

Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 25th May 2023

Present:	Tom Baster	Chairperson
	Joan Wheeler	SOC Liaison
	Mark Davies	Technical Officials Lead
	John Hidle	Licensing Lead
	Ian Mackenzie	Specialist Member (League Swimming)
	Kevin Brooks	Coaching Lead
	Euan Dale	Coaching Lead
	Richard Blackshaw	Interim Head of Swimming Talent
	Martin Lees	Para Swimming Manager
	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

Apologies: Barry Saunders Competitions Lead

Min No:
23/26

Apologies

Apologies were noted.

23/27

Action Log

The log was reviewed:

22/27.c/e – Ongoing

22/65.b – Ongoing

23/7.a – Ongoing

23/15.b & 23/19.a – Regional and County meeting to be held in June

23/19.a – paper regarding this event to be considered later in the meeting

23/28

SOC Update

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2023 have not been published.

JW gave a verbal update on items covered.

23/29

Talent Team Update

23/29.a Written updates were circulated prior to the meeting

23/29.b RB gave a short presentation on the changes to the talent pathway because of the Relative Age Effects study.

23/29.c Following the extension of the summer qualifying window in 2023 it is understood that the intention is to return to the previous weeks in 2024. RB asked to request that the PIG consider an extension of one week, to help ease calendar congestion, particularly with respect to Regional Championships, and to reduce the burden on volunteers. JH confirmed that no licences for 2024 will be granted until County and Regional

dates are fixed or until the end of September 2023, whichever is sooner.

Action – RB to submit request to PIG for early decision

23/30 Competition Planning

23/30.a County Team Championships

The proposed conditions were circulated prior to the meeting having been updated in line with the new transgender policy.

23/30.b Swim England Summer Meet

The proposed technical appointments were agreed.

23/30.c Swim England Winter Championships

A paper was circulated prior to the meeting proposing that this be made a 4-day event, with para-swimmers incorporated. This was agreed.

Action – EB to publish event details

23/30.d Technical Official Uniform

A paper proposing a cross discipline change to the uniform expectation for all national events was circulated prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that Swim England SLT drove the change request and the proposal was agreed. A request to review the colour of polo shirts provided was also noted

23/30.e Moving Age Bands

Following changes to the Junior age band at international level, it was agreed to form a working group to put together a proposal for submission to British swimming to ensure parity across events.

Action – RB to form working group

23/31 Masters

The proposed conditions for the Inter County event were circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion around the allocation of teams to meets and the need to comply with the transgender policy, it was agreed that a small group clarify the conditions before publication.

Action – TB, JW and JP to review and clarify conditions

23/32 Officials

23/32.a A meeting of the SOG was held on 2 May, minutes have not yet been published.

23/32.b Licensed Meet Expenses

The current licensed meet criteria state that expenses must be offered to officials. Following a complaint arising from expenses being refused, it is proposed that the wording be strengthened to say that a copy of the expenses policy must be included with the licence application and made available to all officials at the point of invitation to allow an informed decision to be made on whether to apply.

23/32.c CC gave the following update on behalf of MD, who had left the meeting:

- Pool Rules Updates are being delivered across the country
- Recruitment of additional Referee Course leaders is in hand
- Open Water Rules Update will be via an online resource which will be released shortly
- Plans to deliver the Para-swimming Rules Update are in hand

23/32.d **Training Initiative**

TB advised that he plans to use time between sessions at a forthcoming event to run drop in/Q&A sessions to identify training requirements.

23/33 Meet Licensing Unaffiliated Bodies

There continues to be issues with the licensing of events for unaffiliated bodies, primarily at the LAC. JH to work with the regional Chair to provide to support to the organisations in question. It was also suggested that consideration be given to adapting the policy with such applications being managed at a National level.

23/34 Leagues

The transgender policy will affect all leagues, as they will need to consider changes to their rules. The Arena league intend to licence all of their events, other leagues may need additional support.

23/35 Any Other Business

23/35.a There have been a small number of queries around the transgender policy relating to system upgrades and gender specific awards. FAQs are available on the website, any comments or changes should be sent to equality@swimming.org

23/35.b ML wishes to discuss the review of the pilot to include para-swimming at last year's National Masters Championships.

Action – ML to contact JP

23/35.c KB requested a review of the new supervision ratio for away trips, which team managers and coaches as distinct roles with no cross over. It was noted that any queries or feedback could be sent to clubdevelopment@swimming.org for response, this is however a cross discipline policy.

Action – CC to follow up with KB

23/36 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 13th July 2023 – 6:30pm on Zoom.