

Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 19th September 2024

Present:	Tom Baster	Chairperson
	Joan Wheeler	SOC Liaison
	Barry Saunders	Competitions Lead
	Mark Davies	Technical Officials Lead
	John Hidle	Licensing Lead
	Ian Mackenzie	Specialist Member (League Swimming)
	Euan Dale	Coaching Lead (joined at item 24/42)
	Richard Blackshaw	Head of Performance (left at item 24/46)
	Martin Lees	Para Swimming Manager (joined at item 24/44)
	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

Min No:
24/40

Apologies

Apologies were received from Kevin Brooks.

24/41

Action Log

- 24/41.a The log was reviewed:
- 23/56 – Engagement with Coaching Community
Still ongoing, there has been some discussion within the competition sub-group
 - 24/12.b – Student Membership
The apparent mismatch of information has now been corrected, BS to confirm.
 - 24/31.a – Maximum MQS Levels for Para Events
No update although JH has received a paper in his RLO role. Item closed.
 - 24/31.b – National Camp Dates
Dates being finalised, to be circulated.
 - 24/32 – 2025 Qualifying Window Extension
Initial request was declined, to be revisited at next PIG meeting.
- 24/41.b There was some discussion around the intended dates for publication of details for Summer 2025 events and the link to AquaGB. EB and RB advised that they have been made fully aware of our intention to publish in December.

24/42

SOC Update

- 24/42.a Minutes of the June meeting were circulated in advance – there were no questions from the group.

24/42.b JW raised a question from the minutes (7.1.4.i) relating to the pre-requisites for Referee training. The specific question relating to time qualified versus poolside experience was addressed some years ago, MD gave an explanation of the rationale behind the current criteria and the wider issue of encouraging volunteers to train at all levels. Suggestions from the group and other interested parties were invited.

24/42.c **ToR Update**

Following the creation of a Masters Swimming Leadership Group, two changes are required to the terms of reference of the Swimming Leadership Group:

Clause 1.1.5 removed – the membership of the SLG will no longer include the chair of the MWG

Clause 2.12 added – a reflective cause reflected in the ToRs of the MSLG which recognises that some matters span both groups and require collaboration.

These changes were agreed.

The proposed terms for the MSLG were provided for information, these are subject to final approval by the SOC.

Following a question around other potential areas to be addressed in the ToRs, CC advised that the Leadership Group review is still ongoing and further communications will be issued shortly to those involved.

24/43 Sport Development Update

24/43.a A written report was circulated in advance.

24/43.b CC gave some background to the Regional Chairs Partnership Agreement referenced in the report and the move from the previous transactional arrangement to a more collaborative way of working. Other departments will be advised and CC asked that any requests falling outside the agreement be brought to her attention. There is a concern, shared by the Regional Chairs, around succession planning for their roles.

24/44 Strategy Update

24/44.a Papers outlining the outcomes from the roadshows were circulated in advance.

24/44.b CC gave a presentation on progress of the refreshed strategy and posed two questions to the group:

- What changes would you like to see in the next 5 years?
- What changes would you like to see in the next 12 months?

Points raised in the meeting included breaking down barriers, change of culture, cost (time and financial), support for club roles and making the sport more enjoyable at entry level.

Action – members to email CC with any further reflections after time to consider

24/45 Talent Team Update

- 24/45.a Written papers were circulated in advance.
- 24/45.b RB confirmed that several learning points had been identified as a result of the first Annual Talent Survey. The results will be shared with AGB.
- 24/45.c RB confirmed that Jack Chambers is in regular contact with the Counties and monitors their pathway activity.

Action – RB to provide details of activity being undertaken.

- 24/45.c Following a comment on a paper shared recently relating to the Competition Pathway, it was felt that this was a legacy document that had been shared in error. However JH undertook to reinforce compliance with the requirements via the meet licensing process if they were to be republished.

Action – RB to arrange republication of pathway competition requirements.

24/46 Competition Planning

- 24/46.a Preparations for the National County Team Championships (6 October, Sheffield) are well underway.
- 24/46.b The conditions, qualifying times and draft schedule for the National Winter Championships (5-8 December, Sheffield) have all been published, with no adverse feedback so far. Entries will be open from 30 October to 27 November.
- 24/46.c Swim England are running the British Para-Swimming Winter Meet (23 & 24 November, Sandwell) with classification taking place on 22 November.
- 24/46.d BS advised that the 2025 summer dates would be 26 July for the Open Water Age Group event and 29 July to 3 August for the Summer Meet. Conditions for the Summer Meet will be brought to the next SLG meeting for publication w/c 9 December. The group questioned whether the decision to elongate the Summer Meet had actually been approved and what the financial implications of the decision would be. It was also agreed that a review of the open water event was needed, given the length of the competition day this year.

24/47 Coaching

Nothing to report.

24/48 Officials

- 24/48.a The minutes of the last SOG meeting were circulated in advance.
- 24/48.b A paper outlining a proposals to review and change officials' training within Swim England was circulated in advance, CC gave some background to the reasons for the project and thanked those involved for their technical input so far. The group gave approval for the project.

24/48.c The group expressed their concern over the role and relationship with the AGB Swimming Officials Group, it's perceived lack of action in some matters and unclear reporting lines.

Action – referred to SOC for escalation.

24/49 Meet Licensing

JH outlined a recent issue with licensing a National Arena League gala at level 4 in Wales. This had been resolved but raised the issue as to whether this type of league gala met the criteria for a level 4 licence. It was agreed that there were circumstances where a low-level league could be licensed at that level, but that this did not apply to the National Arena League.

24/50 Leagues

Nothing to report.

24/51 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

24/52 Date of Next Meetings

- Thursday 21st November
- 2025 Dates
- Thursday 16th January
 - Thursday 20th March
 - Thursday 15th May
 - Thursday 18th September
 - Thursday 20th November