

Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 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
	Alex Harrison	SOC Liaison
	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
	Grant Robins	Head of Swimming Talent
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Martin Lees	Para Swimming Development Manager

Min No:	
1.	Action log 20th January 2021
1.1	Action log was updated
2.	Update following 22.02.21 announcement
2.1	<p>TB outlined that there was no pressure to confirm the definitive plan by the close of this meeting on the basis that that there was still a significant amount of details and permutations to consider. The aim is for a statement to be prepared and released as soon as possible. A holding statement has gone out to county, regional co-coordinators and the regional licencing officers.</p> <p>Action: TB to draft statement, circulate to group and to SE Comms</p>
2.2	<p>No guarantee that the dates which have been set are going to be the dates that are relevant. They depend on specific criteria being met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th March – Schools return • 12th April – Possibility of running a very small meet for under 18s only (12th April -17th May but without any spectators and there is still the need to socially distance which reduces the capacity to run a gala and make a profit) • 17th May – Suggestion you can populate a gallery at 50% but swimmers will also be required to maintain social distance so may take up this space. Again, the capacity to raise money via competitive swimming will be reduced • 21st June – Social distancing reviewed. Return to normality.
3.	2021 Regional Long Course Championship, Competition - Remainder of Season
3.1	<p>Level X</p> <p>The Group agreed that Level X Racing can start from the 12th April (all events, all distances all strokes), it is for the coaches to determine when the safest point is. This window will run until 23rd of July. Clubs can engage with this as they</p>

	wish. As this runs until 23 rd of July there is no rush for clubs to organise this immediately. Suggested that clubs are reminded that should they wish they can charge and entry fee for Level X or create awards for Level X as an income generator. Could also encourage clubs to experiment with the use of electronic timing, there is greater justification to charging for an electronically timed event. Leader boards and medals for Level X as before and recognising 8s, 9s and 10s.
3.2	Need to articulate our interpretation of government dates and what they mean for swimming as part of ongoing guidance. League competition to recommence from September 2021, this removes the potential issue of block bookings at pools that may well be used as revenue generators for other organisations.
3.3	All events, all distances, all strokes from 12 th April. However due to staggered return, suggestion that we recommend not running 800 or 1500m for Level X until at least 8 weeks of training has started. There is a need to trust our community to do the events according to when the swimmers are ready.
3.4	<p>Returning competition – Some counties want to run a county event and have the backing of the clubs. Some counties have said they absolutely do not want any county competition before July, we need to accept that there may not be an appetite or an ability to run a county event.</p> <p>The position we can agree for counties – <i>They will be able to run a competition if they wish before the close of this season but it cannot be titled as a County Championship and subject to other statement on dates of competitions. The formal county championships will only recommence on the 1st September 2021 for that season and the usual window will apply.</i></p> <p>Consideration needs to be given to how we manage clubs wanting to host competitions. Advice will be needed for the Licensing Officers. Need to demonstrate we are looking after our members and therefore our clubs before we position our county and regional championships.</p> <p>Action: Prior to the publication of the Return of Competition document, firm decisions are needed about what can be delivered and when.</p> <p>Action: GR to write paper with BS supporting to maximise competitions opportunities</p> <p>Action - Substantial education around government guidelines for 17th May needed for the community and clarity of SE interpretation before restarting applications for licencing.</p> <p>Action: Group agreed to meet on March 11th to discuss further post government step 1 date of 8th March (Relates to action 3.5)</p>
3.5	<p>Draft Schedule of announcements: Announcement 1: Released w/c 01.03.21 - no definitive plan, outlining when Level X can restart. (See action in 2.1) Announcement 2: WC 08.03.21) – Publication of the return to competition document with a cover article highlighting the salient points.</p>

	<p>Announcement 3 - Release date TBC based on indicative dates. Outline of dates and licensing requirements</p> <p>Announcement 4 – Release date TBC. What is the end of season competition format?</p>
3.6	<p>GR outlined the discussions to date in relation to the British Championship. It is recognised that the event cannot take place in its original format. The current thinking considers a regionalised competitions across England, Wales and Scotland.</p> <p>The concept has limitations which the Group discussed and one of these was the date. It was agreed a greater degree of flexibility would be preferable. The Group also agreed that short course would be the preference. Other discussion points also included no provision for 11/12 year olds and difficulties around qualifying times.</p> <p>The Group lends its support to the idea of giving the athletes an opportunity to swim before the end of the season but do not support the current rigidity of the paper.</p> <p>Action – GR to pursue a full concept from British Swimming for consideration by the Group.</p>
4.	<p>Swimming Talent Update</p>
4.1	<p>Coaching engagement is high. Applied for more funding from Sport England with the hope of getting out and seeing some swimmers and coaches post April 12th. This money will be ring-fenced for talent.</p> <p>If approved this money will give talent more days in the week (furlough) but will also provide funding to enable the team to get out on the road when restrictions ease.</p> <p>Paper circulated prior to this meeting with detail of talent activities</p>
4.2	<p>Classification – ML Presented to SOC on classification and the current situation with regards to challenges faced. As a result ML has met with BPS to address these challenges and ways of collaborative working to address these challenges going forward.</p> <p>ML been asked to write paper on classification and how we are going to work with BPS. This will potentially have an impact on how classification is delivered in competition</p> <p>Action: ML to draft and bring to Group for comment before it goes back to SOC and is agreed.</p>
4.3	<p>BPSIM in April will be an elite only event (Only athletes on EARTT list). ML has put forward an additional two athletes to be considered to be allowed to compete and go for international classification. One is an outside hope for Tokyo and one for CWG. RTT group are reviewing these applications currently.</p>
5.	<p>Open Water Event</p>
5.1	<p>Request for a small working group to come together and build an open water festival of swimming for the summer that is a self-financing break even event with a broader reach than normal and offers links to the open water membership that swim England are working on.</p>

	<p>Group suggested: Mike Parker Barry Saunders (once British Event planning is complete)</p> <p>Paul Kendall conducted some work to see if there was an appetite for open water events within the regions with mixed responses. This event would be run as a festival with more relaxed rules (than FINA rules)</p> <p>Action: MD to send regional open water coordinator contact details to EB</p> <p>Action: EB to set up group based on details given Action: JP to provide details for Bob Bolton</p>
5.2	<p>Open water events inclusive for para athletes – Is this festival a good opportunity to test the water on inclusivity guidance.</p> <p>WPS do not offer guidance. There is currently nothing to stop a para athlete entering an open water event but there isn't a specific para open water pathway.</p> <p>Action: ML to outline how open water is inclusive rather than looking to develop a pathway.</p>
6.	Masters Working Group
6.1	<p>MWG TOR accepted by SOC with one amendment that being on one of the appendices there was a clause that when the masters chair is replaced that certain people would have a veto on the appointment. The SOC said this was not consistent with the TOR for other disciplines and this is the only amendment they have made.</p> <p>Action: JP to make amendment so there is one version and JP then sends to TB as the final version.</p>
6.2	Next steps to be discussed and the next meeting
7.	Confirm time and date of next meeting
7.1	DONM: 11 th March 6pm