

# RLSS UK Sports Development News



## The College of Referees

The majority of members of the College of Referees are generally ex-competitors with varying levels of success at Regional and National Championships. All are volunteers with the interests of fairness of competition at heart.

Some members will remember that the society had a progressive level of judging qualifications culminating in a National Judges Panel. This was fed by judges attending courses which were historically held at Atlantic College and other venues around the Country and then gaining experience through the various levels of competition. With the changing needs of the society, National Summer School ceased and the number of courses decreased and the membership of the National Judges Panel dwindled.

With the increase of interest in the National Lifesaving Championships and the inception of the National Speed Championships, RLSS UK forged greater links with the International Lifesaving Federation (sport). This coincided with our decrease in qualified Judges.

The International Lifesaving Federation successfully operates a system of Judging qualifications, operated through the International College of Referees. In order for us to be able to dovetail into this and become accepted as International Referees, it has become a requirement to operate a UK College of Referees.

One of the early objectives of this group is to increase the number of qualified Judges in the UK and encourage them to progress through to the level of International Referee.

### In order to achieve this, interested colleagues need to:

1. Complete a Branch or level 1 Judges course and gain one year's experience of Judging at Branch level
2. Complete a Regional or level 2 Judges course and gain two year's experience of Judging at Regional level
3. Complete a National or level 3 Judges course

On completion of level 3 they are appointed a member of the College of Referees and are eligible to attend International Judges Courses.

Branch Judges courses have been held at RLSS UK National Conference over the last couple of years as well as at various venues around the country. To date two National/Regional level courses have been held at Sheffield following National Championships at Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

Should any branch want to host a branch level course they should make contact with HQ, and follow the registration process.

I have been involved in the running of a number of courses during the last 12 months and an over riding message is that clubs would like to see a club SERC championships held on a national basis.

I would ask you to consider if this would interest your club and if so make contact with any member of the College in order that we might collate support and interest.

Paul Moore MBE

### College of Referees Contacts

Convenor – Janet Castro

Vice Convenor, still water – Ronnie Claudin

Vice Convenor, ocean – Chris Lewis

Vice Convenor, SERC – Paul Moore

College Secretary – Paul Moore

### Members with special responsibilities:

National Lifesaving Championships  
Organiser – Michele Weedy

National Speed Championships  
Organiser – Elaine Lewis

As part of our aims to improve communication within Lifesaving Sport a new e-mail address has been set up for the College of Referees.

Email: [CollegeOfReferees@rlss.org.uk](mailto:CollegeOfReferees@rlss.org.uk).

This is now the email for all correspondence with the college.

