

SOUTH AFRICAN SWIMMING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

DRAFT - OFFICIALS POLICY

1. **MISSION**

To harmonize misunderstanding and support all swim officials, to fulfill their mandate of ensuring greater understanding and consistency in the application of swimming rules.

2. **VISION**

To inculcate commitment, dedication and ensure sustainable interest and passion amongst all swim officials of South Africa.

3. **HEADQUARTERS**

Shall be where the General Secretary is based.

4. **AFFILIATION**

SASOA shall affiliate to SSA as a legitimate committee, and will operate under the direction of the Competitions Manager.

5. **PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY**

- To improve the standard of officiating in Aquatics and transform officials into professional unit in terms of pool deck protocols.
- To display level of maturity in terms of evaluating, and consistent application of swimming rules to Able and Disabled swimmers.
- To ensure that FINA and IPC rules are enforced in true spirit of SPORTSMANSHIP.
- To encourage Provincial Federations to form inclusion type of registered swim officials clubs, to promote positive development of officiating.
- To encourage line of communication and forge sound relationship with all stakeholders in swimming fraternity.
- To create common understanding of rules and to be in line with the Golden Rules of Officiating that states unequivocally that swimmers get the benefit of the doubt.

6. **PROPOSED EXCO**

Terms of Office = Two (2) years

COMPOSITION

Eleven (11) members consist of:

- One (1) ~ Chairperson
- One (1) ~ Deputy
- One (1) ~ General Secretary
- One member of SSA ~ Swim Board
- Three (3) members EXCO members
- Four (4) members from Provincial Officials Committee

ROLES AND FUNCTION OF EXCO

- To forge sound relations with Provincial Officials Committees.
- To ensure that Programme of events are properly arranged.
- To be in charge of management of competition.
- To appoint Officials and ensure that sufficient number of officials are present.
- To appoint Judges and Referees that will officiate in Local Championships.
- To ensure that Grading of Officials is done in proper and responsible manner.
- To appoint officials who will officiate in any CANA event viz- Zone 4 Invitation All Africa Games.
- To appoint officials who will participate in any FINA events viz- FINA Championships and FINA Programs (Seminar).

7. **ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF STAKEHOLDERS**

SWIMMING SOUTH AFRICA

Task : Training of officials, supporting officials financially. Assist in organizing official Seminars. Acknowledge that officials form an integral part of this organization.

PROVINCIAL FEDERATION

Task : To ensure that officials are well equipped in terms of officiating; that officials have a common understanding and interpretation of swimming Rules, ensuring that all officials are registered with their Federations.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DET)

Task : Release educators ensuring that education institutions are in line with Circular 38 of 2003. (Educators are Agents of Sports Socialization)

7.4 DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS AND RECREATION

Task : Assisting officials involvement to achieve long-term objectives of financial support in terms of NACOC sanctioned events

7.5 SASCOC (SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS COUNCIL)

Task : Financial support in terms of Olympics coded events.

8. LEVEL OF OFFICIATING (FOUR LEVELS)

Level 1	:	TK	:	Judge	:	Starter	:	Referee
Level 2	:	TK	:	Judge	:	Starter	:	Referee
Level 3	:	TK	:	Judge	:	Starter	:	Referee
Level 4	:	TK	:	Judge (FINA)	:	Starter (FINA)	:	Referee (FINA)

As suggested by SSA Education Training to create an excellent environment, that encompasses the spirit of learning with SSA.

9. MEETINGS

9.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To take place at the same venue as where National Aquatics Champs are held.

To invite SSA Competitions Manager for clarity on questions in terms of officiating and development.

9.2 EXTRA ORDINARY OFFICIALS MEETING

Can take place any given time, to address complicated officials matters.

10. CAPACITY BUILDING

Officials` Courses, Workshops, Seminars and Meetings to be arranged.

The EXCO shall decide the *when & where* and *how* officials should be capacitated.

Officials should be certificated.

11. **SPORTS AND DRUGS**

SASOA reserves the right to engage with: *S A Institution for Drugs for Free Sport*

Officials should be trained in terms of implementation of drug free sport.

12. **COMPETITIONS , RULES AND REGULATIONS**

All local tournaments, competitions and events shall be under the control of the committee.

The committee shall be in charge of entire management and competition.

The Jury of Appeal shall decide and preside over all misunderstanding and protests that may arise, during meet and competitions.

Code EXCO:- shall write a tournament or competition report which should be submitted to SSA.

Protests should be in written form and reach the Panel of Jury within twenty four (24) hours accompanied by a protest fee. The Panel of Jury should respond as soon as possible.

13. **SPONSORSHIP**

The committee shall be responsible to generate funds. The committee should disclose to SSA in case of securing any sponsorship.

14. **AFFILIATION OF OFFICIALS**

All officials to affiliate to their Provincial Federation, and shall be bona-fide members of SASOA.

Affiliation shall last for one (1) season only.

On payment – Officials should insist on receipt.

15. **INCENTIVES**

Funding: SSA to take full responsibilities in terms of funding officials.

Proper incentives should be in place in order to lay a good foundation of attracting more officials.

16. **TRANSFORMATION**

SASOA - Shall be in line with *TRANSFORMATION* policies introduced in 2004.

17. **AWARDS**

17.1 Swimming S.A Officials Badge: SSA Constitution: Law 20.1

Any member of SSAC who has attended the S.A Senior National Championships and served as an Official for the full period of every tournament, for at least four (4) tournaments, (not necessarily consecutively) shall be eligible to receive an “Official Badge”. Such badge to be worn on a navy blue blazer.

This award shall be made to any person who is eligible in terms of the foregoing requirement. Such persons shall make applications to the S.S.A. Executive through their Provincial Association, listing the tournament at which they have officiated. A sworn Affidavit may be required.

S.S.A shall maintain a register of all officials. The “Officials Badge” shall be presented to the person(s) who have qualified at all conclusion of their tournaments.

Meritorious Service Award : S A Constitution: Law 20

A Meritorious Service Award may be awarded to any member who served as an Official at a S.S.A National Championship Tournament for the full duration thereof at least once per year for eight years (not necessarily consecutively). Such persons who have served for the full duration of each Tournament may make application, under sworn affidavit, to the S.S.A Executive through their Provincial Body. Applications must include details of the Tournament (year / venue) and position held. (The years of service will be back-dated to unity – 1992).

18. **LIFE MEMBERS:** SSA Constitution : Law 20.4

Persons holding the Meritorious Service Award, and who given extraordinary service and devotion to SSA over a lengthy period on the highest level and far in excess of the requirements laid down for Meritorious Service Award, may be proposed for life Membership. This proposal may be made by members or by the Executive, and must be accompanied by a full citation of the extraordinary services. This Award shall be determined at a General Meeting.

Proposal by members shall be subject to the recommendation of the SSA Executive.

19. **CODE OF DRESS**

All clothing, shoes and accessories worn by members / officials at National galas will be suitable for the occasion, navy bottoms and white tops as detailed below. These specifications may be changed for a specific gala to meet the requirements of a “Sponsor”. The accepted “Code of Dress” is as follows:-

HEATS / DAYTIME

Ladies: A white shirt or blouse with navy slacks, knee-length shorts or skirt with white shoes.

Men: A white shirt with navy trousers or shorts, worn with white socks and white shoes.

FINALS / EVENING

Ladies: A white or shirt or blouse with navy slacks or knee-length skirt.

Men: White shirt and navy trousers.

20. **GENERAL**

Any changes or amendments to this Code of Ethics must be adopted as a motion and passed by two-thirds majority of the votes at the specific meeting.

