

Rules

1. The Technical Officials Pathway & Appointments Rules, effective from 15 September 2026 applies.
2. There are two (2) international swimming officials' categories:
 - i. **Referee**
 - ii. **Starter**
3. An official may be nominated in both categories. For the avoidance of doubt, an official nominated in both categories shall count as two (2) quota places: one (1) Referee nomination and one (1) Starter nomination.
4. New Applicants: Officials submitting a new application shall be sixty-five (65) years of age or under on the application deadline for the respective nomination.
5. Renewing officials: Officials nominated for the 2025–2026 period shall be eligible for renewal for one additional cycle at their respective level, with the Bronze level corresponding to a two-year cycle.
6. Each National Federation (NF) may nominate up to eleven (11) officials, comprising a maximum of seven (7) Referees and four (4) Starters for Bronze Level.

NFs hosting the World Aquatics Championships, World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m), World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships, or the Olympic Games in 2027 or 2028 may be permitted to nominate additional officials from the host country's pool of technical officials, subject to confirmation by World Aquatics.

Current members of the World Aquatics Technical Swimming Committee, when nominated by their own NF, may be nominated in addition to the maximum quota allocated to that NF, provided that all applicable requirements are met.
7. All applications shall be submitted through the World Aquatics General Management System (GMS), along with the required supporting documents, by the published deadline.

All renewing Officials must complete the Online examination by the application deadline. The exam will be available from October 2026.
8. Officials who satisfy the applicable requirements for the Silver and Gold levels in accordance with Chapter F – Officials Transitioning of the Technical Officials Pathway

may be promoted by World Aquatics, subject to review and approval by the Technical Swimming Committee.

9. A NF may nominate one (1) additional official at the Bronze level, according to the established quota, for each official promoted to the Silver or Gold level under Rule 7, provided that the replacement official satisfies all Bronze-level eligibility requirements.
10. The list of approved officials will be available on the World Aquatics website from 1 January 2027.
11. Certifications shall remain valid provided that officials continue to satisfy the eligibility criteria and requirements set out in the Technical Officials Pathway.