

British Universities Life Saving Clubs' Association

Officiating Pathway v1.0
March 2014





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1. Introduction

- 1.1. It is important for the integrity of BULSCA competition that officiating is of high quality. This includes judging being reliably consistent and fair.
- 1.2. Gaining some experience of viewing 4-man SERC competitions from the point of view of a judge is an important stage in the development of a BULSCA official.
- 1.3. In order to maintain a high quality of officiating, officials at BULSCA competitions will be considered to fit into four categories.

2. Probationary BULSCA Officials

- 2.1 Probationary BULSCA Officials will:
 - 2.1.1 Have completed the RLSS Branch Level Officials course or higher;
 - 2.1.2 Hold a current Life Support 3 award **OR** otherwise have demonstrated the skills contained in that award to the satisfaction of the BULSCA committee; and
 - 2.1.3 Be familiar with the current BULSCA rulebook.
- 2.2 Probationary BULSCA Officials will be expected to complete the Shadowing Requirement before moving to Full BULSCA Official status and will not be able to officiate other than in a shadowing capacity at a BULSCA Competition.



3. Externally Experienced Officials

- 3.1 Externally Experienced Officials will meet the criteria of a Probationary BULSCA Official and will, additionally:
 - 3.1.1 Have officiated at a minimum of four RLSS, SLS or ILS sanctioned competitions, containing an incident or SERC element.
- 3.2 Externally Experienced Officials may be invited to officiate by Competition Management Committees and will not be required to shadow.
- 3.3 An Externally Experienced Official may not perform the role of Overall Judge in a SERC.

4. Full BULSCA Officials

- 4.1 Full BULSCA Officials will meet the criteria of a Probationary BULSCA Official and will, additionally:
 - 4.1.1 Have completed the Shadowing Requirement (see 6 below)
 - 4.1.2 Or, will meet the criteria of an Externally Experienced Official and will, additionally:
 - 4.1.3 Have experience of officiating or shadowing at a minimum of one competition including a 4-man SERC element.
- 4.2 Full BULSCA Officials may be used as officials at BULSCA competitions without restriction save that they may not perform the role of Overall Judge in a SERC unless they have completed the RLSS National Level Official qualification.

5. Senior BULSCA Officials

- 5.1 Senior BULSCA Officials will meet the criteria for a Full BULSCA Official and will, additionally:
 - 5.1.1 Have officiated at a minimum of four BULSCA competitions, comprising any combination of BULSCA League Competitions and BULSCA Championships;
and
 - 5.1.2 Either have officiated at a minimum of one BULSCA competition in the previous 24 months; or
 - 5.1.3 Be a member of the BULSCA Judges Panel;
- 5.2 Senior BULSCA Officials may be used as officials at BULSCA competitions without restriction.
- 5.3 Senior BULSCA Officials may be shadowed by Probationary BULSCA Officials in line with the Shadowing Requirement.



6. The Shadowing Requirement

- 6.1 A Probationary BULSCA Official will be required to shadow at a minimum of one BULSCA competition and will be deemed a Shadow Official at that competition.
- 6.2 The Shadowing Requirement shall not be complete until the BULSCA Secretary has received the necessary emails from Senior BULSCA Officials
- 6.3 During the SERCs a Shadow Official shall be assigned to two Senior BULSCA Officials, one of whom shall be performing the role of Overall Judge.
 - 6.3.1 At the planned break in the SERC, or after half the teams have completed their SERC if no break is planned, the Shadow Official shall move from shadowing one Senior BULSCA Official to shadowing the other.
 - 6.3.1.1 The two Senior BULSCA Officials can be in different SERCs.
 - 6.3.2 The Shadow Official shall mark each team as though they were a Judge at the competition and shall discuss any differentiation in mark with the Senior BULSCA Official they are assigned to at that point.
 - 6.3.3 If the Senior BULSCA Official is happy with the Shadow Official's performance, the Shadow Official shall be signed-off.
 - 6.3.4 If the Senior BULSCA Official is not satisfied that the Shadow Official is yet competent to be signed-off they must not do so.
 - 6.3.5 Judging SERCs is, at least in part, subjective. Mere difference in the marks awarded will not be considered grounds for refusing to sign-off a Shadow Judge. The Senior BULSCA Official should take into account similarities or differences between the relative marks given to teams by the Shadow Official compared to their own and the justification provided for any differences in marking theory.
 - 6.3.5.1 The Shadow Official should be assessed on the opinions they present later in their time with the Senior BULSCA Official, reflecting the fact that they may have assimilated information and learned from the Senior BULSCA Official during the earlier teams' performances.
 - 6.3.5.2 The Senior BULSCA Official acting as Overall Judge must be particularly aware that this is a role for which a Full BULSCA Official is not deemed suitably qualified and should reflect this in their opinion of the Shadow Official.
 - 6.3.6 The Senior BULSCA Officials should both email the BULSCA Secretary within 7 days of the competition informing them of whether they sign off the Shadow Official.
 - 6.3.6.1 Reasons should be given for not signing off a Shadow Official and may be given for signing off a Shadow Official.
 - 6.3.7 A Probationary BULSCA Official will have no right of appeal against the decision of a Senior Official, other than in cases that give rise to action under the BULSCA Disciplinary Code.



6.4 During each Speed Event, the Shadow Official shall be assigned to a Senior BULSCA Official and will act as though an Official of the competition save that they shall report their opinion of each heat to the that Senior BULSCA Official

6.4.1 A Shadow Official may be assigned to different Senior BULSCA Officials for different Speed Events.

7. Miscellaneous Measures

7.1 Any reference to an RLSS qualification can include other equivalent qualifications at the sole discretion of the serving BULSCA committee having sought whatever advice they deem necessary.

7.2 An official may, in exceptional circumstances, be required to act as an official of a higher category. This can be permitted in advance by the serving BULSCA committee or on the day of the competition by the Head Referee but must be an exceptional measure for example where there are not sufficient officials of the higher category to allow a competition to otherwise proceed.

7.2.1 Competitors must be informed prior to the start of events if an official is going to act in a higher category

7.3 Any official who would, at the date of coming into force of this document, be considered a Full BULSCA Official save that they completed shadowing at a BULSCA competition in a way that does not fit into the Shadowing Requirement in this document will be deemed to be a Full BULSCA Official.

7.4 Any official who would, at the date of coming into force of this document, be deemed a Senior BULSCA Official save that they:

- a) Completed shadowing at a BULSCA competition in a way that does not fit into the Shadowing Requirement in this document; or
- b) Did not complete shadowing and completed their officiating course before September 2010;

shall be considered a Senior BULSCA Official.

7.5 A list of known Officials will be held centrally by the BULSCA Secretary.

7.5.1 It is the responsibility of each individual official to alert the BULSCA Secretary to a change in their Officiating category.