

Swimming Officials Group

Minutes of meeting held on Saturday 10th April 2021
Via Zoom

Minutes subject to approval by the Swimming Officials Group

Present:	Mark Davies Colin Evison Christine Golightly Ian Lamb Terry Bream David Metcalf Ralph Shortland Jill Beard George Adamson Paul Kendall	Chairman North West Region North East Region West Midland Region East Midland Region East Region London Region South West Region South East Region Open Water Specialist
Staff:	Helen Akers	Officials Development Coordinator - Swimming

21/1 **Apologies**

No apologies were received

21/2 **Staff Update**

MD gave an update to the group on HA's working pattern and reiterated the need for queries to be dealt with locally as far as possible, before being escalated.

21/3 **Return to Competition**

MD gave an outline of the Return to Competition plan, about which a number of the group had already attended a presentation. MD to circulate the presentation to all but it was stressed that all dates were subject to DCMS confirmation and should remain confidential until publication by Swim England.

21/3.a **Officials' Numbers**

Whilst the group acknowledge that it will be difficult to reduce the number of bodies required to run meets effectively, a paper outlining possible reductions in qualifications required was circulated before the meeting. It was stressed that this is intended to be a temporary relaxation only, initially until September 2021 with a possible extension until December 2021.

Agreement was reached on the requirements for Licensed Meets Level 1 to 4, MD to update document for submission to SLG for approval.

21/4 **Training**

21/4.a **J1 Online Training**

338 individuals have completed their online Judge 1 theory training during lockdown, but 30 have subsequently let their Swim England membership lapse.

HA to confirm details of those who have completed their theory training and confirm whether they have received the resources to progress once poolside training becomes possible again.

21/4.b Timekeeper Online Training

100 have completed this training, presumably to enable them to assist with the delivery of Level X events. It was agreed that there still needs to be some measure of practical competence before they could be considered qualified timekeepers, particularly if they progress to train as Judge 1s. After some discussion it was agreed that this would take the form of observation of acting in the role with competence, rather than a formal assessment. HA & MD to finalise the process to capture this information.

21/4.c Referee

There will be no Referee exams in 2021. It is hoped that applications to commence training in 2022 will open Autumn 2021. It was stressed that no-one currently registered for the training will be disadvantaged and everyone will get their opportunity once sufficient levels of competition resume.

21/4.d Refresher Training

- A pilot delivery of the 2017 FINA Rules Update is planned but it was stressed that this will not be a general rules refresher. It is intended to gather feedback on any refresher requirements after officials have gained some deck experience at Level X. It was agreed that questioning in a practical environment may be more beneficial, due to the potentially wide ranging content requirement for a pre-prepared presentation.
- Covid awareness training specifically for technical officials is under consideration, but in the meantime they should be directed to the resources available for the particular venue or club involved in the event.
- HA to prepare some guidance around mentoring during the Return to Competition period for circulation.

21/5 Officials Licensing

21/5.a 656 previously licenced officials have let their Swim England membership lapse in 2021. There are no figures for previous years for comparison.

21/5.b The process for extending licences for pool swimming and open water due to the period of lockdown is being finalised. Centralised communication will follow once the Swim England annual membership renewal period is closed, however in summary, providing they have not already been renewed:

- All licences granted in 2016 will be extended to 31 December 2021
- All licences granted in 2017 or 2018 will be extended by 12 months

21/6 Data Sharing

21/6.a The group requested data to enable to make contact with both existing and lapsed membership, to re-establish the training and volunteering pathway. However, they also require guidance on use and further sharing.

21/6.b Whilst the information would also help them to understand the demographics and geographical spread, it was suggested that training needs could be identified by contacting the clubs and asking for their requirements.

21/7 Any Other Business

21/7.a Open Water

It is anticipated that training opportunities for Open Water officials will continue to be limited with no national events planned for 2021 and some Regions also unlikely to hold events.

21/8 Date of Next Meeting

No date was set for the next meeting.