

Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2021

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting

Present:

Tom Baster	Chairperson
Barry Saunders	Competitions Lead
John Hidle	Licensing Lead
Jeroen Peters	Masters Working Group Chair
Ian Mackenzie	Specialist Member (League Swimming)
Mark Davies	Technical Officials Lead
Claire Coleman	Head of Development
Grant Robins	Head of Swimming Talent
Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
Alex Harrison	SOC Liaison

Apologies : Martin Leeds Para Swimming Manager

Min No:	
1.	Apologies
	ML - Furlough
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting
	Signed off no comments
3.	Regional Development Camps
	More notice requested when asking the regions to gather information. The tight turnaround was problematic for some.
	GR – the plan was discussed in January when talent team met with the regions but acknowledges the tight turn around and apologised for this.
4.	British Swimming Summer Racing Festival
	Some regions that have signed contracts and have a date: South East: Wycombe and K2 North East: Sheffield and Sunderland West Midlands: Coventry East Midlands: Close to agreement with ponds forge, Harvey Hadden as a backup. With board wkend 1 st /2 nd May. London: In discussion with GLL around costs – Received today (29/04) so hoping for a decision from board soon. East: Basildon and Norwich as possibilities but still some work to do to secure. North West: working closely with Manchester, have had costs and have surveyed membership, putting proposal to board by end of May at the latest. South West: Plymouth and Millfield as possibilities some challenges to overcome in this region with the venues. Chair has taken this back to

the board to look at the possibility of splitting this over two weekends or two venues. Operators will be sending the cost breakdown.

Almost 50% have agreed, the others are at stage of costs and finalising agreements with their boards.

Update on proposed conditions agreed at the last BS PIG group meeting – essentially conditions remain unchanged, there was a suggestion that we could allow swimmers to enter any competition in any part of the region. The group's proposal is that this should not be the case and that people should be advised to go to their own local pool based in their own region. If a region wishes to do secondary entry they can but it is unlikely there will be much demand or space for this.

BS PIG group very keen that swimmers can only enter one regional meet. This needs to be in the conditions

Action 1: Once pools are confirmed there needs to be a meeting with regional organisers, email sooner than this to outline the plan

Point raised - can regions release their details once finalised? Needs to be an agreed public publication date well in advance of the event.

Request during the PIG meeting that Swim England avoids leaderboards for non-British Swimming events as some regions cannot afford to do these due to time pressures.

Needs to be made explicit in any conditions that deviate from the British Swimming events which events are part of the British Swimming event and which events are being run as a 'bolt on' so people can post times for rankings.

Common thread in negative comments, usually as a result of not having all of the information. The group acknowledges this is a big ask but are doing everything they can to ensure it goes ahead. It may be the case that it cannot in some regions and if that happens it may be a case of sitting down with that region to see how this could be delivered.

Once a critical point is reached, there is a need to have a meeting with the regional chairs / event promoters to share knowledge, what schedules might look like etc.

There is a PIG Meeting w/c 3rd May which will add develop the information currently held.

Action 2: Write to regions post May bank holiday to provide an update.

Meets can Incorporate para swimming – accept entries from para swimmers (S1-14) but not as separate events

	<p>Action 3: World Para Swimming licensing for some meets had been suggested but this may be cost prohibitive for regions. GR to speak with WPS to see if these can be licensed under one event to keep costs to a minimum.</p>
5.	<p>SE Return to competition (incl. Licensing)</p>
	<p>Webinar held for around 300 people on this. FAQs and meeting recording published after webinar. One question that was raised from a number of people was what happens post June 21st when all social distancing removed. This may be what is being said but operators or councils may choose to put limitations on what can be done. It may not be as straight forward as everything back to normal on June 21st.</p> <p>Licensing applications for level 4 meet opened as of April 26th. Some regions have received applications however there was a sense on the aforementioned webinar that there is a hesitance in some cases.</p> <p>One of the goals of this group over the past year has been to get to this point and we are now there.</p> <p>Questions around the difference between a level 4 meet and level X. Level X is there as it still remains extremely difficult to organize a level 4 meet with current social distancing.</p> <p>Next mile stone is 1st June where people can start applying for their level 3 from June 21st.</p> <p>TB received request that we issue guidance to counties about not holding an event in June or July now that we have the festival of racing. TB inclined to send something to the effect of a county may run something if you wish but it is suggested that counties put your energy into planning for a 2022 competition in Jan or Feb.</p> <p>Action 4: Write to counties to advise on focusing on Jan / Feb competition rather than holding something in June or July.</p> <p>JP raised the point does anything more specific need to be included to deal with the practicality of how meets are run – It is hard to be specific due to the different sizes and layouts of each venue. However there is potentially an issue in Masters as they do not conventionally marshal and they may need to</p> <p>JP raised a point around COVID passports, do requirements need to be listed in organizing conditions. EB – event testing programme concludes mid-summer so the government guidance should evolve when they conclude this event pilot and should be published late summer.</p> <p>BS raised the point that the group may need to consider sending out a holding email soon to advise that we are thinking about/discussing the autumn but as of yet have not made any decisions.</p> <p>TB suggested we may need to put out some guidance around relays. Not currently safe to do this so whilst we cannot stop this we can advise our members not to attend events which are planning to hold relays. It is likely the operators will not allow this.</p>

