

# Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

<b>Present:</b>	Tom Baster	Chairperson
	Joan Wheeler	SOC Liaison
	Barry Saunders	Competitions Lead
	David Broome	Technical Officials Representative
	John Hidle	Licensing Lead
	Jeroen Peters	Masters Working Group Chair
	Kevin Brooks	Coaching Lead
	Richard Blackshaw	Interim Head of Swimming Talent
	Helen Weeks	Sport Governance and Welfare Manager
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

**Min No:**  
**24/1**

## **Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mark Davies, Ian Mackenzie, Martin Lees and Euan Dale. David Broome was welcomed.

BS expressed concern about a number of papers that were circulated on the morning of the meeting. It was reiterated that the deadline for submission is 7 days before the meeting.

**24/2**

## **Action Log**

The log was reviewed:

22/27.e – no progress, to be removed.

22/65.b – paper submitted laying out National plan, will allow planning for Regional and County requirements

23/30.e – complete

23/44.d – to be covered under agenda item

23/54 – ongoing

23/55.b – paper submitted

23/56 – 2 county engagement visits arranged so far

23/59.c – no publication of dates so far

23/61 – paper submitted, approach reviewed in light of potential costs

**24/3**

## **SOC Update**

Minutes circulated; there were no other updates or questions.

**24/4**

## **Development Team Update**

Paper circulated, with verbal synopsis due to late circulation. No questions.

**24/5**

## **Talent Team Update**

24/5.a RB apologised for the late submission of the papers, due to a miscommunication.

23/54.b A brief overview was given of the review and recommendations for domestic competition for the next Olympic cycle, and proposed changes to the 2024 summer event.

Subsequent discussion raised concerns around the negative impact of late disclosure of the changes, particularly when meets in the expected qualifying window have already set their programmes and, in some cases, closed entries. It will also require a review of the required events for Level 1 licensed meets going forward.

**Actions:**

- **Group to check and challenge the document and raise issues with TB/RB**
- **RB,BS and EB to ensure that aligned approach is agreed with British Swimming and that communications are ready**
- **RB to provide a standard message for the Events team and others to use if concerns are raised after publication**
- **Target publication date – 25 January 2024**

**24/6 Competition Planning**

24/6.a **Summer Events 2024**

Whilst Swim England have published their competition dates, British Swimming are still to publish the dates of their event or the qualification window.

23/55.b **Winter Championships 2024**

A full review of the 2023 event will take place but concern has already been expressed in some quarters about the proposed 2024 dates.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the dates for 2024 would be 19-22 December, with the date going forward being fixed as the last weekend before Christmas.

**Action – EB to publish confirmed dates**

**24/7 Coaching**

24/7.a KB expressed his thanks for the work of RB and the National Coaching Panel on the development plan.

24/7.b There is considerable frustration about the lack of calendar information published so far.

24/7.c BS raised issues with the coach mentor programme in a particular region. KB advised that this is not reflected nationally – the programme is considered an important initiative.

**24/8 Masters**

24/8.a The minutes of the last meeting of the MWG had been circulated.

24/8.b The group have reviewed their ToR, which need to be submitted to the SLG for consideration.

24/8.c 2 existing members have completed their first term and do not wish to continue. Given the expressed desire of the group to become a Leadership Group, it was agreed that recruitment was not appropriate at this time.

**Action: JW and JP to continue discussions on the way forward for the MWG**

**24/9 Officials**

No report, no further meeting of the SESOG has been held.

**24/10 Meet Licensing**

24/10.a The lack of a published calendar is continuing to cause issues, as clubs are already arranging meets for the expected period of the qualifying window.

24/10.b Currently Masters and Para-Swimming events are not subject to licensing and as such, there are no officials requirements laid down.

**Action: Referred to the SESOG for consideration**

**24/11 Leagues**

No update.

**24/12 Any Other Business**

**24/12.a Low Level Competition**

A discrepancy between two Swim England regulations relating to the number of clubs that can take part has been identified. It was confirmed that the SLG agreed previously to change to the number of lanes in the pool for swimming events.

**Action: HW to progress necessary changes to align regulations**

**24/12.b Student Membership**

BS noted that whilst the Swim England website states that Student Members can enter County, Regional and national events, this is not the case.

**Action: BS to flag discrepancy to Membership team**

**24/13 Date of Next Meeting**

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March