

Water Polo Leadership Group

29th November 2023

Time: 18:30

Attendees:

Ian Mackenzie (IM)	Chair/ SOC Representative
Chris Stephens (CS)	Officials Lead
Craig Figes (CF)	Swim England Water Polo Programme Lead
Steve Kinloch (SK)	Communications Lead
Adam Older (AO)	Club Lead
Ekaterina Boyd (EB)	Swim England Head of Events
Helen Weeks (HW)	Swim England Governance Manager
Gareth Picken (GP)	Swim England Development Team Administrator

Additional attendees:

Richard Blackshaw (RB)	Swim England Head of Performance
------------------------	----------------------------------

Apologies:

Elliot McHugh (EM)	Youth Representative
Paul Metcalfe (PM)	Support Competition Lead
Mike Hesketh (MH)	Competition Lead

AGENDA

1.	Welcome IM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced RB as the newly appointed Swim England Head of Performance, previous the National Talent officer and Head of Swimming Talent.
2.	Apologies MH, EM and PM have sent their apologies.
3.	Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest were declared.
4.	Development Update HW advised the group that from 2024, the development update will be a Sport Development Directorate update. HW explained that there are four teams within the Sport Development Team and the report will reflect them; Club Growth and Programmes – The Growth toolkit to be developed throughout 2024. Volunteering - Ripple Effect Project, funding by the Spirit of 2012 to engage volunteers with disabilities into technical official roles, has been expanded into 2024 to look into additional volunteering opportunities.

	<p>Club and Operator – The second year of the Club Health Tracker was launched in November. HW asked the group members promote throughout the community.</p> <p>Governance, Standards and Welfare – A review of the current SwimMark is scheduled for quarter 1 and 2 of 2024. No review of Club Affiliation. The new Good Governance Guide has recently been released for clubs.</p> <p>CF asked how it is being delivered to learning providers and then to clubs if multiple clubs use one venue. (Referring to the Growth toolkit)</p> <p>HW replied that she would feed this back to Becky Walker and proposed that Becky attends a meeting to discuss further.</p> <p>IM confirmed that AO should make contact with Becky Walker and get involved with the growth toolkit.</p> <p>Action – AO to make contact with Becky Walker regarding the Growth toolkit.</p>
5.	<p>Water Polo Sanctions Process</p>
	<p>CS began by mentioning that updated disciplinary regulations are working well within the BWPL. CS is working alongside Kerry at the BWPL.</p> <p>Revision with the OJA, which would be a fast track process for member on member offence, are resolved within three weeks. The revision of the main judicial review postponed until March 2024 due to external factors. CS is confident that the time that this is taking will be worth it, as it will ensure that all the work fit for purpose.</p> <p>CS and SK have been working together on a Water Polo Rules Update session. Originally, for the North West Region however uptake was poor so a national session has been proposed.</p> <p>HW mentioned that the Club Newsletter and Training newsletter could be used to promote the session. HW asked how attendees could book onto the session.</p> <p>SK mentioned that the North West have set up an online booking system.</p> <p>HW asked SK to ensure that attendees are aware that their personal details are being shared with the North West Region and not Swim England directly.</p> <p>The group agreed that the project should proceed under the SE banner and the SE zoom package so that no one misses out. SK to work with HW to promote for 4th February.</p>
6.	<p>High Level Review Group</p>
	<p>IM reported that he attended a meeting at the end of October, joined by BWPL, the National team, and the Talent team during which they considered the calendar for 2024/2025. An issue around the number of events that are taking place throughout 2024 and the low availability of venues was raised and discussed.</p> <p>CF explained further the 2024 calendar has not been confirmed but a discussion must take place for future years around the number of events and competitions that are trying to be accommodated into the calendar.</p>
7.	<p>The Action Log</p>
	<p>All the actions were completed or an update was provided in the meeting.</p>

	<p>IM informed the group that the Institute of Swimming provided the Water Polo Education Report for 2023. There are five tutors across the country who have run thirteen assistant coaches course which have been attended by 145 learners. In addition, eight coach courses have taken place, with 79 learners attending.</p> <p>Actions – IM to find out the age of the learners that have attended the courses this year.</p> <p>HW asked whether there is room in the calendar for a Water Polo conference in which coaching courses could be promoted.</p> <p>A Water Polo conference is scheduled for June of next year and there has been discussion about including officials. The concern is the demands that are already being placed on officials' times due to matches and tournaments is high without adding a conference into the calendar.</p> <p>Other options highlighted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the uptake of conferences has been quite poor in some disciplines, could the conference be combined with other disciplines? • There are discussions around the consolidation of corporate events. • The conference could take place at an event as coaches and officials will already be attending. - This has happened in the past but coaches and officials were so busy with the matches that were taking place that sessions were being missed.
8.	<p>Communication</p>
	<p>SK has been working alongside Alice Fairhall (Swim England Club Development Project Officer), who has been running a few information sessions for Water Polo clubs concerning the Club Health Tracker which was launched for year 2 earlier in the month.</p> <p>SK mentioned that uptake was low during the first year of the Club Health Tracker and year 2 is showing similar low numbers. SK is investigating to see whether this is as a result of the communication channels by which the Club Health Tracker was published.</p>
9.	<p>Club Update</p>
	<p>AO updated the group that he is still working through the information that was provided to him and is awaiting the new membership results, which should provide an accurate representation of the country.</p>
10.	<p>2024 Calendar</p>
	<p>GP provided the group with a proposed calendar of meeting dates for the duration of 2024. All meetings will take place between 18:30 – 20:00 on a Wednesday. The proposed dates were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7th February - 3rd April with regional representation - 5th June - 9th October with regional representation - 27th November. <p>Action – GP to circulate the date of the 2024 meeting with calendar invites.</p>

11.	<p>AOB</p> <p>CS brought to the attention of the group that pool operators requires that a lifeguard chair on poolside during matches. CS believe that this should be added to the risk assessment as this may cause harm to a referee.</p> <p>AO highlighted a future group response to the operators has to take into consideration their risk assessment AO asked CS to acquire some of the risk assessments from the operators affecting matches.</p> <p>EB suggested that this should be raised with SE Business Engagement Team. A new Health and Safety forum is also in place.</p> <p>Action – HW, EB and RB to look into this issue and how it can be resolved with the involvement of Business Engagement Team and the Health and Safety forum.</p> <p>IM and AO agreed to support with this work.</p> <p>IM mentioned that Inter-regional championships are taking place this weekend (2nd/3rd December) with National Age Groups the following weekend (9th/10th).</p> <p>EB highlighted that the last Members’ newsletter will be released on the 13th December, containing dates for National Age Group preliminaries and playoffs. The finals are TBC as EB is waiting on responses from the venues.</p> <p>IM thanked the group for all their work over this past year, highlighted that when he attends events, he sees the impact the group is having on the discipline.</p> <p>HW, on behalf of the group, thanked IM for his work as Chair throughout 2023.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 19:45</p>
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>
	<p>Wednesday 7th February</p>