

Swimming Officials Group

Minutes of meeting held on 9th June 2022
Via Zoom

Present:	Mark Davies David Broome Ian Lamb Terry Bream Gerry Metcalf Ralph Shortland Jill Beard George Adamson Bob Outtram Paul Kendall	Chairman 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

22/9 Apologies

Apologies were received from David Metcalf (East Region) and Colin Evison (North West Region).

22/10 Update from Swim England SLG

22/10.a Commonwealth Games

A lot of work is ongoing around this event. The "Prep the Pool" event was recently held at the new facility in Sandwell.

22/10.b Minimum Depth Guidance

This was recently published but then withdrawn to allow for a period of consultation over the effect on facilities. There was a discussion around the current position and the responsibilities of technical officials.

22/10.c Training Resource

The Swim England Talent team have provided a copy of a video that they use for instructing on the Back to Breast Medley turn, MD to assess to see if it is a suitable resource for officials.

22/10.d Poolside Wear

Following a request from the Swim England SLG there was a discussion around the current standard practice of officials wearing white, specifically on the bottom half. Anecdotally this is a barrier to officiating, although not one that the group had seen specific evidence of.

The group were of the view that it is essential that whatever dress code is adopted is uniform and professional, and that officials are given sufficient notice to be able to comply without significant additional cost to themselves.

The group were asked to pass any further comments to MD, who will prepare a response for the SLG.

22/11 Open Water

- 22/11.a PK gave a summary of the position with regard to the new Open Water Technical Officials course, which has now been delivered to two pilot groups. Delivery is to be coordinated nationally for the time being, so that the supply chain of resources can be managed, Regional staff have already been asked to assist in identifying candidates. The cost has been brought into line with the Pool Judge 1 at £20, to include the first licence (£15 if it will be a second discipline licence).
- 22/11.b The proposed Masters Open Water event in the North East Region was cancelled. They are now looking to accommodate 90 swimmers at the East Region event but it is unclear at this stage whether there will be sufficient capacity.

22/12 Training Update

- 22/12.a **Level 1 & 2 meets**
This has been raised as a barrier in a small number of Counties to being able to complete the Judge 1 qualification, due to a lack of events at this level. It is not being reported as a nationwide issue, although it may be that other areas are simply disregarding the requirement.
Following discussion, the view of the group was that the requirement should remain but it will be monitored to see if it is a genuine widespread issue
- 22/12.b **Data Sharing**
A request was made to filter the list of those who have completed their Judge 1 theory training to remove those who have subsequently qualified. As the information comes from different sources it is not possible to commit to this on a monthly basis but hA will seek an amendment to the quarterly list.

22/13 Any Other Business

- 22/13.a JB had received a query around the requirement for 2 Stroke Judges for a Level 4 meet in a 4 lane pool. The group confirmed that it considered this necessary to enable all duties of the role to be effectively covered.
- 22/13.b HA to seek guidance on whether an update of FINA Rules is still expected late 2022/early 2023. If not, the requirement for licence renewals will need to be managed.
- 22/13.b The London Youth Games, taking place on 9th July at the London Aquatic Centre, are having difficulty obtaining a Technical Director.
- 22/13.c Nominations for the 2022 Swim England National Awards are now open, there is a category for technical Official of the year.
- 22/13.d HA sought the views of the group around communication as it would appear that the current platform is resulting in a lot of Newsletter items are being treated as spam. Regions confirmed that they cascaded messages as requested. It was also felt that some guidance around the Data Protection Choices may be required. HA to research options.
- 22/13.e Those Regions that have not already done so were asked to pass their Referee Course Leader nominations to MD.

22/14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 28th September on Zoom.