

Swimming Officials Group

Minutes of meeting held on 26th January 2023
Via Zoom

Present:	Mark Davies David Broome Colin Evison Ian Lamb Terry Bream David Metcalf Diane Gamble Jill Beard George Adamson	Chairman North East Region North West Region West Midland Region East Midland Region East Region London Region South West Region South East Region
Staff:	Helen Akers	Officials Development Coordinator

23/1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ralph Shortland (London Region) and Bob Outtram (Para-Swimming). MD welcomed Diane Gamble as representative for the London Region.

23/2 Update from Swim England SLG

World Aquatics Rules 2023

The implementation date for the new rules will be 10th March 2023.

It was confirmed that:

- The May Referee exam will be based on the 2023 rules
- Practical assessments should take place under the rules in force at the time.

23/3 National Updates

23/3.a World Aquatics Rule Update CPDs

23/3.a.i **Open Water** – due to the small number of rule change the initial delivery will be via an online course with a short knowledge check test at the end. Completion will lead to the relevant attribute being added to Integra. Details will be emailed centrally to all open water officials once the membership renewal period is complete.

Face to face delivery may be considered nearer to the start of the season depending on the level of uptake.

23/3.a.ii **Pool** – The update will be delivered as per previous times, with a centrally provided PowerPoint and briefing notes. It is hoped that the first delivery will be “from the horse’s mouth” with Coordinators then responsible for disseminating the message with no interpretations or alterations. There will be no compulsory additional topic, it is hoped that some time will be allocated for discussion of general Q&A/issues/concerns. Any issues raised should be fed back to HA so that any patterns can be established for future training opportunities.

Completion of the course will be recorded via the Online Course Registration system accessed by Member Options. It was agreed that all Regions will be responsible for registering their own courses, HA to confirm when system is active.

- 23/3/a.iii New extract books are being printed to be sent to every licensed official and every Judge 1 trainee. HA to enquire whether funds will be available to provide WA handbooks to Swim England's WA listed officials.
- 23/3.b **Timekeeper and Judge 1** – e-certificates will now be issued direct to candidates upon verification of their uploaded evidence of competence. It was confirmed that those who undertake a face to face timekeeper course, which should be recorded via the online system, still need to upload evidence of practical competence to complete the qualification.
- 23/3.c **Licences** – a number of group members have received reports that renewal notifications for January 2023 were not received, HA to confirm with Membership that this was as a result of reduced staffing and not a permanent change. A copy of the renewal form is available on the British Swimming website.
- 23/3.c.i Membership can use the photo from Member Options to produce the licence card.
- 23/3.c.ii Licences can be renewed early if necessary for event application purposes, no time will be lost.
- 23/3.c.iii Whilst acknowledging that the ideal situation is for the 2023 Rules Update to be completed at the earliest opportunity, it was agreed that to allow for roll out members would be allowed to relicence under the current rules (2017 update or all training completed since 2017) until 30 June 2023. HA to advise Membership.
- 23/4 **The Ripple Effect** – HA outlined a current project to increase the number of volunteers with a disability within the aquatic disciplines and the input that may be required from group members going forward. It was suggested that a number of existing officials could be used as role models, HA to discuss with project officer.

23/5 **Regional Items**

- 23/5.a **Officials Numbers**
A request to review the number of officials required for meets consisting of long distance freestyle events only had been received. It was confirmed that the current levels are considered to be the minimum required to protect the integrity of the results.
- 23/5.b **Rules Aide Memoir**
It was confirmed that officials can use whatever resources they prefer to support their thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport. It was noted that WA have not yet updated the document on their website.
- 23/5.c **WPS Licences**
Guidance was requested on the application process – CE advised that guidance had previously been sent to Regions. Ce to provide a copy, HA to ask Martin Lees to provide additional guidance.
- 23/5.d **Overseas Officials**
IL asked for guidance with recognition of qualifications for an official from South Africa, GA shared his recent experience of this.

23/5.e **Judge 2 Training**

Updated PowerPoints and workbooks will be produced in due course.

23/5.f **Referee Course Leader Training**

Once trained, new course leaders will be given access to the resources via Box. The November 2022 paper will be made available once the appeals process is complete.

23/5.g **Certificate of Exception**

CE advised that he is working towards making exceptions clearer and that a complete exception from all of the rules of a particular stroke is not acceptable.

DB advised that a change in guidance may mean that more insulin sensors are seen – whilst these competitors can apply for a certificate, it is hoped that a level of common sense will be employed if referees are presented with one.

23/5.h **WPS Rules Updates**

WPS will be updating their rules, broadly in line with WA changes, with the implementation date expected to be March 2023. It was noted that this will be after the WPS World Series has commenced.

23/6

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 13th April at 6:30pm on Zoom.