

# Water Polo Leadership Group

27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Time: 18:30 – 20:00

Attendees:

1. Ian Mackenzie (IM) – Chair/ SOC Representative
2. Chris Stephens (CS) – Officials Lead
3. Mike Hesketh (MH) – Competition Lead
4. Craig Figes (CF) – Swim England Water Polo Programme Lead
5. Elliot McHugh (EM) – Youth Representative
6. Paul Metcalfe (PM) – General Member
7. Steve Kinloch (SK) – General Member/ North West Water Polo Manager
8. Adam Older (AO) - Joint Officials Lead
9. Ekaterina Boyd (EB) – Swim England Head of Events
10. Helen Weeks (HW) - Swim England Governance Manager
11. Gareth Picken (GP) – Swim England Development Team Administrator

Regional Representatives:

1. Mike Coles (MC) – South West Water Polo Manager
2. Fina Martinez (FM) – East Midlands Representative
3. Nigel Greenwood (NG) – West Midlands Representative
4. Gabby Williams (GW) – Sheffield and the North East Representative
5. Adrian Wood (AW) - London Regional Water Polo Chair
6. Grant Peters (GPs) – Director on North East Regional Board

1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
	IM welcomed everyone to the group and introduced himself to the group as the Chair of the Water Polo Leadership Group.
2.	<b>Apologies</b>
	Apologies have been received by CF (joining late if able) and Dean Walker, East Region regional representative.
3.	<b>Conflict of Interest</b>
	No conflict of interests were raised.
4.	<b>Regional Round up and Regional Activities</b>
4.1	AW updated the group that London has restructured by not doing monthly meets for the regional training days, now they are meeting every four months with trails and National Talent centres taking place in between.  MC mentioned that they have just held their inter-regional, inter-country and inter-club competitions taking place over two days at Millfield in the South West. The South East Region and London Region were invited to bring boys and girls teams to attend the competitions; however, they were unable to bring teams. The South West has also booked eight regional training centre sessions for the duration of 2024, with a further two running until the end of 2023. The region has received a request for a referee course to take place, which MC will get in touch with CS to

arrange for November. A further request from some clubs for a table officials course has also been received and is in the process of being arranged.

GW updated the group that her region does not have a National Talent Centre so the regional members are having to travel and train in different locations depending on where they are in the region. GW raised a concern that the dates of the National Talent Centre training days are not being sent out to the regions far enough in advance for the regions to set out their regional training dates.

CF joined the meeting at 18:46 and which point IM introduced him to the group and asked for his comments as lead of the Talent Centres. CF mentioned that as a programme, they are unable to disclose which athletes are involved in the Talent Centres with the regions.

IM recommended that the athletes involved speak with their individual regions.

AW asked CF if the regions could have the Talent Centre dates so that there are no clashes.

CF agreed that this is something that could be acted on. He also recommended that the regions contact the individual Talent Centres as they are all managed slightly differently and on different dates.

GW pointed out that currently the Centres only have the dates of the training days until the end of the calendar year, whilst the regions are trying to organise regional training dates into 2024.

HW asked whether the club coaches of the athletes selected for the Talent Centres know that their athletes have been selected.

CF answered that they have not agreed with the athletes that this is what they will do so currently it is down to the athlete to inform their coach that they have been selected.

SK mentioned that in the North West, they hold regional training days only in the lead up to competitions and they only take place on a Saturday as the Talent Centre session happens on either a Friday or Sunday.

GW highlighted that the Hucknall Talent Centre have training sessions taking place on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and there is no guarantee as which day is going to be chosen.

CF replied that the Centres are currently trying to secure dates from between January through to next summer to provide more time for the regions to plan. In regards to changes in days, this seems to be a single issue with one of the Centres, which CF is going to investigate further as all the other Talent Centres train on one specific day of the week.

FM mentioned that she has received notice from one parent that their child is going to stop attending regional training days to focus on the Talent Centres, as they cannot commit to both with the potential for clashes in dates.

