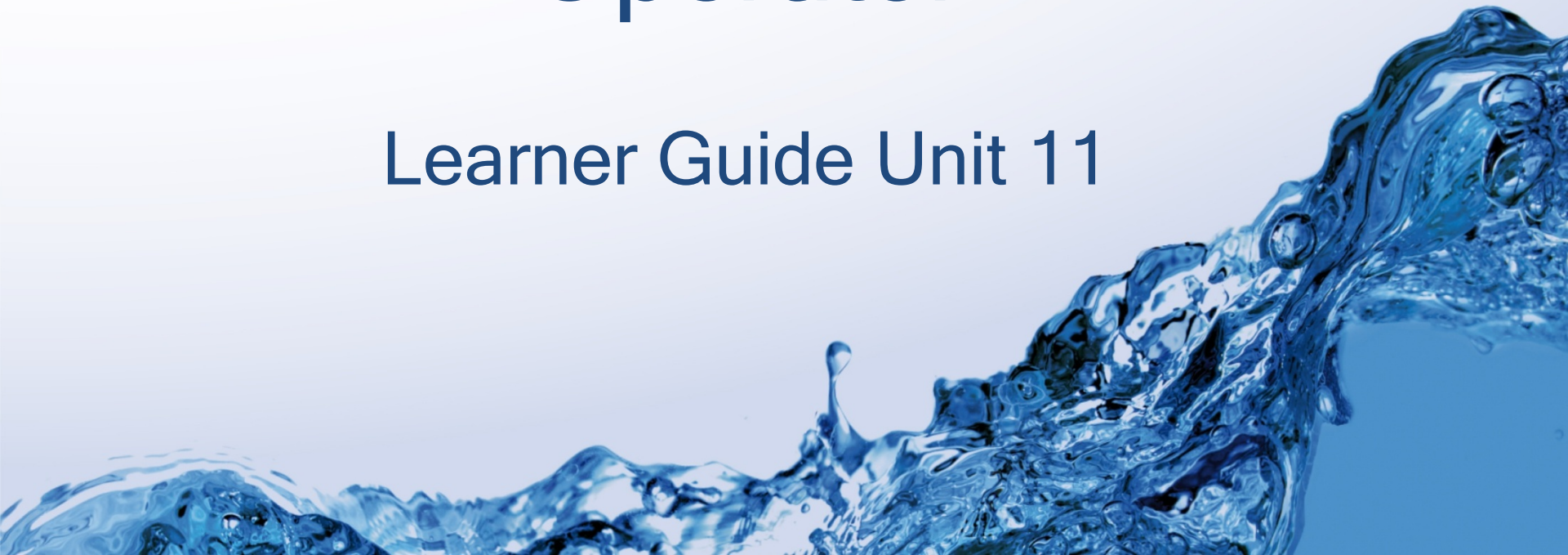


Automatic Officiating Equipment (AOE) Operator

Learner Guide Unit 11



Introduction

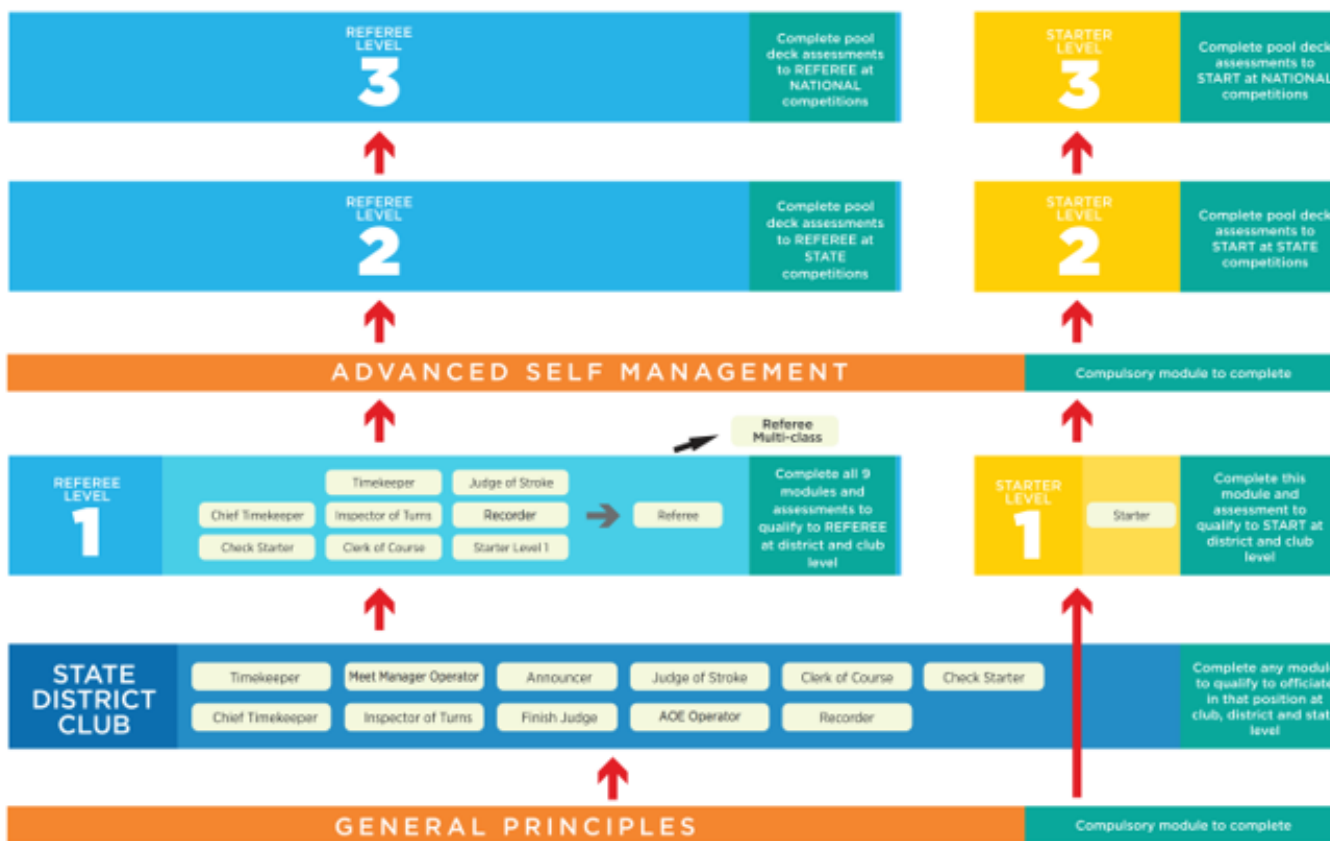
- Welcome
- Introductions: Facilitator/s and background.
- Participant introduction and why you want to become a Technical Official.
- The program and format of the workshop.

Introduction (cont)

- Technical Officiating within Australia – Pathways.
- Unit Learner Guide Overview.
 - Competencies, learning outcomes and assessment tasks for the unit.
- Overview the policy and legislative requirements for being a Technical Official within Australia.

Technical Officiating Pathway

Swimming Australia Limited has designed the Technical Officials Training Program on a competency based training platform.



Competency

What is a Competency?

- A competency can be defined as the application of skills and knowledge to an agreed standard.
- Competency relates to what a person can do.
- Competency standards specify the level of knowledge and skills required, and the application of that knowledge and skills for effective performance.

What is Competency Based Assessment?

- Assessment is the process of collecting evidence and making judgements about whether competency has been achieved.
- Assessment needs to be based on established criteria. These criteria are reflected in the questions and activities set out in this Learner Guide.

Resources, Skills and Legislation

What resources do I require?

- You will require this Learner Guide as well as a copy of the current [SAL Swimming Rules](#) and access to swimming events where you can be practically assessed as an AOE Operator.

What if I already have the skills?

- You may have already attained the skills required to complete this learning module. If so, you can request your State/Territory Swimming Association for an initial assessment of your **current competence**. This assessment will determine the level of your skills and whether you need additional training.
- If you would like to undertake assessment for formal recognition of your existing skills, you will be required to complete a detailed Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) application form that will allow an assessor to review your skills against the specific requirements for this unit of work. Discuss this process with your State/Territory Swimming Association.

Legislative Requirements

- All Swimming Officials whether paid or unpaid must meet the legislative requirements in each state and territory when dealing with children and vulnerable people. Please check with your State/Territory Swimming Association to complete any documentation required to meet this legislation.

Learner Guide

This Learner Guide provides you with the information and activities that will enable you to achieve competencies related to this unit of work.

You can develop competency in this unit through a combination of tasks including:

- Reading the material in this Learner Guide.
- Asking questions about anything you don't understand.
- Observing other officials during events.
- Reinforcing the skills you are learning in practical situations.
- Satisfactorily completing the activities in this Learner Guide.
- Completing the assessment activities outlined in this Learner Guide.

AOE Operator

- How would an AOE Operator prepare for a Meet upon arrival at venue?
- List all the roles you can think of that an AOE Operator would be required to do.
- What items/equipment do you need to carry out your role?



