

Swimming Officials Group

Minutes of meeting held on 28th September 2022
Via Zoom

Present:	Mark Davies	Chairman
	David Broome	North East Region
	Jean Childs	West Midland Region
	Terry Bream	East Midland Region
	David Metcalf	East Region
	Ralph Shortland	London Region
	Jill Beard	South West Region
	George Adamson	South East Region
	Bob Outtram	Para-Swimming Specialist
	Paul Kendall	Open Water Specialist
Staff:	Helen Akers	Officials Development Coordinator

22/15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian Lamb (West Midland Region) and Colin Evison (North West Region). MD welcomed Jean Childs as representative for the West Midland Region.

22/16 Update from Swim England SLG

22/16.a Minimum Depth Guidance

This is still under discussion with no timescale for introduction of any new guidance.

22/16.b Afro Hair Friendly Swimming Caps

Use of these caps is permitted under the Swim England policy for Swimwear. The caps produce by one manufacturer have now been approved by FINA with effect from 1 September 2022. A central Swim England email to cover this and other items is planned.

22/16.c Certificates of Exception

There are reports of certificates not being accepted by referees, although there are no specific details available of the circumstances. The Group were asked to ensure that reminder guidance was cascaded to all County Officials Coordinators.

The issue of exception codes not being on start sheets was raised and whilst this remains an issue, it relates to classified athletes rather than certificate holders, and is the responsibility of meet organisers.

22/17 Outstanding Items

- 22/17.a 22/10.c – the video was provided in several formats but MD was unable to access. Nothing further has been received.

22/18 Training Update

22/18.a Level 1 & 2 meets

Following further representation, it has now been agreed to remove the mandatory requirement for Judge 1 trainees to attend a Level 1 or 2 meet as part of their training, although they may obviously do so if they wish. This change will be included in the covering letter sent out with each log book, until the next reprint.

However it will now be a requirement for those wishing to progress to Judge 2 training to have officiated at a Level 1 or 2 meet, either as part of their Judge 1 training or the required post-qualification hours.

22/18.b Judge 1 Training

Incidences have come to light of local practices being implemented, specifically with regard to a required number of times in a role before being considered competent. MD reminded the Group that the starting point for the training is implied competence, with evidence having to be given to the contrary by the mentor or overseeing Licensed Referee.

22/18.c Final Assessments

Final assessments are still being conducted in some areas at all levels of qualification. The Group were asked to cascade reminders that formal final assessments are not required for Timekeeper, Judge 1 or Judge 2 candidates. Timekeepers are required to evidence competence and Judge 1 and Judge 2 candidates will already have a record of competence in all areas as part of their training.

Final assessments are still required for J2S and Referee.

22/18.d GDPR Settings

The Group and HA are still receiving correspondence regarding officials qualifications not being visible on various platforms. The Group were reminded that the default position for members' GDPR choices is for information to be hidden and that members should be encouraged to change this on OMS if they wish their information to be available.

22/18.e Referee Exam – 19 November 2022

It was agreed that exams would be conducted on a local basis in England – HA to advise the Chair of BSSOG of this decision.

22/18.f Referee Course Leader Training

This has been narrowed down to a few dates before the end of the year. It is likely to be held on a virtual basis but there will still need to be a cap on numbers because of some elements of the training.

MD to circulate the current list of Regional nominees, with a request that geographic coverage be considered. This will be the final chance to add names.

22/19 Open Water

22/19.a Technical Official Log Books

There has been a delay in producing log books for the new course as the small number involved means that external printing is not financially viable. Options include printing in-house if a suitable layout can be secured or a downloadable version, although this can cause problems with items being circulated outside the population entitled to have one.

PK suggested some form of online recording. This has previously been considered but no existing platform that offers required levels of access has been identified. As Open Water is a smaller community to support, MD happy to take forward any suggestions that may be submitted.

22/19.b **Technical Officials Training**

There are no confirmed dates for further delivery of the new course, Regions were asked to coordinate expressions of interest for this and for existing Level 1 officials wishing to convert to the new qualification.

22/20 Any Other Business

22/20.a **FINA Rule Changes**

FINA Technical Congress will take place at the beginning of October, with the proposed rule changes being available online – GA to circulate links.

It is anticipated that these will come into force on 1 January 2023 – training resources will be updated accordingly and a new FINA Rules Update CPD will be made available.

It was confirmed that in the meantime, those wishing to re-licence who have already completed the 2017 Update do not need to do it again.

22/20.b **Timekeeper Theory Completions**

A request for a list of those who have completed and uploaded Timekeeper Theory certificates does not form part of the current Data Agreement. MD to clarify the reason that the information is required so that a request can be submitted for approval.

22/20.c **Local Websites**

HA requested that as part of their communications, the Group ask Counties to ensure that the training information on their websites is up to date.

22/20.d **Judge 2 Workbooks**

These are in stock and available to order via HA.

22/20.e **Licence Renewals**

Reminders and forms are sent out centrally by email by the Swim England Membership team, forms are also available on the British Swimming website.

22/20.f **Judge 1 Logbooks**

These were updated at the last reprint to include the membership number on the front and the name and membership number at the top of the Competency Sign Off page.

22/20.g **Final Referee Assessment**

GA to send HA a document that he has laying out the areas that should be considered during the assessment.

MD to take the suggestion of a panel of trained assessors to the BSSOG for consideration.

22/20.h **Judge 1 Training Deadline**

The purpose of the deadline was to incentivise completion of the training, not to penalise those who are unable to meet the deadline due to outside circumstances. Anyone who is approached by a candidate in this situation should advise them to contact HA so an extension can be considered and managed if appropriate.

22/21

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 19th January on Zoom.

An interim meeting to discuss the FINA Rules Update will be arranged if necessary.