

# Water Polo Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held at 6pm on 19.07.21 via Zoom

**Present:** Toby King – Chair  
 Ben McDonald - Volunteer Lead  
 Chris Stephens – Officials Lead  
 Mike Hesketh – Competition Lead  
 Ian Mackenzie – SOC Representative  
 Craig Figes – Coach Lead

**Staff:** Ekaterina Boyd – Head of Events

*(Members are identified by initials)*

*Apologies: Adam Older/Rachel Bayley/Claire Coleman/Fiona Pearson/Norman Leighton*

Min No:	
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>
1.1	TK welcomed attendees and updated apologies
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of Previous minutes (4.5.21) and action log</b>
2.1	Minutes of previous meeting accepted. TK requested group is more efficient with meeting procedure, to adhere to agreed TOR. Meeting dates set for rest of year and should interim meetings be required the dates to be confirmed two weeks in advance of meeting date. TK requested confirmed meeting attendees to be including on agenda for that meeting. TK requested Elliot McHugh be added to group information.
<b>3</b>	<b>Update of Progress from Action Log</b>
	Action Log updated.
<b>4</b>	<b>Competition Review Update</b>
	IM updated status. Numerous discussions have taken place and will continue. Good and some negative responses. IM advised hoping to have draft outline for Sept. 2021, to aid budget planning for phased implementation from September 2022. Taking into account a 2032 Olympic goal we would need to look to 10-11 year olds now so action needed on this. Common themes from discussions: (a) super league, 8 teams around the country aim to raising standard – hub rather than clubs. MH advised similar proposal not successful in the past due to reluctance of clubs and expense. Similar format has been adopted by Netball and Cricket and whilst they are now professional the format facilitated progression of standards. CF - from coaching and athlete development perspective it's a good idea for training and playing at higher level; would be a benefit for hub club super leagues, even if some clubs would initially 'miss out'; daily training and coaching environment also has to adopt in order for progression to be made. The report will always identify the negatives but we must be positive and look at the bigger goal, even if hard decisions need to be made. IM confirmed currently under 13's registered water polo 400 – 128 of those in SW. Need to build up base participation of youngsters through schools especially as LEN are running U15 competitions now.

	<p>CF mentioned junior SW tournament as an example – hosted by a number of clubs, short team games starting with U14's – round robin format looking at 3 hours pool time – CF happy to share format. IM/TK requested information. MH mentioned that NW region has tried something similar but lack of funding and pool time were issues. CF looking for this to be a self-funded concept, host club of each tournament arranging officials, CF this is ongoing and open to evolution.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Water Polo Disciplinary Regulations</b>
	<p>CS asked group for approval of Sanction and Disciplinary documents sent out pre-meeting. CS advised original documents from 2013 had been updated with relevant information, together with updated correct branding. Queries arising were addressed. CS to make amends discussed (largely formatting and clarity rather than content) and group was happy for these to then be issued.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Latest Coronavirus situation</b>
	<p>Updated one page FAQ's available on website directing to relevant sites. A 2 page 'best practice consideration' document also produced and available. Currently in a lot of areas activity is governed by venue operators.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Competition Update</b>
	<p>EB advised group Swim England board approved NAG's with £17K allocated budget – net expenditure £12k with caveat of relevance and viability to be considered – budget would allow for 24 teams along the lines of paper submitted to SOC last year. EB requested sub group to work on format – MH/CF to be involved. CF suggested may be worth conversing with National Age Group coaches to understand if they have a preference for which age group to target. EB will work with group to look at format and source venue, as well as liaising with Joanne Mountfield and team to avoid clash with Inter-Regional competition around the same time (Nov/Dec)</p> <p>Commonwealth briefing document has been drafted and will be forwarded to Swim England CEO. TK asked to be noted that Ian Elliott has worked extremely hard on this proposal and would like to register the group's thanks to him.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Performance Update</b>
	<p>RB forwarded update to group.</p> <p>U17's Boys Slovenia trip was good experience and went well, RB offered massive thanks to volunteer management group and Norman for their tireless work to ensure the smooth running of the camp. A huge £4k expenditure for testing has stretched the budget.</p> <p>U17 girls competition scheduled for 21-29<sup>th</sup> August, team selected with public announcement later this week. Again testing costs will be a strain on the budget but following liaison with UK Sport and EIS, it is hoped that this can be reduced. Group requested social media and national coverage be highlighted as they felt the U17's boys coverage was very light.</p> <p>RB welcomed the chance to attend both recent Festivals (Cheltenham and Crawley), and again offered congratulations to those who have worked on the events. British Home Nations Leadership Group will meet in the coming weeks to set a clearer direction for the management of a British Championships moving forwards.</p> <p>DiSE is drawing to a close for the 2019-21 cohort and plans are progressing for recruitment of 2021-23 cohort.</p>

	<p>UK Sport -funding -Plans for Senior Men and Women: We have clear plans in place for the Women's programme, with the Men slightly behind. Once the new Senior women's squad is selected (August) and Men's (September) we will share these plans with the teams and then share publically our campaign aspirations in terms of competitions we intend to go to in the next 3 years to help us reach European Qualification by 2024. Agreed that RB would share with the Group at the September meeting.</p> <p>Lots of training and camps happening, and despite 3 individual positive tests for CV19 in the Men's U19 and the Senior Women, all has gone really well and the effort made by the volunteers to make it happen has been incredible.</p>
8	<b>Dates for 2021 Meeting</b>
	<p>Dates set and agreed by group: 7<sup>th</sup> September, and 7<sup>th</sup> December (+regional managers)</p> <p>Notwithstanding the meetings themselves any queries can be raised to the group for discussion in the meantime.</p>
9	<b>AOB</b>
	<p><b>Agenda items for September</b></p> <p>Plans for senior teams (RB)</p> <p>Comp Review – IM</p> <p>Regional Managers to forward any items for discussion (whilst not precluding contact with the WPLG at any time should a query arise)</p>