

# Swimming Officials Group

Minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Via Zoom

<b>Present:</b>	Mark Davies David Broome Ian Lamb Ron Brewin Chris Galer Ralph Shortland Jill Beard Christina Victor Paul Kendal	Chairman North East Region West Midland Region East Midland Region East Region London Region South West Region South East Region Specialist Member – Open Water
<b>Staff:</b>	Helen Akers	Officials Development Coordinator

## 23/13 Apologies

Apologies were received from Colin Evison (NW), Terry Bream (EM), David Metcalf (E), George Adamson (SE) and Bob Outtram (Para)

## 23/14 Update from Swim England SLG

Concerns have been expressed around the Development Programme and the standard of Referees appointed for National events.

## 23/15 Update from British Swimming SOG

The points' requirements for relicensing are under review.

## 23/16 Referee Course Leaders

Due to logistical issues with the course delivery, it has been agreed that Regions may appoint their own panel of Course Leaders and the nominated individuals will be given access to the training materials. The named individuals will be include on the 2024 application form to ease pressure on existing Course Leaders with initial support for those with a first candidate being Regional responsibility.

DB has reviewed the Course Leader course content and the relevant parts will be made available to those nominated.

PK raised that there is no specific course for those wishing to become Open Water Referees – MD to raise with BSSOG

## 23/17 National Updates

23/17.a A new licence form, designed to make completion easier, had been circulated for comment – HA to pass back to Membership

23/17.b Following a query, it was confirmed by Membership that notification of membership being lapsed it only sent to the member concerned if it forms part of the annual renewal process.

## **23/18 Regional Matters**

### **23/18.a Judge 1 Training**

There was a discussion around the approach to those candidates who have exceeded the 11 month period, with a view to taking a common approach. It is important to take each case on merit to avoid the specific issues that the time limit was put in place to prevent.

### **23/18.b AQUA Rules Update 2023**

There is currently no plans to switch this to an online self-learning course. The group were commended on their exceptional levels of delivery so far.

### **23/18.c Referee Exam Time Limit**

A request for a time extension to be considered was discussed and declined – the current structure incorporated the reading time some years ago so that candidates could use it as they wished. It was confirmed that all candidates have the option to request reasonable adjustment to the exam process for specific needs.

### **23/18.d Competitor Stewards**

An updated version of the role and responsibilities has been prepared by TB – HA to circulate.

## **23/19 Any Other Business**

### **23/19.a J2/J2S Training Application Form**

The form will be reviewed to remove the option to pay by cheque and to request that it be submitted by email.

### **23/19.b Job Description for Technical Director and Promoter**

HA to circulate copies of any nationally held documents, the groups were asked to provide copies.

### **23/19.c 2024 Referee Exam Applications**

Applications will open as soon as new Course Leader details are supplied. It is possible to utilise multiple leader/group training but one nominated contact point is needed for exam and communication purposes.

### **23/19.d Gender and Sport Officiating**

Swim England participated in a multi-sport piece of research on women in officiating, JB and a Swim England representative recently attended a conference to present the results. One key outcome was the finding that some women officials gained the best outcome from having women as mentors.

### **23/19.e Heart Rate Monitors**

A group member had had sight of a document issued by the Talent team, for an athlete to present to the Referee to request to wear such a device in competition. HA/MD to discuss with Talent team with a view to wider communication of future requests.

## **23/12 Date of Next Meeting**

To be advised.