

Bob Bestman Scholarship Guideline 2024-2025

Swimming WA recognises the commitment of volunteer Technical Officials, who dedicate their time to the sport. Western Australia has a strong history in producing high-level Technical Officials, with many officiating at national and international level events. The scholarship's namesake, Bob Bestman, was the highest ranking Technical Official in WA throughout the 1950's, having officiated for swimming events at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games. To continue to provide opportunities for developing Technical Officials to achieve this level, the Swimming WA Bob Bestman Officials Scholarship has been created.

The aim of the scholarship is to continue to encourage Technical Officials to develop their skills along the pool and/or open water officiating pathway, for the benefit of swimming in Western Australia.

Technical Officials who apply for this scholarship will need to showcase their desire to continue their development and demonstrate their dedication to become a national and international level Official. The Swimming WA Bob Bestman Officials Scholarship can be used towards any of the following:

- Attaining further Swimming Australia Officiating qualifications
- Attending professional development initiative which enhances their officiating knowledge and skills
- Travel costs associated with Officiating at an intrastate/interstate competition which enhances their officiating knowledge, confidence and skills whilst furthering their officiating experience.

Scholarship holders will report back to Swimming WA. This report will be shared with the Technical Education and Officials Committee and the TO Social Group, providing updates on progress and experiences throughout the Scholarship period.

Scholarship Amounts

Three (3) \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to be utilised for officiating development throughout the 2024-2025 season.

Application Process

- Swimming WA will advertise the scholarship to its technical official members
- Applicants are to complete the application form and submit before the application deadline.
- The Bob Bestman Scholarship successful applicants will be determined from the applications provided and will be at the discretion of the selection panel. The selection panel will consist of:

- Swimming WA CEO
- Swimming WA Pathways Coordinator
- Swimming WA Technical Education and Officials Committee
- Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be contacted directly in writing confirming their application status.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Applicants are required to be:

- 16 years old/over
- Current Swimming WA Technical Official Member
- In good standing with Swimming WA and Swimming Australia
- Regarded by the Technical Education and Officials Committee as a developing Technical Official rather than a Senior Official
- Must be or intend to be working towards Officiating at a higher level than currently attained during 2024-2025 season
- Aiming towards Referee 1 pool or OWS qualifications or have attained Referee 1 pool or OWS status
- Demonstrated commitment to Officiating (have participated in a minimum of 3 Swimming WA Meets in 2024-2025 Season)
- Applications must be completed in full by the application deadline

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Current level of accreditation/qualifications
- Current level of experience
- Potential for applicant to Officiate at a higher level than currently attained
- Demonstrated commitment to Officiating

Responsibilities

Swimming WA Responsibilities

- The Swimming WA Pathways Coordinator is responsible for the overall coordination of the application and selection process
- Release funds to the successful applicant (50% at sponsorship confirmation, 50% post receipt of acquittal)
- Review acquittals
- Review this policy annually

Scholarship Holder Responsibilities

- Submit an Acquittal report before 7th August 2025
- Abide by the Swimming Australia and Swimming WA Code of Conduct
- Sign and abide by the Swimming WA Technical Officials Code of Conduct
- Attend all Swimming WA Officials Forums/Conference
- Participate in the Swimming WA Officials Mentor program
- Attendance at one Regional Meet throughout the 2024-2025 Season

Applications are due by: **8am Monday 14th October 2024**

Submit your application via: [click here](#)

For any enquires please contact: pathways@wa.swimming.org.au