Preparation

The AOE Operator plays a very important role in ensuring electronic times and places are accurately captured for each swimmer. Just as with all other officiating roles in the sport of swimming, pre-event preparation is a key factor in effective operations.

Some of the steps that you will need to take in preparing for your role include:

- Arrive at venue at least 60 minutes prior to start of meet.
- Report to the Referee / Meet Director to receive any instructions.
- Have all equipment required to complete task, ensuring it is tested and working correctly
- Meet with all other officials with whom you will be working and familiarise yourself with the Recording Room area.

Role

The AOE Operator shall operate, or assist in the operation of any approved Automatic Officiating Equipment. The AOE Operator works closely with the Recorder/Chief Recorder/Control Room Supervisor / Referee.

- Review the meet format.
- Review the set-up of the AOE, anticipate problems and their resolution to minimise disruption of the meet (e.g. paper tape changes).
- Agree on the decision making process in the event of timing discrepancies, light or missed touches, or other timing issues.
- Determine how the Referee wishes to be involved in the decision process in the event of timing discrepancies.
- Advise the Referee of the circumstances where the quality of the electronic timing cannot be judged (for example, official splits at the far end of a 50m pool).

Role (cont)

- If a scoreboard is in use, determine if the scoreboard times will be used as official times (Referee approval of the scoreboard), and agree on the procedure for the correction of a light touch or disqualification initially displayed, prior to final approval.
- Clarify with the Starter and Referee the signal or scoreboard condition that will inform them that the timing equipment is ready for the start of a new race. The re-setting of the running time to zero or the clearing of all times from the scoreboard usually signifies this.
- The Referee must watch the clock after the start of the race in order to ensure that time is running on the clock. In the event of the clock not starting the AOE Operator must inform the Referee.
- Review the flow of data and paperwork with the Recorder/Chief Recorder/Control Room Supervisor, and the meaning of any symbols or warnings produced by the AOE.
- Observe all touches.
- Check for failures of the equipment or incorrect operation and attempt appropriate corrections. This must be done in consultation with the Referee to minimise delays in the meet, and to expedite corrective action.

Role (cont)

- If you as an AOE Operator are faced with a situation where the automatic and semi-automatic systems fail to provide a time or place for a competitor, the Referee must be consulted. In the event of a complete failure of the AOE primary and backup systems (such as when a start signal is not received, and the race is allowed to be completed), the Referee must be informed. In consultation with the Technical Manager, the Referee will decide how the race will be re-swum so times can be obtained.
- On the receipt of information from an AOE Operator of a failure of the AOE to properly record a time, oversee the correction of incorrect times by examining the results produced by the backup timing device or consulting with the Referee. The proper procedures for this are laid out in Rule SW 13.
- Remain available to the Recorder/Chief Recorder/Control Room Supervisor to analyse any problems with the results. Current types of software based timing equipment store the raw data from each race, so it can be retrieved after the event is finished.
- Discuss with the Recorder/Chief Recorder/Control Room Supervisor/ Technical Manager / Referee any difficulties with the operation of the AOE that were encountered.

Timing Equipment

The FINA Facilities Rules (FR 4) addresses requirements and standards when using AOE. There are different companies producing such equipment and all are not the same in terms of how they operate.

Commonly used Equipment:

Timing console used for primary and secondary backup timing.

- Central timing system, which coordinates incoming information from the start system, touchpads, relay platforms, and backup buttons. It sends information to scoreboards, meet software and printers. Some brands of timing systems may use a personal computer or laptop as a central timing system.
- Push-buttons for semi-automatic backup timing. To ensure proper functioning of the timing console, three push buttons are to be used for each lane. Where a video backup system is also in place, generally only one push button is required.

NOTE: The term AOE times can be applied to swimmers' finishing times in individual events and relay events, as well as to electronic relay changeovers.

Definitions

Automatic Officiating Equipment

- An automatic timing system is a system that is activated by the Starter to give the signal to the swimmer to start the race, and will be **stopped by the swimmer** when touching the touchpad at the finish of the race.

Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment:

- A semi-automatic timing system is one that is activated by the Starter in the same way as the automatic timing system, but will be **stopped by an official** using a push button to judge the arrival of the swimmer at the end of a race.
- However, as stated in SW 11.1 referenced below, having an automatic timing system will not ensure getting an official time for a swimmer if that swimmer fails to activate the system (e.g. a light touch). Therefore there is still the need for a backup time, which can be obtained from a video backup system, a semi-automatic time from an Official, or stopwatches (manual times).

