



Technical Officials - Judge Level 2 process and tips:

The training for JL2 builds on and consolidates the knowledge from JL1, and adds in the new roles of stroke judge and finish / placing judge.

The training is a little different to that of Judge level 1 in that there's no theory course, and instead candidates attend an initial virtual workshop, followed by some (familiar) mentored pool side training, a written workbook for you to complete (self-led), before culminating in a final online workshop. Note that while you will find some Swim England guidance which indicates a 3 workshop structure, but in reality J2 training is now being delivered via just two workshops with that self-led learning in between.

J2 training is administered by Swim England East Region, and the training workshops can be taken with any county course leader in that region, so feel free to join an Essex workshop (for example) if the dates work best for you.

Getting started:

You should be at least 16 years of age, qualified as a Judge level 1, and hold at least 20 hours post-qualification logged before you can apply for J2 training.

There is a fee of ten pounds, and as usual the club will cover this for you so long as you volunteer twice a year. From 2025 onwards the application is now online. Apply via the link at the bottom of the page.

Once you've applied online, your SE East Region Coordinator (David Metcalf) will contact you to arrange fee payment and will send out your JL2 workbook, he will also provide you a list with all upcoming options for JL2 workshops. These are held pretty regularly (often about 2 to 3 per month) and will be taught by a course leader from one of the East Region county coordinators. Pick one that works for you date wise, and email the course leader to request a place.

Workshop 1: This consists of about an hour on a Teams meeting with your course leader and other candidates. You'll learn the roles and duties of a J2, and have a general discussion which sets the tone and direction, including how best to proceed using the workbook.

Practical mentored training: Just like J1, you'll next need to seek out opportunities to work alongside experienced J2s at live meets and learn / consolidate knowledge through discussion, asking and answering questions. Sign up for meets in the usual way on Swim Meet, remember to change your level to J2T (you'll only need to do this once), and request some J2 mentoring at each sign up. Although the book states that only 6 to 8 hours mentored is the expectation, in practice this phase will take some time. At some sessions, there will not be the opportunity to get J2 mentoring, and you'll often be called on to wield a stopwatch on a lane, probably about 50% of the time. There's no time limit for J2 so don't worry about the 1 year stipulation in JL1, though you should be done way before this. If you're doing fairly regular meets, then the average timescale to get through J2 should be anywhere between 6 to 12 months, depending on meet opportunities, and I found that the actual hours needed to get competencies signed off was more like 16. Long gaps in the calendar (like those quiet summer months) don't help of course! At one meet (at least) the referee will put you on Finish Judge so you can

work under him / her, taking placings. This can be a tricky skill to master but if you've had a good stab at it, the Referee will generally sign off and encourage you to keep practicing placings as you progress.

Log your hours in your J2 workbook log pages. The mentor / feedback written system is the same as J1. Also identical is the competencies system, go and actively seek out the referee post-session to get things signed off through discussion and demonstrating your knowledge.

Don't forget to also log those hours in your standard officials logbook, to keep your running total of hours accurate. At some point you'll need to re-licence, and evidence of experience is important.

Workbook questions: Throughout your practical training, take regular time to complete the questions in your workbook. Study the World Aquatics rules to help you, that'll refresh / improve your knowledge. I was surprised at how much more I learned through this period. When the questions are complete, it's a good idea to go through them with another J2 to double check your answers and understanding.

Part 3: Final workshop: When you are ready with competencies signed and your workbook completed, contact your course leader to arrange a final workshop, which again will be an online Teams meeting of about an hour. There may be some scheduled workshops coming up that you can jump on, or possibly your leader may run a one-to-one with you. Your leader will advise.

During this final workshop, the course leader will test your knowledge and competence by discussion of the workbook scenarios and your answers. All being well, you'll be told of a successful pass there and then.

In about a week, you'll receive your certificate and a congratulatory letter from SE East Region.

There is no need to upload anything at [swimming.org](https://www.swimming.org), SE East Region will update your records to show your J2 status.

Swim-Meet however (being a standalone platform) does not update automatically, so on your first sign up to a meet as a new J2, do remember to change your level from J2S to J2. You'll only need to do this once and it will remember you on subsequent logins.

Tips:

- This is the same as for J1 training, but for every session you do, it's still good practice to place a tally mark on your competency record sheet against each role that you experienced, to show a referee that you have "x" numbers of sessions experience of that aspect.
- Do however actively chase referees to get their signatures on your competencies, J2 is more self-led and nobody will prompt you.

Useful links:

Application for J2:

<https://www.swimming.org/sport/become-swimming-judge-level-2/>

East Region Officials Coordinator (Training lead for J2)

David Metcalf: swimofficials@eastswimming.org

Hertfordshire County Officials Coordinator: (County support and most likely your course leader)

Jonathan Pope: officials@swimherts.org

British Swimming Officials resources page:

<https://www.britishswimming.org/browse-sport/swimming/officials/>

World Aquatics rules:

<https://www.worldaquatics.com/rules/competition-regulations>

Swim Meet:

Browse for events to attend, should you need to find more meets or hours.

<https://swim-meet.com/Availability/>