

Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 16th November 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
	Ian Mackenzie	Specialist Member (League Swimming)
	Richard Blackshaw	Interim Head of Swimming Talent
	Martin Lees	Para Swimming Manager
	Helen Weeks	Sport Governance and Welfare Manager
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

Guest: Ally Whike Sport Development Director

Min No:
23/50

Welcome and Apologies

23/51

Action Log

The log was reviewed:

23/7.a – main concern regarding entry distribution addressed, meeting to be held early 2024

23/35.c – document amended and submitted to SLT for approval

23/43.b – agenda item

23/43.e – agenda item

23/44.d – carried forward to next meeting

23/52

SOC Update

No updates relevant to the meeting. It was noted that the SOC minutes had not been received for circulation.

Action - JW to request the SOC administrator to provide future minutes for circulation

23/53

Development Team Update

No updates relevant to the meeting.

23/54 Talent Team Update

23/54.a RB shared an update on recent activity:

- Pathway induction sessions have taken place
- DiSE introduction sessions have been held
- Athlete plans are in place
- County and Regional Pathway selection has taken place, it will be monitored to ensure that this year's changes are having the desired impact
- Recruitment for team roles is ongoing

23/54.b ML shared slides from a presentation given to British Swimming and gave details of the plan to increase the number of athletes on the Swim England Pathway.

Action – ML to reissue the guidance on which events should be included in County and Regional level competitions

Action – ML to provide breakdown of those on the waiting list for classification by Region

23/55 Competition Planning

23/55.a **County Championships 2024**

TB intends to carry out visits to some of these events, members of the group are welcome to join him.

23/55.b **Summer Events 2024**

To prevent some of the issues that arose in 2023 around the lack of knowledge of the entry process the intention is that all relevant information will be published in December 2023. There have also been some proposals for changes to the allocation process so that entries can be confirmed in a more timely manner.

Action – BS to circulate the details of all changes before publication

23/55.c **Calendar Planning**

TB has produced a calendar for 2024 but many dates further in advance of that have not yet been published. Additionally Swim England cannot publish some information until it is in the public domain.

Action – target date for publication 1st January 2024

23/56 Coaching

23/56.a The content of the recent Swim England Coach Survey had caused some upset.

Action – TB and RB to lead further discussions on ways to improve engagement between Swim England and the coaching community.

23/57 Masters

23/57.a The National Championships and the Inter County competition have both been held but as yet there are no survey results and there has been no meeting of the MWG.

23/57.b **HCMSMG**

Jonathan Saunders is the new Swim England representative on the group, the Home Nations and British Swimming have been advised.

23/58 Officials

23/58.a A meeting of the SESOG was held on 13 November so minutes are not yet available. However the main discussion points were:

- Referee Course Leaders – online training resources are to be made available to those nominated by their Region to undertake this role
- A communication regarding the wearing of heart rate monitors by Pathway athletes was circulated
- Assistance from the Chair of the World Aquatics Technical Swimming Committee is to be sought to review the format of the Development Programme
- Swim England recently sent a representative to the UK Women Sport Officiating Forum, with the outcomes under review for incorporation in our training resources

23/59 Meet Licensing

23/59.a **Licensed Meet Results**

The new system for uploading results of licensed meets directly into Rankings by the meet organiser is now live and seems to have bedded in with few issues.

23/59.b **Transgender Policy**

This is now more embedded in documentation being submitted.

23/59.c **2024 Calendar**

Whilst we cannot publish dates unilaterally, clubs have already licensed meets round to summer 2024 in anticipation.

Action – TB to ask for publication of 2024 Summer qualification window dates as a priority

23/59.d **Protected Dates**

A review of protected dates is required. One county have already advised that they will be holding their 2024 championships outside the recognised window due to pool availability issues.

23/60 Leagues

There are also issues with pool availability, either due to rising costs or the limiting of hire time by pool operators.

23/61 Any Other Business

23/61.a **Video Judging**

As the technology is becoming more widely used it was agreed that a low-level implementation review at one of the venues used for national events might be warranted.

Action – TB to prepare a paper for SOC requesting a budget for the project

23/61.b **Winter Championships Closing Date**

It was agreed that a request to consider entry times achieved at an event taking place after the closing date be declined.

23/62 Date of Next Meeting

The 2024 dates were agreed as:

- Thursday 18th January
- Thursday 21st March
- Thursday 16th May
- Thursday 19th September
- Thursday 21st November