

Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 14th July 2022

Present: Tom Baster Chairperson
Barry Saunders Competitions Lead
David Metcalf Technical Officials Lead (substitute)
John Hidle Licensing Lead
Ian Mackenzie Specialist Member (League Swimming)
John Hewitt SOC Liaison
Claire Coleman Head of Development
Helen Akers Group Administrator

Guests: Jon Glenn Director of Learn to Swim and Workforce

Apologies: Ekaterina Boyd Head of Events
Mark Davies Technical Officials Lead
Grant Robins Specialist Member (Commonwealth Games)
Richard Blackshaw Head of Swimming Talent

Min No:
22/47

Welcome

TB welcomed JHe to the group.

22/48

Action Log

The log was reviewed.

22/48.a **Strategy**

Meetings are ongoing and TB expressed his thanks to everyone who has given up their time to have an input.

22/48.b **Winter Championships 2022**

BS has circulated some proposals to interested parties and is awaiting feedback.

22/48.c **Regional Meeting**

This has not yet taken place due to difficulty with scheduling, the suggested date is now 7 September 2022 – **TB to communicate with prospective attendees**. Going forward, it is felt that 2 meetings per year are needed – one post-County Championships and one at the end of the season to introduce the next season.

22/48.d **Secondary Strobes**

It was acknowledged that this issue has now become protracted and some action needs to be taken. Following further discussion, the proposed policy was accepted to be applied to all meet conditions submitted after 1 September 2022. Six-month review to consider any technical reasons for unavailability.

Policy wording:

From 1st September 2022, all meets licensed at Levels 1 and 2 must provide a secondary strobe where it is requested by an athlete at the time of entry unless a secondary strobe cannot be provided at this Meet for technical reasons”.

In the case that a secondary strobe cannot be provided, a full explanation of the issues preventing the provision must be provided with the Licence Application and forwarded to the National Licensing Officer to record.

22/48.e **HCMWG Areas of Responsibility**

No update due to the absence of the Swim England MWG Chair.

22/48.f **Coaching Policy**

No update.

22/48.g **Masters Open Water**

A new proposal had been prepared but was not submitted to the Group for consideration.

22/48.h **Minimum Pool Depths**

JG presented the results of the consultation to the Group.

Following discussion regarding the low response rate and the perceived impact on various levels of meet, it was agreed that all Level 1 and 2 meets would need to comply with the new minimum depth requirement of 1.35m for racing starts with effect from 1 September 2022. **JG to undertake further analysis of responses regarding other levels of meet and training situations, and prepare a paper for submission to SOC following review by TB.**

(JG left the meeting)

22/48.i **Licensing Sanctions**

TB shared a paper outlining his investigation into the issues that occurred and his recommendations.

JH recorded his thanks to TB for the work undertaken, which would not have been manageable in the agreed working group format.

22/49 SOC Update

JHe was advised of the expectations of the Group.

22/50 Development Team Update

The current focus is on the Commonwealth Games and associated “Have a Go” events. A number of staff are involved across the event so day-to-day availability will be reduced.

A project has also commenced, working with a group of clubs to upskill their digital knowledge and platforms.

- 22/51 Competition Planning**
22/51.a **County Team Championships**
The conditions have been sent out and responses are awaited.
- 22/51.b **Winter Championships**
A number of Level 2 meets (designated as qualifying events) are taking place after the proposed closing date, based on their expectations of a later date based on the 2021 competition. It was agreed that entries would close at noon on Tuesday 22nd November, **BS to contact the clubs involved to stress the need for them to submit their results in a timely manner if they wish them to be included in the entry period.**
- 22/51.c **Calendar Planning**
Dates for the 2023 Summer qualifying window have not been published, but they are expected to be in line with 2022 – **confirmation to be sought from British Swimming by the Head of Swimming Talent and SLG advised.** The annual calendar, which was suspended due to the pandemic, will be reintroduced for 2023.
- 22/52 Swimming**
No discussion due to the late absence of staff members concerned.
- 22/53 Commonwealth Games**
A copy of the information pack was submitted but it was felt that some of the confidential information was not suitable for circulation. **TB to advise GR.**
- 22/54 Para-Swimming**
No discussion due to the late absence of staff members concerned.
- 22/55 Open Water**
The difficulty in Regions being able to source venues for their events has led to restricted opportunities for qualification via this route. Several solutions were discussed but it was felt that a lead was needed from the Talent Team. **TB to discuss with Mike Parker, CC to notify GR of request.**
- 22/56 Masters**
No update due to the absence of the Swim England MWG Chair.
- 22/57 Leagues**
IM advised that there was nothing to report.
- 22/58 Officials**
22/58.a **Officials' Wear**
DM advised that the topic was discussed at the last SOG meeting and gave an outline of the views of the group. **TB requested a written proposal for consideration.**
- 22/58.b **Officials Numbers**
Whilst the number of qualified and licensed officials has now returned to pre-pandemic levels there are still anecdotal reports of shortages in some areas, with restrictions on training being one of the reasons cited. **A re-organisation of the J1 training to accommodate one specific barrier is proposed – HA to coordinate.**

Concern was also expressed about meet organisers consideration for officials' welfare, particularly with regard to expenses. JH reminded the group that it is a licensing requirement that expenses are offered although the rates are at the discretion of the organiser.

22/59

Meet Licensing

A number of licence applications for November 2023 have been received, prompting a discussion regarding a reasonable horizon for scheduling, particularly in light of the changes to requirements for conditions being agreed by the Group. Additionally, Counties have until September to fix their dates for the subsequent year, to be protected from calendar clashes.

It was agreed that applications for the subsequent calendar year would not be accepted until after September, with no more than 8 months in advance at other times. **Common standards to be addressed at the meeting of the Regions in September.**

22/60

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 22nd September 2022.