

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS  
TRAINING PROGRAM  
**UNIT 5**



**CHECK  
STARTER**

LEARNER GUIDE

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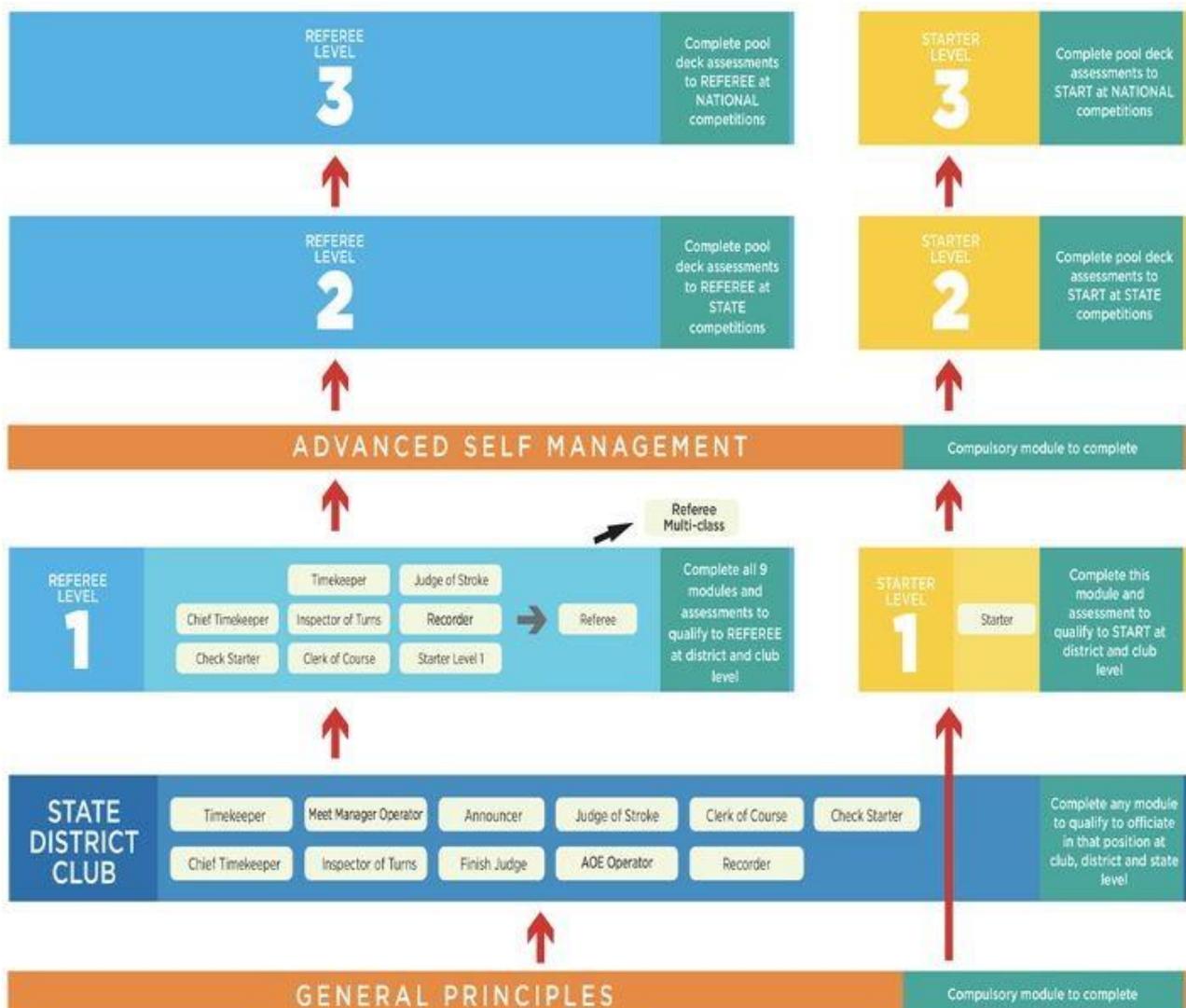
# ABOUT THIS LEARNER GUIDE

This Learner Guide has been developed by Swimming Australia (SA) to support candidates undertaking **Unit 4 – Check Starter** within the SA **National Officiating Accreditation Program**.

SA and the State Technical Committees have worked in conjunction in the formulation of this document.

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

## Officiating Pool Pathway



## 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.

Australian Sports Commission Assessor Training Manual 2006

## 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.

## HOW DO I USE THIS 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.

## WHAT RESOURCES DO I REQUIRE?

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

## 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.

## **WHAT ABOUT ASSESSMENT?**

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

- Completion of this Learner Guide
- Completion of practical tasks

You will be assessed at a swim meet to ensure the relevance of the assessment process.

**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 SA.**

The assessment activities are found in the final section within the Learner Guide and can be identified by the icon below.



## ASSESSMENT

The Learner Guide also includes a series of specifically designed learning activities, which will allow you to practice your new skills prior to assessment. These activities must be completed and will be represented by the logo below.



## ACTIVITY

### HOW DO I START?

You can undertake the activities in the Learner Guide at your own pace, or under the supervision of your trainer / mentor.

You are ready to start.

