

# Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

<b>Present:</b>	Tom Baster Barry Saunders Mark Davies John Hidle Jeroen Peters Ian Mackenzie Claire Coleman Ekaterina Boyd Richard Blackshaw Helen Akers	Chairperson Competitions Lead Technical Officials Lead Licensing Lead Masters Working Group Chair Specialist Member (League Swimming) Head of Development Head of Events Head of Swimming Talent Group Administrator
<b>Guests:</b>	Jon Glenn Richard Lamburn	Director of Learn to Swim and Workforce Head of Facilities
<b>Apologies:</b>	Grant Robins Alex Harrison	Specialist Member (Commonwealth Games) SOC Liaison

## Min No:

22/33

### Action Log

The log was reviewed and updated.

22/34

### SOC Update

There was no update.

22/35

### Swimming Strategy

No further guidance has been received, it was reported that the process of drawing up the overall strategy has commenced.

22/36

### Development Team Update

22/36.a A written report was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the group.

22/36.b CC introduced JG and RL, who were present to give some background to the recently introduced/withdrawn guidance on minimum water depths. An apology was given that the SLG were not part of the original consultation process.

22/36.c RL gave some background as to the reasons behind the review and the information collected which led to the decision to increase the pool depth required for racing entries from 0.9m to 1.35m.

22/36.d There was a general discussion which covered pool certification, the impact on licensed meets and other competitions, the impact on teaching racing entries and the differing requirements for adults and children. Whilst the group agree in principle with the change there are some practical considerations.

22/36.e A consultation is now being carried out and the group will need to consider the impact once responses have been collated.

(ML, RL and JG left the meeting)

## **22/37 Competition Planning**

### **22/37.a Summer Meets**

Phase 1 entry is still open for the British Summer Championships, phase 2 and Home Nation entries will open 3<sup>rd</sup> June. BS and ML gave some background to the change in qualifying points threshold for the M/C events. The British event has been extended by a day, but the Swim England event will be held over the original dates.

### **22/37.b County Team Championships**

The conditions have been written and will be circulated to establish expected levels of attendance.

### **22/37.c Open Water Age Group Championships**

Conditions have been written, with small changes to the age groups and pool qualifying times.

### **22/37.d.i Winter Championships**

The pool is booked but there needs to be a discussion about the format.

22/37.d.ii There was a discussion around including the “reverse” distance events at the Winter Championships in future years and how qualification might be managed.

## **22/38 Swimming**

### **22/38.a Talent Update**

A written report was circulated prior to the meeting. RB gave a verbal update on the Prep the Pool weekend and staff changes.

### **22/38.b Para-Athletes at Licensed Meets**

A paper was circulated prior to the meeting.

After discussion it was agreed that awareness and publicity seem to be the main barriers to participation, and not the qualification level set. To be addressed with Regions, Counties and Licensing Officers.

## **22/39 Commonwealth Games**

A written report was circulated prior to the meeting.

## **22/40 Para-Swimming**

No additional matters were raised.

- 22/41 Open Water Regional Events**  
Several Regions have had difficulty securing venues which has led to a number of events being combined. Going forward this may mean that the current model of a set number of qualifiers from each regional event is no longer appropriate and it was agreed to review the qualification process for 2023.
- 22/42 Masters**
- 22/42.a A working group meeting is scheduled for next week at which it is intended to review the meet conditions for the remainder of the year and revisit the charging structure for the National Short Course Championships, with a view to bringing it into line with other national events.
- 22/42.b A budget for the proposed open water event has been drawn up using a different model, resulting in a much reduced loss in the first year. It was felt that increased participation was needed to make the event more viable, but that this would require relaxation of the rules and standards necessary for a Swim England branded event. Such a decision is outside the remit of this group, EB to discuss proposal with JP and consult with Director of Legal.
- 22/43 Leagues**  
Leagues are continuing to take place, although some remain virtual. IM raised an issue with a league being refused a licence, to discuss with JH.
- 22/44 Officials**
- 22/44.a MD gave an update on the current work of the SOG, the next meeting will be 9 June.
- 22/44.b **Officials' Wear**  
A paper was circulated prior to the meeting, which will be discussed at the next SOG meeting.
- 22/44.c Following a focus on backstroke to breaststroke at the recent camp, RB to provide MD with a copy of the video for consideration for officials' training purposes.
- 22/45 Meet Licensing**
- 22/45.a **Sanctions**  
Recent situations where 2 meets failed to meet the licensing criteria for meets in the qualifying window require the intervention of Swim England to resolve. It was agreed that the SLG should therefore lead on the investigation and resolution of the matter. Panel of TB, JH, MD and JP formed.
- 22/45.b Overall progressing well, the number of meets licensed so far for the year is in line with pre-pandemic numbers and issues with distribution of entries seem to be levelling out.
- 22/46 Date of Next Meeting**  
The next meeting will be 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.