	Action 5 – items to be added to agenda for next meeting
6.	Open Water
	<p>EB - Outline plan to restart open water via an open water festival in September. Aim was to hold this on the first weekend of September but this clashes with Swim Wales who also plan to hold their open water festival on the first weekend in September. SE don't currently have a venue so the date can be moved. EB currently in contact with triathlon to get their learning outcomes from the past year of their events.</p> <p>Action 5: EB to send out doodle poll to open water group to get a date to meet and start planning.</p> <p>EB working to complete financial delivery model for all events, once this is approved can start building the open water festival. Whilst the regions may not be in a position to run their open water events they have offered support of their volunteers in running the Swim England open water festival.</p> <p>BS raised the point that September may not be a good time as swimmers have only just got back in the pool and a September date may not be well received by coaches GR agreed with this. This is a participation event rather than competitive open water swimming and should be marketed as such.</p>
7.	Masters
	<p>JP holding meeting to update masters community on what has been discussed within this group and to outline plans to start the recruitment process for the working group.</p> <p>TB feels we need to communicate to masters what their return looks like i.e., return on May 17th, level X that you can participate in up until 22nd August, then hoping to run the masters championships (this cannot be confirmed at present) in October, Scottish and Welsh masters competitions that are open also.</p> <p>EB has received communication from Masters asking to advertise their autumn events on Swim England's website, is this permissible? JP suggested that these events can be promoted providing they meet the same standards as return to training/return to competition/age group events. TB suggested that if people wish to advertise their events on the Swim England website there needs to be tick box in the same way that license applications do to say that the event has a safety plan and has been approved by the operator.</p> <p>Action 6: Add tick box to website event advertising application to say that event has a safety plan and has been approved by the operator.</p>
8.	Officials
	Action taken from last meeting to review qualifications and numbers at license meets levels 1-4. MD circulated this to the group whilst in London at British Selection trials.

	<p>Document MD put together with officials group - Covers the different requirements that the swimming officials group is planning for each of the license levels for a period of time to take into account the restart.</p> <p>Document facilitates the return of competition from official's perspective and is a robust response to the queries this group have had.</p> <p>Action 7: Group agree to move the end date of this document from September 2021 to December 31st 2021 in an attempt to provide clarity/a little more certainty for event organisers. This needs to be communicated to the community.</p> <p>TB raised a point that this group has a number of questions around the training and mentoring of officials. MD discussed this with the sub group. Looking at those who are non-qualified especially at the turning end there may need to be some long distance mentoring, this whilst not ideal is better than not doing it at all. Referees have been watered down at level 1,2 and 3 to allow for trainees. Limited with what can be done with starters especially at levels 1 and 2 as this is an important part of the process. MD feels there is enough scope in this plan especially if there is a need to officiate in bubbles.</p> <p>GR – If December is reached and there is deemed to be no compromise in the integrity of the meets, could this also be sold as a pilot to reduce the number of people around the pool? MD suggested this should not be the case as if clubs are putting on that level of meet they should either use their own officials or should accept there is a cost and account for this in their financial plan.</p> <p>Action 8: Bring officials document in line with branding etc of other Swim England documents. MD has already sent this to HA to do. TB suggested that the top half of the document should be the requirements with the guidance for mentoring underneath.</p> <p>Action 9: CC to speak to HA around mentoring document to add in the table referred to above.</p> <p>Document to be published before June 1st.</p> <p>MD raised the question are we going to insist on lateral flow tests before we allow people to enter venue? Group agreed no as lateral flow testing as this is not compulsory even in schools as it is not a legal requirement.</p>
9.	AOB
	<p>IM – In relation to leagues, National league happens in Oct, Nov, Dec. Struggling to see how we can have eight teams on a pool side which is tight under normal circumstances, decision hasn't been made yet but it is unlikely these will be able to run in the normal way. Junior league starts in a couple of weeks but this is all virtual and will be one team done in their training session similar to level X. it has been suggested that they incorporate level X into this also, over 150 teams signed up. Ireland has a slight issue in that they are only back in the water from</p>

	<p>the end of May so will miss the first round. Decision will need to be made at some point in the near future around the main league but confidentially this is likely to be a virtual event.</p> <p>Action 10: Add leagues to agenda for next meeting.</p> <p>BS – Request to have licensed meet calendar back. EB advised to email licencedmeet@swimming.org</p> <p>Action 11: EB to speak with EL regarding licensed meets calendar</p> <p>BS – In relation to sharing good practice around summer racing festival – Happy to share the work that has been done but would request this is not shared/quoted on other websites, suggestion of only sharing it when they need that level of support or waiting to share this until the meeting with the regional managers and chairs.</p> <p>CWG – Window open until 14th May for practitioners to volunteer for the CWG. If anyone is interested in this please contact GR. If any regions are interested and want to volunteer as a games maker for next year the applications open in June. If people want to get involved with this visit the Birmingham 2022 website for the volunteers or the Team England website for the headquarter staff volunteers. TB will write the chief executive to grasp an understanding of what is expected of the various committees in terms of the involvement of swim England personnel in the CWG including officials and other people in both a technical and non-technical capacity.</p> <p>Action 12: GR to liaise with TB to share the contact details of the event manager for Birmingham and the sports manager for the federation</p>
10.	Date of next meeting
	Thursday 27th May– 6.30pm