Definitions (cont)

Light Touches

- If there is concern that the incoming swimmer in an individual event or a relay event has made a “light touch” and thus did not activate the touchpad, it would be identified by the AOE Operator / Recorder/ Chief Recorder/Control Room Supervisor. If they determine that there was a light touch in a given lane, it would be considered a “failure of the automatic equipment system”, and the semi-automatic time or time from digital watches would be used.

Rules

SW 11 TIMING

- SW 11.1 The operation of Automatic Officiating Equipment shall be under the supervision of appointed officials. Times recorded by Automatic Equipment shall be used to determine the winner, all placings and the time applicable to each lane. The placings and times so determined shall have precedence over the recordings of timekeepers. In the event that a breakdown of the Automatic Equipment occurs or that it is clearly indicated that there has been a failure of the equipment, or that a swimmer has failed to activate the equipment, the recordings of timekeepers shall be official.
- SW 11.2 When Automatic Equipment is used, the results shall be recorded only to 1/100 of second. When timing to 1/1000 of a second is available, the third digit shall not be recorded or used to determine time or placement. In the event of equal times, all swimmers who have recorded the same time at 1/100 of a second shall be accorded the same placing. Times displayed on the electronic scoreboard should show only to 1/100 of a second.

Rules (cont)

SW 13 AUTOMATIC OFFICIATING PROCEDURE

- SW 13.1 When Automatic Officiating Equipment (See FR 4) is used in any competition, the placings and times so determined and relay take-offs judged by such equipment shall have precedence over the timekeepers.
- SW 13.2 When the Automatic Officiating Equipment fails to record the place and/or time of one or more swimmers in a given race:
 - SW 13.2.1 Record Automatic Equipment times and places
 - SW 13.2.2 Record human times and places
 - SW 13.2.3 The official place will be determined as follows:

Rules (cont)

- SW 13.2.3.1 A swimmer with an Automatic Equipment time and place must retain his relative order when compared with the other swimmers having an Automatic Equipment time and place within that race.
- SW 13.2.3.2 A swimmer not having an Automatic Equipment place but having an Automatic Equipment time will establish his relative order by comparing his Automatic Equipment time with the Automatic Equipment times of the other swimmers.
- SW 13.2.3.3 A swimmer having neither an Automatic Equipment place nor an Automatic Equipment time shall establish his relative order by the time recorded by the Semi-Automatic Equipment or by three digital watches.

Rules (cont)

- SW 13.3 The official time will be determined as follows:
 - SW 13.3.1 The official time for all swimmers having an Automatic Equipment time will be that time.
 - SW 13.3.2 The official time for all swimmers not having an Automatic Equipment time will be the three digital watches or the Semi-Automatic Equipment.
- SW 13.4 To determine the relative order of finish for the combined heats of an event, proceed as follows:
 - SW 13.4.1 The relative order of all swimmers will be established by comparing their official times.
 - SW 13.4.2 If a swimmer has an official time that is tied with the official time(s) of one or more swimmers, all swimmers having that time shall be tied in their relative order of finish in that event.

Relay Changeovers

- “When Automatic Officiating Equipment is used in any competition, the placing and times so determined and relay take-offs judged by such equipment shall have precedence over the timekeepers.” (SW 13.1)
- Where automatic relay changeover timing system is in place, if the outgoing swimmer leaves the block before the incoming swimmer touches the touchpad, the console will indicate a negative reading. For Omega timing systems, a changeover greater than -0.03 seconds is considered a disqualification for an early take-off. It is important to check and be aware of the manufacturer’s tolerance limits.
- Where there is no automatic relay changeover timing system in place at a competition, an Inspector of Turns on each lane shall determine by visual inspection whether or not the starting swimmer is in contact with the starting platform when the preceding teammate touches the wall.

Review

- Did you consider all of the above roles in your list?
- A thorough knowledge of the rules is required for this position as the AOE Room often controls the pace of the meet.
- The AOE Operator must maintain an awareness of all equipment and processes to keep the meet running in a timely manner and to ensure the correct result is posted.

Practical Assessment

To undertake assessment for this unit of work, you will need to complete the following assessment task:

- Completion of this Learner Guide
- Completion of all activities
- Undertake a Practical Assessment working in this role.

When you complete the assessment within this Learner Guide and are assessed as competent by your assessor, you will be eligible to receive accreditation from SAL.

Workshop Closure

- Summary of Learner Guide Unit
- Participants Feedback Form
- Where to from here?
- Follow up
- Questions

Thank you