

Swim England Sport Operations Committee

Minutes of the meeting held 15 December 2020, via Zoom

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting

Present:

Neil Booth	Chairman
Joan Wheeler (JW)	Swim England Board Member
Ian Mackenzie (IM)	Swim England Member
Alex Harrison (AH)	Swim England Member
Jim Boucher (JB)	Swim England Member
Pippa Jones (PJ)	Swim England Member
John Hidle (JH)	Regional Chairs Representative
George Wood (GW)	Sports Development Director
Emma Griffin (EW)	MARCOMS and Operations Director
Jon Glenn (JG)	Learn to Swim and Workforce Director

Staff: Ali Sibcy-Allen (AS-A) Operations Administration Manager

Invited: Ben Gregory (BG) Chair of Youth Advisory Panel

Min No:

1. Standing Items

1.1 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all committee members to the last meeting of 2020 and wished all as Merry and Happy Christmas as possible under the circumstances. Let's all look forward to 2021 and what it may bring.

1.2 Apologies

None recorded

1.3 Declarations of Interest

Alex Harrison – Operators perceptions

1.4 Minutes from the meeting held 17 November 2020:

1.4.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

1.5 Actions from the meeting held 17 November 2020

1.5.1 To be reviewed at meeting on 19 January 2021.

2. Items for Decision

**2.1 Verbal updates from members of SOC relating to their focus areas
Learn to Swim and Workforce**

LTS is available and school swimming is being encouraged. Lots of training provided during lockdown and now working to set up practical assessment centres. Progress is being made with awards sales.

Development

Greater number of pools open following the second lockdown, still disappointing where pools haven't reopened.

Action: GW to circulate geographical and tier details.

Slower relaunch of Level X since lockdown but more times are expected to be posted prior to the deadline of 22 December with a greater re-launch expected in January. Development of Level X is underway across all disciplines with hopes to launch in January. Disciplines are preparing their return to competition plans, with these split between January – August and September onwards next year.

Talent planning is being completed quarterly with activity being self-funded, via DiSE or through the CWG / aspiration funding as appropriate. Flexibility is key within planning with face to face activity if possible but online where this is unavailable.

402 of 419 clubs required to complete stronger affiliation have engaged with the process. Of these so far 299 are compliant and 36 are either not continuing their affiliation or folding with compliant clubs submitted to the CLG for ratification. Non-compliant clubs will not have access to OMS to renew SE memberships.

Insight completed with the operators on their perceptions of and satisfaction with SE have resulted in entirely positive feedback. Alongside this the NPS score has increased by 45 points to +69, which is seen to be very positive. An overall satisfaction score of 90%, with the Return to Pool Guidance receiving a 98% good or excellent score has been recorded. It is believed that these scores are as a result of collaborative working with the operators rather than a directive approach.

Diving

No update

Artistic Swimming

Work is being completed on the Level X plans and promoter's conditions have been drafted to review at their next meeting. Disappointment that over 18's are currently unable to train in tier 3. Noted that recent guidance from the DCMS have advised that across all tiers U18's will be able to resume full training with guidance due to be released to advise how to do this in a Covid safe manner.

Swimming

Focussed on competitions, with Level X having proved positive. Discussions have moved to piloting Level 4 meetings with a subgroup set up to determine how this would work as well as considering low level competitions. Return to swimming competition guidance is prepared in draft form and is under review.

Water Polo

Lots of activity is currently happening with a greater number of WPLG meetings now scheduled for next year as a result. Tier restrictions are providing challenges with training restrictions and some operators are not allowing WP training to occur. Huge progress has been made over the year following the appointment of the Chair.

Regional Chairs

Confirmation that Regions are on board with Stronger Affiliation. Work on Regional Agreements is starting to come to fruition.

Action: Add regional chairs to SLT briefing distribution list.

SE Board

Recent Board discussions have been focussed on the organisation's financial position along with discussion on Stronger Affiliation. Information on the income from the supporter memberships was requested.

Action: EG to circulate supporter membership details

Membership

The number of over 18years members in tier 3 areas is being closely monitored and how income could be impacted as a result of the restrictions. Further details were requested. Details of the work being completed on member retention was provided. A huge amount of work is being done to push awards sales and support the recovery of these, alongside supporting wider projects with swim schools and operators.

Action: EG to circulate details of membership category breakdown for over 18 years and percentage of overall membership

Club Leadership Group

The club merger document is due to be agreed at the next meeting. Discussions on club affiliation and how to standardise the process for new clubs across the country have been held and a draft process to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting . The group is aware that some members from clubs who may leave SE as a result of stronger affiliation will need support in transferring to another club. The immense amount of work already completed by the regions to get this far was noted.

YAP

No significant progress since last meeting, hoping to meet with Development staff to start and implement the agreed TORs. Discussions to be had in the new year with current members following which there may be the need for a recruitment drive.

3. Notice of agenda items for SOC meeting on 19 January 2021

3.1 TOR review

Views on NB's role of Chair to JW – either directly based on NB or the role itself
Leadership Group TORs review

Action: all members to forward any views on the role of Chair, or NB, to JW

4. AOB