

Water Polo Leadership Group

16th December 2022 – 18:45 – 20:05 – Ponds Forge, Sheffield and Zoom

Attendees:

- Toby King (TK) – Chair (In person)
- Ian Mackenzie (IM) - SOC Representative (In person)
- Chris Stephens (CS) - Officials Lead (via zoom)
- Mike Hesketh (MH) - Competition Lead (In person)
- Ben McDonald (BM) - Volunteer Lead (via zoom)
- Elliot McHugh (EM) - Youth Representative (via zoom)
- Craig Figes (CF) - Water Polo Manager (via zoom)
- George Wood (GW) – Swim England Director of Sport Development (via zoom)
- Claire Coleman (CC) – Swim England Head of Development (In person)
- Gareth Picken (GP) – Administrator (via zoom)

Apologies: Adam Older (AO) - Joint Officials Lead

Standing Items	
1.	Chairs Welcome and Action Log
	<p>TK opened the meeting and welcomed GW.</p> <p>All actions were discussed. Actions were either completed or commented below:</p> <p>Action 1. – TK has reviewed the Strategy Review and provided feedback to CC.</p> <p>Action 2.1 (1) – <i>The group to read through the TOR and pass on any comments to TK and CC within a week of the meeting (13/10) – no additional comments were sent to CC by the WPLG.</i></p> <p>Action 3 – Rose Younger has consulted with Nigel Greenwood in relation to the competition calendar.</p> <p>GW asked whether this would create congestion with an additional league added to the calendar and therefore should dialogue between SE and each league be a mandatory requirement of the affiliation process to SE.</p> <p>CS explained that in the past competitions were booked into the calendar in a ranked order of priority beginning with national events. CS believed that this would work with the current calendar and therefore if any competitions did clash, it would be up to the WPLG and SE to decide on which competition should go ahead on a certain date.</p> <p>CF raised a concern that currently there is a shortage of officials within the Water Polo community which would impact on the competition calendar.</p>

	<p>Action – Establish an officials map for those currently active in Water Polo and produce guidance on how to progress through the officials’ pathway.</p> <p>Action – CF to produce a recommendation on the order of priority in relation to competitions.</p> <p>Action – look at how competitions are currently affiliated to SE.</p> <p>GW asked the group to consider as this action progresses, how can SE and the WPLG ensure that this and the competition calendar runs smoothly through 2023 given this would involve additional National Governing Bodies.</p> <p>Action 6.1 – CC updated the group that the Supervision Ratio and Education Plan is being developed between Helen Weeks and Lisa Whyte (with the SE Development Team). This is an ongoing action for the new year.</p> <p>Actions 9.1, 10.1, 10.2 were addressed within the agenda.</p> <p>Action 11 – GP updated the group on the proposed 2023 WPLG meeting dates. GP to circulate the dates to group members before Christmas.</p>
	<p>IM provided an update from the last SOC meeting. No additional work associated with Water Polo.</p> <p>GW updated the group that the Ekaterina Boyd has sent out the volunteers’ newsletter with the members’ newsletter, which has a list of competition dates for the first six months of the year.</p>
3.	Development Updates
	3.1 Club Tracker update
	3.2 Water Polo video
	<p>3.1 CC provided an update on the progress of the release of the Club Health Tracker. The Club Health Tracker has gone live and been sent out to all clubs and disciplines within clubs. A reminder to support clubs will be sent out to the regions in the first week of the January with the hope that the first set of Water Polo baseline results can be brought to the WPLG in April/May 2023.</p> <p>CC asked the group to highlight the Club Health Tracker with the community.</p> <p>EM asked about a questionnaire which would go out to swimmers leaving competition swimming to try and redirect them to Water Polo.</p> <p>CC explained that every March/ April a lapse email goes out to members. who have not renewed. CC will need to speak to membership but hopes to include a piece within that email redirecting swimmers who were considering leaving their discipline to try Water Polo.</p> <p>3.2 The video is out and was included in the members’ newsletter to non-Water Polo members. It is getting traction but is a challenge to see how much traction the video is actually getting. SE will continue to push the video.</p>

	<p>Action – Sport Dev with the support of SE Marketing to figure out how best to reach the target audience.</p> <p>Action- TK to work with Basingstoke around organising a second promotional video for Water Polo.</p>
4.	<p>Officials – Update on the OJA process</p> <p>4.1 CS provided the group with an update on the current OJA process. CS and CC are working together to streamline the process to make sure the process works more efficiently and is simplified.</p> <p>The judicial review has carried on with Water Polo being deferred to April 2023 allowing time for the WPLG and SE to establish what is needed and how it is going to happen.</p> <p>CC and CS agreed that in the new year they, along with Mike Jukes and Guy Ward, should meet up in Loughborough to set out the plan on how to simplify the judicial review process.</p> <p>GW mentioned that ideally some of this work should be done within the local leagues – only major disciplinary breaches should be dealt with at national level.</p> <p>CS agreed with GW’s point and mentioned that it would be useful to develop a framework where lesser offences could be processed at a lower level rather than everything being processed by SE.</p>
5.	<p>Strategy and Priorities – 2023 priorities</p> <p>5.2 2023 priorities</p> <p>TK updated the group that once the current progress is published, the group can identify if there are any gaps or areas which can be developed during 2023.</p>
6.	<p>AOB</p> <p>6.1 Group Recruitment 6.2 Regional Representative 6.3 AOB from members</p> <p>6.1 Recruitment need for: A chair A comms representative A coaching representative A deputy competitions representative.</p> <p>The coaching representative role has been live for a while but the applications received so far have not been appropriate for the group.</p> <p>Action - CC to sit down with MH and review the role specifications for competition role.</p> <p>The priority is the chair of the WPLG.</p> <p>6.2 TK updated the group on the regional representative. All the regional representatives will be invited to be the representative for the regions on the WPLG.</p>

	<p>6.3 AOB from members:</p> <p>CS explained that World Aquatics (FINA) has set out some new rules for Water Polo as of the 1st January, however they will only be implemented into competitions/ leagues that start after that date. All current competitions and leagues will remain with the current rules until they conclude.</p> <p>TK asked CF whether the BWLP adopting the new rules immediately would make it easier for the national squads to get used to the rules.</p> <p>CF agreed.</p>
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting and 2023 meetings</p>
	<p>GW thanked MH for the organising of the NAG's that weekend.</p> <p>GW thanked TK and paid credit to all his work as chair of the WPLG over the past three years and support toward SE.</p> <p>DONM – 26/1/2023</p> <p>TK thanked the group. The meeting closed at 8:05</p>