4.2	<p>HW suggested that outside of the meeting SE reviews how national selections/competitions and calendars are being communicated with the regions and the clubs.</p> <p>IM agreed with HW's suggestion.</p> <p><b>Action: HW to speak to Ally Whike regarding a meeting with Talent leads to discuss selections and sharing of information.</b></p> <p>IM announced to the group that he has acquired the currently number of accredited Water Polo people nationally are 6708. Regionally that breaks down into;</p> <p>East Midlands – 498  East Region - 722  London – 1235  North East - 574  North West – 884  South East – 954  South – 1283  West Midlands – 558</p> <p><b>Action – IM, through GP, to circulate the participation numbers with the regions.</b></p> <p>PM joined the meeting at 18:59.</p> <p>EB joined the meeting at 19:00.</p> <p>AO left the meeting at 19:05.</p>
5.	<b>Coaching courses</b>
5.1	<p>IM updated the group that there are five coaching courses for October and November are scheduled to take place.</p>
5.2	<p>AW asked whether it would be beneficial to start those who are 15, almost 16 years old with the online content so that when they turn 16, they are able to do the practical as soon as they turn 16.</p> <p>HW replied that currently, the SE rules require any participant to be 16 years old or older; however, this is something that could be explored further.</p> <p><b>Action: HW to follow up with IOS/SEQ and the coaching team regarding age of learners on courses.</b></p>
6.	<b>Safeguarding courses</b>
	<p>HW updated the group with the implementation of Team Manager and Chaperon Supervision policy. The policy was released in May 2024 and came into force from the 1<sup>st</sup> September. A number of briefing sessions were run by HW in the lead up to the release date however HW advised the regions that if they have any clubs that are still unsure of the change, to advise them to watch the recorded briefing session. HW also updated the regions that whilst this has always been guidance</p>

	<p>for clubs at competitions, only this year has it become official policy that clubs need to abide by.</p> <p>MC asked who is policing this policy at competitions.</p> <p>HW answered that no one is policing this policy, however if there was an issue at a competition where the policy was not being enacted on, then this would fall outside of SE's insurance policy cover for the club involved.</p>
7.	<p><b>Officials</b></p> <p>CS updated the group that it is SE policy that referees now have to wear black trousers. Some leagues have advised referees to follow the policy before making it mandatory in the new year.</p> <p><b>Action - CS to send GP the officials clothing policy change and GP to send out the policy to out to all attendees when received.</b></p>
7.1	<p><b>Update on the OJA process</b></p> <p>CS mentioned that the Water Polo Disciplinary Regulations have been updated and there is a new sanction form, which the regions need to adopt.</p> <p><b>Action – CS to circulate the updated regulations to the regions through GP.</b></p>
8	<p><b>NAGS update</b></p> <p>MH updated the group that the under 15's NAGs are taking place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December for the boys competition and 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> for the girls competition; both taking place at the Alan Higgs Centre, Coventry.</p> <p>Entries will open on the 25<sup>th</sup> October for three weeks.</p> <p>MH mentioned that he is working with EB to secure dates for NAGS in 2024.</p>
9	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Mike Coles asked whether inter-regionals are going ahead in 2024 and if so what dates are being proposed.</p> <p><b>Action – IM to get in contact with Joanna Mountfield concerning the inter-regionals 2024.</b></p> <p>IM thanked everyone for attending the meeting and pointed out that the WPLG would aim to have another meeting with the regional representative in March 2024.</p> <p>The regional representatives left at 19:28</p>
10	<p><b>Action Log</b></p> <p>IM worked through the Action Log from previous meetings.</p> <p>Actions were either complete, ongoing or were updated during the meeting.</p> <p>Action log will be shared with the minutes.</p>
11	<p><b>AOB (WPLG)</b></p>

<p>11.1</p> <p>11.2</p> <p>11.3</p> <p>11.4</p>	<p>EB shared paper regarding a change of policy for Swim England competition trophies for each discipline. The change would stop the original trophies from being awarded and taken home by the winning player/club for the duration of a year. Instead, a replica trophy would be awarded to the player/club, which could be then taken home. The rationale behind this change is that the original trophies are antiques and uninsured. The risk of damage or loss of a trophy is high.</p> <p>The group unanimously agreed to the proposed change.</p> <p>IM raised to the group that he has decided to put his name forward to become the permanent chair of the Water Polo Leadership Group.</p> <p>The group unanimously agreed this proposal.</p> <p>CS raised that the WPLG had formally agreed to the new disciplinary regulations through a round robin email.</p> <p>HW raised that two additional names have been put forward by the community for the position of LEN transfer adjudicator. WPLG agreed with the names put forward.</p> <p><b>Action – HW to send through the proposed and now agreed LEN transfer adjudicators for distribution amongst the group.</b></p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p>
	<p><b>Action – GP to establish which day of the week is best for the group to meeting moving forward and to book in a November meeting with the results.</b></p> <p><b>UPDATE: NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOV – 6.30PM START</b></p>