

# Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

<b>Present:</b>	Tom Baster	Chairperson
	Barry Saunders	Competitions Lead
	Jeroen Peters	Masters Working Group Chair
	John Hidle	Licensing Lead
	Ian Mackenzie	Specialist Member (League Swimming)
	Richard Blackshaw	Interim Head of Swimming Talent
	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

<b>Apologies:</b>	Martin Lees	Para Swimming Manager
	Mark Davies	Technical Officials Lead
	Joan Wheeler	SOC Liaison
	Grant Robins	Head of Swimming Talent

**Min No:**  
**23/1**

## **Apologies**

Apologies were noted, including those of GR who is due to leave the employ of Swim England.

**Action – TB to contact GR to express the thanks of the Group for his work.**

**23/2**

## **Action Log**

23/2.a The log was reviewed:

22/4 – Ongoing  
22/27.c/d/e – Ongoing  
22/41 – Ongoing  
220922/2.1 – Ongoing  
22/63 – Complete  
22/65.b – Ongoing  
22/68 – Complete  
22/69 – Complete  
22/70 – Ongoing  
22/73.a – Complete  
22/73.b – Ongoing

23/2.b The following additional Updates were given:

- 22/27.c/d/e, 22/70, 22/73.b – all items relating to Masters Swimming have been deferred until the meeting between JW & JP has been held
- 22/63 – generally the guidance has been well received. Additional action required around the Competitive Start CPD by the appropriate staff.

- 22/65.b – RB to replace GR on this action
- 22/73.a – following SOC approval for this role, two individuals were interviewed. Given their different backgrounds and strengths, it was proposed that both be offered the role, to attend as one voting member and one guest where necessary. The Group accepted the proposal.

**Action – TB to advise the individuals concerned of the outcome.**

### **23/3 SOC Update**

- 23/3.a An email update had been received from JW:
- Support and advice is being offered where necessary with regard to the minimum depth guidance.
  - JW to meet with JP and another member of the MWG on 2 February
- 23/3.b CC provided an additional verbal update from the last SOC meeting:
- The role of leadership groups in the strategy to be reviewed at the next SOC meeting
  - There was a presentation on the results of the England Swims survey, which looked to establish the attitude of non-members to aquatic disciplines
  - A revised dress code policy was agreed
  - The volunteer policy will be updated, specifically with relation no enforced shared accommodation at events.

### **23/4 Talent Team Update**

- 23/4.a A written update was circulated prior to the meeting.
- 23/4.b Whilst Swim England have been advised that details of the summer qualification window may be published it was felt that, given the expected changes to the British Swimming event, this should be a coordinated release.

### **23/5 Para-Swimming**

- 23/5.a A written update was circulated prior to the meeting.

### **23/6 Development Team Update**

The Club Health Tracker is now live, although progress has been slower than hoped.

### **23/7 Competition Planning**

- 23/7.a **Open Water** - A paper was circulated prior to the meeting, proposing the setting up of a working group to look at the future development of competitions within the discipline. It was agreed that a small group would meet to establish terms of reference for a time-bound review.

**Action – JH to arrange an initial meeting of an Open Water Working Group.**

- 23/7.b **2023 National Events:**
- Open Water National Age Groups – 29 July, Thrybergh
  - Summer Meet – 2-6 August, Ponds Forge
  - County Team Championships – 8 October, Ponds Forge
  - Masters Championships – 27-29 October, Ponds Forge

Swim England will also be organising the British Masters Championships at Ponds Forge, 2-4 June.

- 23/7.c A number of proposals regarding the Winter Championships need to be considered, it was agreed that a subgroup be formed to finalise the arrangements.

**Action – EB to arrange a meeting of the subgroup.**

**23/8 Meet Licensing**

- 23/8.a Current processes are working OK.

- 23/8.b There has been a proposal from Swim England to move the application process online as this will be quicker. However, most of the delays are due to applications being incorrect or incomplete, which the proposed system does not cater for.

- 23/8.c It was confirmed that whilst most applications are being received well in advance of events so that clubs can advertise there is still flexibility in granting licences at short notice, particularly for lower level events.

**23/9 Masters**

The Meet Director and Technical Director have been appointed for the British Masters Championships and the conditions and entry pack are due to be finalised shortly. A decision from the HCMSWG is required on the inclusion of para-swimming events.

**23/10 Officials**

Following the discussion at the last meeting regarding the perceived shortcomings of the British Swimming Development Programme, there was a suggestion to trial a form of online engagement with officials. It was acknowledged that the current forms of communication can lead to local customs and practices developing unchecked.

**Action – HA to liaise with TB and MD regarding content and delivery of a trial online workshop.**

**23/11 Leagues**

No new issues.

**23/12 Any Other Business**

- 23/12.a The graded tables, previously issued to assist with qualifying times for graded meets, have not been updated for many years. It was agreed that they were no longer used and so there is no need for them to be reproduced.

- 22/73.b It has been agreed by all Home Countries that the 2023 World Aquatics Swimming Rules will be introduced with effect from 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**23/13 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 6:30pm on Zoom.