

Swimming Officials Group

Minutes of meeting held on 21st March 2022
Via Zoom

Present:	Mark Davies Colin Evison David Broome Ian Lamb Ron Brewin David Metcalf Ralph Shortland Jill Beard George Adamson Bob Outtram 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 Para-Swimming Specialist Open Water Specialist
Staff:	Helen Akers	Officials Development Coordinator

22/1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Terry Bream (East Midland Region)

22/2 Update from British Swimming SOG

- Due to the two-year gap in recruitment and training, it is likely that there may be difficulty in nominating for FINA lists for pool and open water in the short term.
- Regional input is to be sought in relation to applications for the 2022 Development Programmes
- A review is to be undertaken on the distribution and requirements of points for relicensing.

22/3 Officials Training

22/3.a Figures

Following the membership renewal period, HA outlined the figures for the various levels of qualification. Over the two-year period of the pandemic the average drop across the board is around 7%, much better than feared. There is however concern that the numbers may not accurately reflect activity and this may not become clear for another 12/18 months due to the extension of officials licences.

22/3.b Judge 1 training

It was acknowledged that the vast majority of candidates manage to negotiate to upload process with no difficulty.

- HA to discuss with IoS swapping the certificate download and "Next Steps" pages of the online course
- Any coordinators who do not have access to the online course to email HA who will arrange this with the IoS

- Log books are now going out weekly by first class Royal Mail. Anyone who has completed all the steps correctly and not received one within a reasonable timeframe needs to email swimmingofficials@swimming.org

22/3.b Data Issues

- An up to date listing of Open Water officials has been requested
- A list of those who have completed the Judge 1 Theory online and uploaded their certificate, and who have then gone on to qualify as a Judge 1, has been requested. As this has to come from the Swim England Membership team it may only be possible to get this information on a quarterly basis.
- The default position is for membership information to be hidden when using the website Membership Check function. Various ways of making this, and the implications, clear to individuals were discussed.

22/3.c Licensing

There is no requirement for those wishing to train as a technical official at any level to be licensed.

22/4 **Update from Swim England SLG**

22/4.a Consideration to be given to arrange a training resource around Officials Briefings, after a comment from the Swim England President about those he had witnessed.

22/4.b The proposed guidance for officials for the Certificate of Exception was circulated prior to the meeting and feedback taken. GA to forward his thoughts to DM and BO, for them to add their comments before feedback on behalf of the group to Mike Hawkes. The need for a possible grace period to allow embedding of the changed procedures for suit and taping was raised.

22/4.c The group were given some background to an ongoing consultation on restricting the use of technical suits for certain age groups.

22/4.d The group were given an update on the guidance around period wear, which is due to be circulated w/c 11th April.

22/5 **Training Criteria**

22/5.a The current criteria for the training of officials are due to expire on 31st March. It was agreed that these would return to the pre-pandemic criteria, with the caveat that all pool provider and government guidance must be adhered to.

22/5.b One county has raised the complete absence of Level 1 or Level 2 competitions in their county as an issue, although it was noted that they have recently run their County Championships at these levels. It was agreed that there would be no exemption granted for the requirement for officials to evidence attendance at specified levels of meet during their training, other than that included in the published document.

22/6 **Regional Questions**

22/6.a A number of questions were received prior to the meeting:

- There are currently no plans to move the Judge 2 theory course online
- There is no requirement for Regional centres for the Referee exam on 7th May 2022.
- Judge 1 candidates who commenced training on the face to face programme and who do not complete by 31st March 2022 will be required to restart their training. They will need to complete the online theory module and then

evidence all competencies within the 11-month training period. Any previously evidenced competencies must be demonstrated again and not simply carried over.

- Judge 2S and Referee candidates will continue to undergo a final assessment, which should be carried out by someone other than their course leader
- Timekeeper candidates will continue to be required to evidence competence, rather than undergo a formal final assessment
- British Swimming will be conducting a review of Judge 1 online training, but this will be at home nation level and will not attempt to tackle local issues. Any feedback to be sent to HA for inclusion in the review process.
- In order to assess the need for Referee Course Leader training, coordinators are asked to submit the names of identified individuals to HA
- The list of licensed officials produced in December included those with expired licences, HA to double check March list when received.

22/6.b Confirmation of the personal details for publication of the training application form for Judge 2 & Judge 2S is ongoing, with a new version to be published alongside the revised training criteria. Main changes are the increase in cost to £10, although the wording will make it clear that this covers Judge 2 and Judge 2S, and the need to have completed 20 hours post qualification experience as a Judge 1 before applying.

22/6.c A manual fix is now in place for recording completion of the Contemporary Issues and Beginners Guide to Refereeing CPDs. Whilst the BGtoR numbers are manageable, it is hoped to automate the CI process when the updated course is launched. GA has researched the offering of other sports on this subject, to forward to MD for submission to BSSOG.

22/7 Open Water

22/7.a The new Technical Official training programme is now ready with plans to run a nationally delivered, pilot version in April/May. All Regions are asked to make potential candidates aware.

22/7.b Given the relatively small numbers involved, it is anticipated that officials' numbers may take some time to recover. Whilst the new training supports the undertaking of multiple roles to evidence competence, and some relaxation on numbers may be necessary at Regional level events, it is important that someone knowledgeable is in overall control at all times and that events are delivered safely.

22/ Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 9th June at 6:30pm on Zoom