

Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 11th November 2021

Draft minutes subject to approval by email

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
	Grant Robins	Specialist Member (Commonwealth Games)
	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Richard Blackshaw	Head of Swimming Talent
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

Apologies:	Martin Lees	Para Swimming Manager
	Alex Harrison	SOC Liaison

Min No:
21/15

Action Log

The action log was updated. A number of items were agenda items and a number were rolled forward.

- 21/15.a **English Schools**
TB gave an update on a recent meeting at which a fixed date for the event and incorporation into the English competition pathway was discussed
- 21/15.b **Swim England Website**
Requires some updating, particularly with regard to the competition calendar. CC to circulate form for advising of changes needed.
- 21/15.c **Meeting of Regions**
The recent meeting had revealed a mix of experience, with a trend towards staff being more involved in event organization. A session to specifically address the setting of qualifying times is being arranged for 25 November.
- 21/15.d **Strategy**
This requires involvement outside the group, and to align with the Swim England Strategic Plan.
- 21/16 **SOC Update**
The next SOC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16th November, AH to provide an update afterwards.

- 21/17 Development**
21/17.a **Stronger Affiliation**
To be renamed Club Affiliation from the year end.
- 21/18 Competition Planning**
- 21/18.a **2021 Regional Short Course Championships**
Elements of the various events were discussed, with a suggestion that a level of standardization could be considered whilst still allowing Regions some flexibility due to their differing circumstances. To be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- 21/18.b **2021 National Winter Championships**
Entries are steady with 2 weeks to go. However the standards have been eased, with the aim being to get athletes competing, so it is expected that the event will be busy.
- 21/18.c **2022 County & Regional Championships**
Whilst there is an established ideal for these events, it is acknowledged that some organisers may struggle to deliver this, although it is hoped that all efforts will be made. There are particular issues with pool bookings in some areas, EB to ask if the Business Engagement Team are able to assist. To be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- 21/18.d **2022 National Events**
Dates for the summer events have now been published.
The Open Water age group event is penciled in for 10 August. As this is a weekday, further discussion will need to take place regarding the Masters event.
- 21/19 Swimming**
- 21/19.a **Talent Update**
RB gave an update on recent activity.
- 21/19.b **The Competitive Swimming Landscape**
Discussion took place regarding the circulated paper and it was agreed to set up a working party to carry out a full review.
- 21/19.c **Technical Suits**
Following the decision of Scottish Swimming to ban the wearing of technical suits by swimmers aged under 14 and discussion by the group, it was agreed to set up a working party to consider the Swim England position.
- 21/19.d **Poolside Accreditation**
The paper circulated prior to the meeting incorporates a statement that has been approved by the Legal department. It is to be considered by the SOC as it applies to all disciplines.
- 21/20 Commonwealth Games**
21/20.a A written report had been circulated and GR gave further updates on the holding camp, test event and staff recruitment.
- 21/21 Para-Swimming**
21/21.a RB gave an update on the Paralympic Games review and resulting identification of event gaps.

- 21/21.b **Secondary Strobes**
It was acknowledged that an updated timeline is required for this project, but also that circumstances and requirements have evolved. To be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- 21/22 Open Water**
21/22.a No report.
- 21/23 Masters**
21/23.a **Swim England National Masters Championships**
These took place 29-31 October at Ponds Forge, no formal evaluation has yet taken place but overall the feedback from all parties was positive with participation levels close to previous years. Learning points from post-event report to be shared when complete.
- 21/23.b **Masters Working Group**
Recruitment is ongoing, with 9 applications received for the 5 vacancies. It is hoped to complete the process by the end of the year, JP to advise of interview and start dates.
- 21/23.c **Masters Inter-Counties**
5 events are due to take place. Some Counties have reported problems with raising a team.
- 21/23.d **Website**
As per 21/15.b a number of items on the Masters webpage are out of date, JP to review.
- 21/23.e **British Masters Championships 2022**
These will be held in Aberdeen on 17-19 June.
- 21/24 Leagues**
21/24.a It was agreed that the proposed statement on League competition would not be issued at this time.
- 21/25 Officials**
21/25.a **Swim England Swimming Officials Group**
The last meeting of the group was held on 8 September, and covered data sharing and the proposed changes to the certificate of exception.
- 21/25.b **British Swimming Officials Group**
Meeting to be held 22 November.
- 21/26 Meet Licensing**
21/26.a JH gave some background on the current position:
 - There are a lot of meets licensed for the remainder of 2021 but some are struggling to attract entries due to the number of events.
 - Market forces will resolve this and the position for 2022 so far seems to be more sensible.
 - It may be necessary to reintroduce the application notice period as the number of applications rises, to allow for a proper turn-round.
- 21/26.b **Officials Numbers**
The relaxation of the requirements is currently due to expire at the end of the year, MD to canvass the SOG for their view.

21/27

Any Other Business

There were no other items.

21/28

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 13 January 2022 at 6:30pm and will include reports from the various working parties.