

Water Polo Referee Pathway

	Club Level Referee	Regional Level Referee	National Level Referee	International Level Referee
Target Audience	Swim England members who wish to gain an initial understanding of Water polo FINA Rules and apply this within their club.	Swim England members who wish to progress to refereeing inter-club in local leagues and regional events organised by the region.	Swim England members who are experienced regional referees who wish to progress to refereeing national events. Candidates need to be nominated by a recognised Swim England or BWPL Delegate to progress through the training.	Swim England members who are experienced national referees who wish to progress to refereeing international events. Those identified by Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group for nomination via British Swimming.
Competition Level	Intra-club practice matches, inter-club junior friendly matches.	Local league matches, Regional competitions, Inter-Regional Junior Championships, U15 NAGs.	British Championships, British Water Polo League, U17/U19 NAGs.	International Events.
Minimum Age	14 (see note below)	16 (see note below)	18	21
Course Delivery	Attendance at Introductory Referee course Part 1 – Rules and Application. Completion of online Learning Check.	Attendance at Introductory Referee course Part 2 – Game Management and Communication. Practical assessment by a National referee during three matches.	Attendance at National Referee course. Practical assessment by a Delegate or International Referee during a national event.	By invitation from Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group.

Note: Club referees (of any age) and Under-18 Regional referees must be supervised during competitive matches by an adult who is qualified to a minimum of Regional Level referee.

Pre-requisites	Valid Swim England membership.	In addition to Club Referee pre-requisites: • Payment of course fee - £25 (course, licence and holder, whistle).	In addition to Regional Referee pre-requisites: • Valid Licence. • Minimum two years' experience as a Regional referee. • Completion of online CPD and refereeing record.	In addition to National Referee pre-requisites: • Valid Licence. • Minimum three years' experience as a National referee. • Assessment by Swim England Delegates Group as suitable for nomination.
Maintaining level of qualification		• Six matches a year over four year period in a mixture of matches as defined by Competition Level. • Completion of online CPD and refereeing record. • If number of matches and CPD not met, official to attend refresher within 12 months of the four year anniversary. • If do not attend, referee to drop to club level.	• National grade referees will be assessed by delegates using the standard methodology defined in the Swim England Delegates Handbook. • Every year the Swim England Delegates Group will review all National grade referees. • Any National referee whose evaluation does not meet the expected standards will revert to a Regional referee. • A referee who has not been active in national competitions for a period of two years will revert to regional referee. • A National referee who has been reverted to Regional grade can apply for re-assessment once they are able to demonstrate their suitability.	• As determined by Home Nations Water Polo Group.