

The Westfield Y Devilfish swim team continues to grow every year (as of the 2019-20 season, we anticipate 240+ swimmers on four teams). Each year our swimmers attend 4 dual meets, several invitational meets and championship meets at the end of the season. All of these meets are run by certified swim officials, whom are parent volunteers. **We, as a team, need to provide officials for these meets. Unfortunately, this past year, a number of swim officials retired and the team desperately needs to replenish its officials ranks. Please consider joining us.**

No experience is necessary and you do not have to have been a former swimmer. To become a certified swimming official, you'll need to attend a 3-4 hour clinic (the Devilfish PAC reimburses you for the cost) and take an online test (open book and at home). After passing the test you'll be a newly minted Level I official, typically serving as a stroke and turn judge.

Every official is required to work twelve sessions within a three-year period to maintain certification. The time commitment is flexible – you work when you can and generally only work your swimmer(s) session(s) unless you choose to do so otherwise. The Devilfish Classic and dual meets are scheduled. Invitationals are voluntary, though we encourage you to work sessions if/when you can. The reality is that many hands make light work and the more officials we have, the easier it is to schedule and the lighter the workload for all.

As a new official, your first few sessions are supervised by experienced officials. For those Level I officials looking to advance, after a period of time they can become a Level II official, which has additional responsibilities at swim meets (e.g. referee, starter).

Of course, there are rewards that come with being an official. To begin with, you won't have to time anymore. Being an official satisfies your family volunteer requirement. You now get to wear a snappy uniform that says you are an official (the PAC also covers your initial shirt). You become more educated about the sport and your kids will love seeing you on deck. There's also the free food at invitational meets. However, perhaps the number one reason to become an official is that you'll have the best seat in the house (we all know how uncomfortable and hot the bleachers can be).

Consider becoming an official. It's fun, it's easy and is a great way to engage with your athlete. Please contact me if you'd like more information or want to know how to start the process.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to seeing you on deck.

Best,

Ed

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