

Water Polo Regional Managers' Meeting

30th March 2023

Time: 18:30 – 20:00

Venue: Zoom

Attendees:

Ian Mackenzie (IM) – Interim Chair/ SOC Representative
Chris Stephens (CS) – Officials Lead
Mike Hesketh (MH) – Competition Lead
Craig Figs (CF) – Water Polo Programme Lead
Adam Older (AO) - Joint Officials Lead
Claire Coleman (CC) – Swim England Head of Development
Gareth Picken (GP) – Swim England Development Team Administrator
Diane Stafford (DS) – North West Regional Manager
Adrian Wood (AW) – West Midlands
Rosa Gallop (RG) – South East Representative
Steve Kinloch (SK) – North West Water Polo Manager
Dawn Cousins (DaC) – North East Water Polo Manager
Kristie Jarrett (KJ) – South East Regional Club Development Officer
Ray Gordon (RG) – North East Finance Manager
Fiona Conway (FC) – East Midlands Regional Club Development Officer
David Cross (DCr) – South East Board Member
Fina Martinez (FM) – East Midlands
Terri Halstead (TH) – West Midlands Water Polo
Dean Sumner (DS) – North West Regional Club Coordinator
James Warrener (JW) – London Regional Aquatics Development Officer
Mike Coles (MC) – South West Water Polo Manager
Jon Lane (JL) – East Midlands

1.	Welcome IM welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained his current position in the WPLG. He will be the interim chairman for the next 12 months. He urged the community to consider who could become the WPLG chairman.
2.	Apologies There were apologies from Dean Walker (East Region WP Manager)
3.	Conflict of Interest There were no conflicts of interest among the attendees.
4.	Regional Round up 4.1 Regional Manager/Chairman IM asked the regions to provide an update as to whether they currently have a regional Water Polo representative within their region. All regions, with the exception of the North East, either have a permanent regional Water Polo representative, an interim representative, or the role is share between two members.
	4.2 Regional Activities FM updated the group that the East Midlands recently held a regional 2010 and younger 5-a-side tournament during which 50 player engaged in a series of matches. As some of the clubs didn't

	<p>have enough players to make up a team, larger clubs offer their player to make up the teams so that all the teams could take part.</p> <p>IM mentioned that this was great news and something that should be replicated across all regions. The focus should always be on raising the profile of the discipline and encouraging everyone to become involved.</p> <p>CC highlighted that if this tournament was replicated again in any of the regions, then SE could potentially support with the branding and publicity of the event.</p>
	<p>4.3 Coach/Assist Coach Courses</p>
	<p>DS raised a concern around coach tutors within the North West and the number of courses that are currently in place.</p> <p>IM explained that if the region were to make contact with the IOS then they will be able to support in the development of tutors and the booking of more courses. IM also mentioned that he is the Chair of the IOS</p> <p>CC explained further that there are currently 7 assistant coach tutors and 2 coach tutors, however SE is focused on providing more tutor training opportunities in the future. There are currently the following courses taking place, 2 assistants and 4 coach courses in place for the coming months. This is based on the advice that the regions have provided the national team. If regions feel this is incorrect, they should raise it with their Regional Development staff.</p> <p>Action – CC to work with the IOS on how best to support the North West Region.</p> <p>FM raised a concern over the cost of the coaching courses, asking whether there is additional support or whether the cost could be reduced?</p> <p>IM mentioned that the cost can't be reduced due to the overhead costs of hiring the pool and providing the additional costs for holding the course.</p> <p>MC explained that in the South West courses are subsidised by the region by 25%</p> <p>FC raised the point that the regions and clubs alike should be aware that club members should book the course with the club member offer which reduces the price of the course.</p> <p>Action – GP to make sure all regional managers are aware of the club booking process to get the reduced price.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Club Support</p>
	<p>5.1 Ensure ALL players registered as WP</p>
	<p>IM updated the group that 5,077 registered WP players across Swim England.</p> <p>There are 535 under 11 WP players, however, IM raised a concern with what these players are being offered as there are no competitions at this age group but they are the future of the discipline.</p> <p>DS asked why if other disciplines start competitions at 9 years of age but Water Polo start at 10 years?</p> <p>IM explained that this has been a rule that Water Polo has followed for a number of years but this can be changed in the future.</p> <p>DC asked whether it would be worth engaging with local swimming clubs and holding mini polo competitions which would be open for those too young to engage in Water Polo.</p>

