

# Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Present:** Tom Baster                      Chairperson  
Joan Wheeler                      SOC Liaison  
Barry Saunders                      Competitions Lead  
Mark Davies                      Technical Officials Lead  
John Hidle                      Licensing Lead  
Jeroen Peters                      Masters Working Group Chair  
Kevin Brooks                      Coaching Lead  
Euan Dale                      Coaching Lead  
Helen Weeks                      Sport Governance and Welfare Manager  
Ekaterina Boyd                      Head of Events  
Helen Akers                      Group Administrator

**Guest:** Alice Fairhall                      Club Development Project Officer

**Apologies:** Ian Mackenzie                      Specialist Member (League Swimming)  
Richard Blackshaw                      Interim Head of Swimming Talent  
Martin Lees                      Para Swimming Manager

**Min No:**

**23/37**

**Welcome and Apologies**

HW and AF were welcomed and apologies from IM, RB and ML noted.

**23/38**

**Club Health Tracker**

AF gave an overview of the purpose of the survey and provided some of the key outcomes. The results are a snapshot which can then be used to assess progress of the club over time, although it is hoped that any specific issues would continue to be raised outside of this process. The survey will reopen in October 2023 and ways of engaging with clubs to encourage them to complete it were discussed.

**Action – any suggestions for future questions or incentives to encourage completion to AF via HA/TB**

**23/39**

**Action Log**

The log was reviewed:

22/27.c/e – to be covered as agenda items

22/65.b – Ongoing, delayed by the reorganisation of the Talent team

23/7.a – Ongoing

23/15.b & 23/19.a – Regional meeting to be held 25<sup>th</sup> October

23/30.e – Ongoing

23/35.c – Ongoing

- 23/40 SOC Update**  
JW advised that two SOC meetings had been held since the last SLG meeting. June minutes are available online; the September meeting included an update on the listening exercise and a review of school club affiliation.
- There were no questions from the group.
- 23/41 Development Team Update**  
The Swimming Education update was circulated prior to the meeting; there were no questions from the group.
- 23/42 Talent Team Update**
- 23/42.a TB had conducted a review of which Regions currently offer the distance freestyle events at their Winter Championships. It was acknowledged that time and pool space limitations would influence the situation.
- 23/42.b TB advised that the exam start date for 2024 has been brought forward, meaning that some will take place in the week after the Regional Championships period.
- 23/43 Competition Planning**  
A written report was circulated prior to the meeting
- 23/43.a **National Open Water Championships**  
BS placed on record thanks to Hannah Smith, who was the TD for both the Age Group and Masters events.
- Two proposals for the age group event were submitted to the group:
1. to change the regional qualification numbers to a pro-rata reflection of the number of Club Compete members in each region – **Agreed**, with a request that the rationale be clearly explained to the membership
  2. to increase the distance swum by each age group at National level – **Agreed**
- 23/43.b **Swim England Summer Meet**  
There had been a lower entry than in 2022, with a number of factors identified. A full review will be conducted once the PIG have communicated their 2024 event criteria.
- Action – BS to review conditions for 2024 Summer Meet**
- 23/43.c **Swim England County Team Championships**  
Ponds Forge is due to re-open the week before the event. One county has declined the invitation to take part, although the reason for this is unclear.
- 23/43.d **Swim England Winter Championships**  
The schedule and conditions have been published. The licensing of a level 1 meet the same weekend was noted, whilst acknowledging that it is the National event that has moved to a later weekend this year.

23/43.e **Calendar Planning**

As part of a discussion around the timing of event announcements, both nationally and internationally, and the issues that this causes for domestic event planning a request was made to reinstate the Swim England Calendar, including protected dates, for a two or four year period

**Action – TB to collate event dates with a view to constructing a rolling calendar**

23/43.f **Technical Director Appointments**

The appointments for the remainder of the year were circulated prior to the meeting and noted. The availability of suitably experienced candidates remains an issue.

**23/44 Masters**

23/44.a **Open Water Championships**

A major medical incident led to the cancellation of the event.

23/44.b **National Championships**

Entries are now open but there are concerns over the number of glitches in the process, which will need investigation and evaluation.

23/44.c **World Championships**

All competitors with an international permit were advised of the process to add their times to Rankings, from where any individual records will be identified. Relay teams will need to submit a claim form as per the BS conditions, as there is no automatic way of identifying them.

23/44.d **HCMSMG**

JP advised that the current chair has stood down and he has been appointed to the role. This will require an adjustment to the MWG ToRs

**Action – JP to submit proposed update to ToRs to next SLG meeting for consideration.**

**23/45 Officials**

23/45.a A meeting of the BSSOG was held on 11 July, discussion points were:

- recruitment and retention of volunteers is an issue in some areas
- Referee Course Leader training is still to be delivered
- There is to be review of the points system to facilitate easier renewal of licences for active officials
- Contemporary Issues is to be refreshed or replaced

23/45.b The group expressed concern about the lack of direction from British Swimming in a number of development areas.

**Action – Members to email HA with areas of concern for consideration by the SESOG**

- 23/46 Meet Licensing**
- 23/46.a **Licensed Meet Results**  
A new system for uploading results of licensed meets directly into Rankings by the meet organiser is to be implemented from 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The application form and meet criteria have been updated to incorporate this and other changes.
- 23/46.b **Transgender Policy**  
This is now live but there are still examples of incorrectly worded conditions being submitted with licence applications.
- 23/46.c **County Championship Window**  
Kent has reported problems with securing a venue to enable them to hold all of their championships within the 2024 window. It was noted that whilst the event can be licensed, it would not be on a protected date.
- 23/46.d **Unaffiliated Bodies**  
Issues continue with the granting of permits for an unaffiliated commercial organisation, although guidance is being given to assist them. A review of affiliation criteria for all bodies is planned in the longer term.
- 23/47 Leagues**  
Following a situation that arose at the recent National Junior League final, it is advised that leagues ensure that they are operating in line with their published conditions.
- 23/48 Any Other Business**
- 23/48.a An updated version of the swimwear guidance was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that this includes reference to male and female.
- 23/49 Date of Next Meeting**  
The next meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 6:30pm on Zoom.