

# Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

<b>Present:</b>	Tom Baster	Chairperson
	Barry Saunders	Competitions Lead
	Mark Davies	Technical Officials Lead
	John Hidle	Licensing Lead
	Jeroen Peters	Masters Working Group Chair
	Ian Mackenzie	Specialist Member (League Swimming)
	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Richard Blackshaw	Head of Swimming Talent
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

**Apologies:** Alex Harrison      SOC Liaison

**Min No:**  
**22/17**

## **County Championships**

Following the overwhelmingly successful completion of County Championships events, TB has drafted a letter of thanks to all concerned to include the dates for the 2023 window and related competitions. It is intended to hold a meeting for all organisers in May/June to encourage best practices and share learning points.

**22/18**

## **Action Log**

22/18.a The log was reviewed and updated.

22/4 Swimming Strategy – a requested meeting that was scheduled for February did not take place, to be rescheduled

22/5 Period Wear – agenda item

22/6.b 2021 Winter Championships – review still to take place

22/6.c Regional Championships – it is now planned to hold a meeting for Regional organisers in May/June to give guidance on the expectations for their events.

22/8 Baton Relay - whilst the outcome of the nomination is unknown as yet, a letter of thanks has been received from the nominee.

22/18.b

## **Secondary Strobes**

There was a discussion around the requirements for the standard clauses to be used in Promoter's conditions. JH to liaise with Jack Chambers to ensure the intended outcomes are achieved.

**22/19**

## **SOC Update**

It is the intention to ask each Leadership Group to hold 2 meetings per year with their Regional representatives, rather than the 1 currently required. It was noted that this was already the intention for 2022.

- 22/20 Strategy**  
A meeting to agree the parameters of the strategy has been requested. The group acknowledged that whilst each strategy will be discipline specific, there needs to be a common structure around core areas.
- 22/21 Development Team Update**
- 22/21.a CC advised of a change of team personnel due to maternity leave.
- 22/21.b **Period Wear**  
A paper was circulated prior to the meeting. Following a discussion around the best way to disseminate the information, it was agreed that it would be circulated w/c 11 April for swimming. The other disciplines have not yet confirmed their position, which will influence the format of the final document.
- 22/21.c **Certificate of Exception**  
The guidance document for officials was circulated prior to the meeting. This will also form the basis for the guidance for parents and coaches.  
A technical official has been identified to assist with the technical exception applications.
- 22/21.d **Technical Suit Review Working Group**  
The working group for the consultation on technical suits for under 13s has not met again. It was suggested that the British Championships in April may provide an opportunity to meet.
- 22/22 Competition Planning**
- 22/22.a **2022 Summer Meet**  
The conditions were circulated prior to the meeting; two required amendments were identified.  
The first list of times has been published, prompting an enquiry as to why Swim England have not divided the top age group as per British Swimming. It was agreed that this position will not change, BS to provide a standard response for the Events team to use.
- 22/22.b **2022 County Team Championships**  
The conditions were circulated prior to the meeting.
- 22/22.c **2022 Winter Championships**  
Planning has not yet commenced, a decision will be required on whether the two pool format is to be used again.
- 22/23 Swimming**
- 22/23.a **Talent Update**  
A written report was circulated prior to the meeting and RB gave an update on recent activity.
- 22/23.b **Competition Review Working Group**  
A paper was circulated prior to the meeting. The intention is to offer more opportunities to swim distance events and to ensure that the structure is well delivered. The content of the paper will be delivered at the planned County and Regional meetings.
- 22/24 Commonwealth Games**  
A written report was circulated prior to the meeting.

- 22/25 Para-Swimming**  
No report was received.
- 22/26 Open Water**  
The National Age Groups will take place at Thrybergh on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August and this will be widely communicated next week. A Meet Director is being sought.
- 22/27 Masters**
- 22/27.a **2022 Inter-County Competition**  
The conditions are being amended to given the 75 years and over age group the same weighting as the other age groups.  
A consultation is taking place on the position in the calendar.
- 22/27.b **2021 National Championships**  
Generally the event was well received. Some issues were caused by the ageing equipment at the venue.  
EB has taken an action point from the review around the use of Sportsystems but it was confirmed that there is no barrier to using another system should the organisers so wish.
- 22/27.c **HCMWG**  
There have been some communication issues but a Swim England staff member is now in place to support the group and the expectations for this role have been clarified with the Chair. JP to meet with the Chair to discuss boundaries and roles for the two working groups and advise CC of the outcome.
- 22/27.d **Swim England Coaching Policy**  
A number of masters clubs have expressed concern about the requirement to have a Level 2 coach present at all training sessions. Whilst the group agreed that the intention of the document should be praised, there is an apparent mismatch between SwimMark, where a single Level 2 coach is required. The policy is an agenda item at the next regional Chairs meeting.  
The Club Governance and Standards Manager and Coach Development Manager are currently working on a FAQ document, JP to submit the queries raised with him.
- 22/27.e **Open Water Events**  
A paper was circulated prior to the meeting.  
A sub-group has been formed to review the Masters Open Water event. Whilst their suggestions were noted there were concerns that some of them were outside the remit of the MWG and contradicted the current requirements for national events. There was also a number of questions around the arrangements being made to host the GB Masters Championships alongside a Regionally organised festival style event.  
JP and EB to discuss the issues raised.
- 22/28 Leagues**  
Local leagues seem to be taking place across the country, although it remains challenging in some areas. Issues in finding sufficient officials are also being raised.

**22/29**

**Officials**

The County window was navigated.

The requirements for licensed meets have reverted to the pre-Covid situation. A BSSOG meeting was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March with the main items for discussion being applications for the 2022 Development Programme and the shortage of potential candidates for the next FINA lists in both pool and Open Water.

The next SESOG meeting will be on 21<sup>st</sup> March with the main agenda items being the Certificate of Exception and a review of Judge 1 online training.

**22/30**

**Meet Licensing**

The organisation of meets is now returning to “normal”, there appear to be no new issues around officials only the same issues in the same areas that had them pre-Covid.

There have been some questionable decisions around licensing recently, hopefully due to the lack of recent experience, but it is intended to circulate some reminders and guidance.

**22/31**

**Any Other Business**

British Swimming are amending their Selection Policy due to the change in dates of the World Championships. The Selection policy for the Commonwealth Games is therefore also being amended.

**22/16**

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Advance notice was given that the meeting date in September will be changing.