# UNIT 5: CHECK STARTER

This unit outlines a range of general skills that are required by Check Starters. The elements within this unit are:

- **Preparation**
- **Role of the Check Starter**

## **Preparation**

The role of the Check Starter is very important in ensuring a smooth transition for swimmers, prior to each event. An effective and well organised Check Starter can assist the swimmers, the Starter, the Referee and the Clerk of Course. As with all officiating positions in the sport of swimming, a key to operating successfully as a Check Starter is that you are well prepared to carry out your duties.

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

1. Arrive at venue at least 30 minutes prior to start of meet.
2. Report to the Referee to receive any instructions and an event program.
3. Have all equipment required to complete task: pen, clipboard, highlighters and race sheets if required.
4. Ensure the marshalling area is suitable to the needs of the event and report any issues to the Referee.
5. Meet with all other officials with whom you will be working and familiarise yourself with the pool-deck area.



## ACTIVITY 4.1

For each of the 5 preparatory steps listed above, list one possible consequence that may occur if they are not undertaken.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

## Role of the Check Starter

While the duties of the Check Starter are many and varied, the following are a good guide.

1. Receive the event race sheet from the Clerk of Course, who will have marked the swimmer as present or absent.
2. Ensure that the swimmers for each race are correct by checking name and lane number against the race sheet.
3. Inform the swimmers of their lane numbers.
4. Ensure that all swimmers are properly attired, wearing only approved swimwear and that all swimwear and pool deck equipment meets the requirements of State / SAL Advertising Rules.
5. Instruct the swimmers when to move onto the pool deck and direct them to their assigned lanes.
6. Prior to the commencement of a race, ensure all swimmers are positioned behind their assigned starting block.
7. Indicate to the Referee that all is in readiness for the start by standing at attention and facing the Referee, or as directed.
8. Be aware, and provide assistance to any swimmers where required.
9. In the event of a false start, ensure that all swimmers are standing behind their assigned lanes. When satisfied all is in readiness for the restart, signal the Referee in the manner set out in (7) above.
10. If a swimmer does not report to the Marshalling area in accordance with the rules, that swimmer must be taken to the Referee. The Check Starter does not have the authority to deny or allow the swimmer to take their place in the race.

**Note:** Organising bodies will be responsible for determining their own rules for handicap events if required. These rules will be conveyed to all coaches, swimmers and officials prior to the start of the meet.



## ACTIVITY 4.2

For each of the 10 duties listed above, list one possible consequence that may occur if they are not undertaken effectively by the Check Starter.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	



## ASSESSMENT

### Task 4.1:

**Answering these questions will assist you in your preparation for being assessed as competent as a Check Starter.**

1. At what time before a swim meet commences should an appointed Check Starter report, and to whom?
2. What equipment is required by a Check Starter?
3. How does the Check Starter indicate to the Referee that all is in readiness for the start of the race?
4. If you noticed that a swimmer had moved from their allocated lane, what action would you take?
5. In the event of a false start what are the responsibilities of the Check Starter?

### Task 4.2:

**You are required to be assessed performing the duties of Check Starter in a full session of a Swim Meet. This will give you the opportunity to provide evidence of your competence in a swimming specific environment.**

## ASSESSMENT TOOL – UNIT 5 CHECK STARTER

Element / Performance Criteria <b>CHECK STARTER</b>	Displayed Competency		Comments
	YES	NO	Must be completed if Competency has been marked <b>NO</b>
<b>1. Preparation</b>			
1.1 Arrived at the venue at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meet.			
1.2 Reported to the Referee to receive any instructions.			
1.3 Had all equipment required to complete task.			
<b>2. Performance of Task</b>			
2.1 Worked closely with the Clerk/s of Course to ensure that all swimmers were ready for each event.			
2.2 Passed on any instructions/requirements from the Referee to all swimmers.			
2.3 Ensured that all swimmers were present as per the event race sheets.			
2.4 Ensured that all swimmers are properly attired, wearing only approved swimwear, and that all swimwear and pool deck equipment meets the requirements of State / SAL Advertising Rules			
2.5 As required, moved the swimmers from the marshalling area to the pool deck, and ensured that all swimmers were standing behind their assigned starting blocks.			
2.6 Indicated clearly to the Referee that all swimmers in that race were in attendance.			
2.7 Did not initiate conversation or engage swimmers in unnecessary conversation, banter or request autographs.			
2.8 Maintained an even disposition at all times.			
2.9 Treated all swimmers equally and fairly.			
2.10 Focused entirely and exclusively on the task assigned without engaging in any distracting activities.			
<b>3. Decision Making</b>			
3.1 All issues regarding possible breaches of the rules were reported immediately to the Referee.			
<b>4. Infraction Reports</b>			
4.1 Verbal reports were given to the Referee prior to the completion of the relevant race.			
<b>5. General Competencies</b>			
5.1 Was dressed appropriately for the task.			
5.2 Was courteous to all swimmers, coaches, parents and other officials at all times.			
5.3 Maintains a level of concentration, physical fitness and capability to perform the task.			
5.4 Possesses State-specific accreditation in relation to child protection legislation.			

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

National Technical Official Accreditation Number: \_\_\_\_\_

State-Specific Working With Children Card No \_\_\_\_\_

State-Specific Working With Children Card Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Assessment: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Assessor: \_\_\_\_\_

### **ASSESSMENT DECISION:**

Competent

Not Yet Competent

Assessor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **FUTURE TRAINING / ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**