

Swimming Officials Group

Minutes of meeting held on 6th December 2021
Via Zoom

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

21/19 **Welcome**

MD welcomed David Broome to the group as the new Coordinator for the North East Region.

21/20 **Apologies**

No apologies were received.

21/21 **Update from British Swimming SOG**

An email summary was circulated prior to this meeting with the key points being:

- Applications for Referee Training in 2022 will open shortly
- Applications for the Development Programme for 2022 will open shortly
- The Contemporary Issues CPD requires updating
- An issue with delivery of the Disability Officiating CPD in Wales has now been resolved

21/22 **Referee Training**

21/22.a November 2021 Exam

8 candidates sat the exam, papers were generally of a high standard. Results to be issued this week.

21/22.b Existing candidates

The remaining candidates from May 2020 plus those from November 2020 who have completed their practical training will be offered the chance to sit the exam on 7th May 2022. A decision on locations will be taken nearer the time.

21/22.c November 2022 Exam

There has been no change in eligibility for candidates wishing to enter training in 2022 but the closing date for entries has been extended until 31 January to allow for any time accrued during the County window to be included.

The exam will take place on 19th November at 10am and will potentially be a very busy session.

21/22.d Open Water

The next sitting of the Open Water Referee exam for new candidates will be March 2023 with a view to undergoing practical assessment during the 2023 season. This is to allow for the 2022 season to be used for preparation.

21/23 Development Programme

21/23.a Applications to join the programme in 2022 will close 28th February 2022, with the prerequisites unchanged. If a candidate is close to the required number of days at national events they are advised to apply but to acknowledge this in their application, on the understanding that there is no guarantee that they will be accepted.

21/23.b Those that are already in the programme will be offered the opportunity to stay in it if they wish.

21/23.c It is hoped to hold a launch event at the end of March 2022, although this may need to be online.

21/24 Contemporary Issues CPD

21/24.a The current version has now outlived the four-year licensing cycle. Previous versions have been developed by England but it is acknowledged that there may no longer be the budget or staff resources to do this.

21/24.b Input will be required from the other Home Countries, plus advice from the Swim England Inclusion Partner, on possible topics. If any group members have suggestions please pass to MD. We will also be looking at resources available in other sports, possibly with a view to building on an existing product.

21/24.c If either the new version of this CPD or the FINA Rules Update are not available, then licences will be able to be renewed provided the official has done the most recent version of both courses.

21/25 Social Media Guidelines

21/25.a Following the recent raising of a concern, the group discussed whether there was a need for more robust guidelines around the use of social media, particularly whilst at events, and what this might include. MD to take forward with the Chair of the SLG.

21/15.b The purpose of the document is to ensure that training only takes place if it is safe and lawful to do so. Any local regulations must be complied with and the onus is on the event organiser to ensure that this is the case.

21/26 FINA Rules Update

It is expected that any rule changes will be from late September 2022. It is hoped that we may know of changes in advance so that the CPD can be updated in time for a prompt launch.

21/27 Costume Modesty

Comments have been made around the increasing number of “skimpy” costumes, often exacerbated by the style of wearing.

Following a discussion around possible courses of action it was agreed that this probably needed to start with education of swimmers, coaches and team managers – MD to take forward with the Chair of the SLG.

21/28 Any Other Business

21/28.a Relicensing of Lapsed Officials

HA to circulate the flowchart outlining the process to follow.

21/28.b Access to Judge 1 Training

HA to investigate access to the online training for course leaders, but it is extremely unlikely that it will be made available to previous face-to-face trainees at no cost.

21/28.c Data Sharing

The next release of officials is still on course to take place. New listings will be added to Box files when available.

21/28.c Certificate of Exception

This is due to be launched early next year and significant publicity is expected. Once the finished product is available a decision will be made on what additional training, if any, is required for technical officials.

21/28.d Judge 1 Qualification

Discussion around the process for verifying J1 passes (currently being undertaken by HA) also raised concerns about how completion of Contemporary Issues is recorded on Integra. Assurances have been given that it will be so the group were asked to let HA know of any examples where it hasn't, bearing in mind that there appears to be a lag of around 6 weeks.

21/28.e Licensed Meets

MD advised that the SLG had accepted the group's proposal that the level of officials required for licensed meets revert to previous levels as of 1st January 2022. Communications around this expected this week. (Following the meeting it was agreed to extend the relaxation of requirements until 10th March 2022.)

21/29 Date of Next Meeting

No specific date was set for the next meeting; it was proposed that it be organised to fit around the SLG meeting dates.