	<p>Action – IM with Development Team to look into the possibility of mini polo competitions across the regions.</p> <p>Action – IM to review age limit rule and raise potential change with WPLG.</p> <p>Action - IM to forward the current membership numbers to GP.</p>
	5.2 Club Health Tracker (CHT)
	<p>CC presented to the group an update on the CHT and explained how the data is to be analysed over the coming weeks.</p> <p>CC asked that the regions push awareness of the Tracker amongst affiliated clubs who have not already filled out the Tracker.</p> <p>Action - CC to circulate the pretext to the Tracker for the regions.</p> <p>CC highlighted that the hard deadline for the Tracker would be the 15th April.</p> <p>FC asked CC for a list of clubs within their region who have mentioned that they do Water Polo to ensure that this is in line with the region's data.</p> <p>Action – CC to provide a list of Water Polo clubs with the East Midlands for FC.</p>
6.	Officials
	6.1 Pathway in place
	6.1 World Aquatics update
	6.2 Update on the OJA process
	<p>CS updated the group that there is pathway for referees and a pathway for table officials and course are now available to be run. If regions would like to run any courses, they can approach CS.</p> <p>SK asked CS whether there could be a junior referee course which would sit between the club level referee course and the regional level referee course?</p> <p>CS responded mentioning that if there is a regional level referee could be shadowed by a club level referee at a more senior level match to provide them with experience.</p> <p>Action - CS to speak to SK about North West referee courses.</p>
7.	Leadership Group
	7.1 Group Recruitment – co-option
	IM brought to the attention of the regions the vacancies within the WPLG and asked that if there is any interest within their regions, please could they contact IM.
8.	Talent Squads/Hubs
	8.1 Update – This item was brought forward to the beginning of the meeting as CF needed to be on poolside.
	<p>CF introduced the Water Polo Academy restructuring plan and explained the changes that are currently taking place or which are planned for the near future.</p> <p>FC asked where the coaches were recruited from and where can coaches who are interested apply to be involved.</p> <p>CF replied that the coaches were selected as they were already national team coaches, however, in September we will advertise for additional coaches.</p> <p>AW asked whether athletes born in 2008 will be in the Talent Centres after July 2023?</p> <p>CF answered that a decision still need to be had about where is best to place the 2008 athletes.</p>

	<p>TH mentioned that within her region, there were concerns around how the changes to the academy are being communicated to the regions. TH additionally asked whether there will be more than four Centres with the academy.</p> <p>CF mentioned that there is constant learning regarding how information is communicated with the regions and clubs. In respect to the number of camps, the plan is to run additional camps, however this is subject to pool and coach availability. There is an open invite for any of the regions to attend the Talent Centres and the Talent Games.</p> <p>JL joined the meeting at 19:13</p> <p>Action – CF publish calendar for Talent Centre days as soon as it is ready.</p> <p>From the Chat IM asked whether it would be possible to be selected for the GB squad without going through the Talent Centers or regional programmes?</p> <p>CF answered that yes there are two ways into the GB squad, through the open trials, date and location TBC. The alternative way is through the Talent Games.</p> <p>FM asked whether there could be consistency with the dates of the Talent Centres as the regions need to plan their regional training.</p> <p>CF replied that every effort will be made to avoid clashes, however this is not always possible with clubs training every night of the week. There are also the restraints of pool availability that need to be taken into consideration. The International calendar has been published on the website which provides the basis for the calendar at a national level.</p> <p>From the Chat IM asked whether the names of the athletes selected for the Talent Centres could be shared with the regions.</p> <p>Action – CF to check whether the names of the athletes can be shared with the regions or whether this would clash with GDPR.</p> <p>AO asked whether those who don't make the Talent Centres, could they be provided with coaching/officiating courses to keep them within the discipline?</p> <p>MC followed AO's question with whether this could be something that the regions could provide themselves?</p> <p>CF agreed that this is absolutely something that could happen and why there is a focus on the regions and national team to work in partnership.</p> <p>DB asked whether, during the talent games, there is a plan for the under 14's to compete on one day and the under 16's on the next day so there is less pressure to book hotels?</p> <p>CF this is not the case at the moment as Talent Games aims to replicate what would happen at a European Championships but certainly something which could be considered.</p> <p>IM thanked CF for attending the meeting and providing the regions with the update.</p> <p>CF left the meeting at 19:23</p>
9.	A.O.B
	Floor
	There were no additional items raised by the attendees of the meeting.
10.	Date of Next Meeting for Regional Managers and Staff.
	<p>28th September 2023</p> <p>Meeting closed at 20:25</p>

