

Water Polo Leadership Group

Microsoft Teams

27th November 2024

Time: 18:30 – 20:00

Attendees:

Ian Mackenzie (IM)	Chair
Steve Kinloch (SK)	Communications Lead
Chris Stephens (CS)	Officials Lead
Mike Hesketh (MH)	Competition Lead
Paul Metcalfe (PM)	Co-opted Member
Craig Figes (CF)	Swim England Water Polo Programme Lead
Ekaterina Boyd (EB)	Swim England Head of Events
Richard Blackshaw (RB)	Swim England Head of Performance
Gareth Picken (GP)	Swim England Development Team Administrator

Apologies:

Claire Coleman (CC) **Swim England Head of Development**

MINUTES	
1.	Welcome
IM opened and welcomed the group to the last meeting of the year.	
2.	Conflict of Interest
There were no conflicts of interest.	
Apologies	
Apologies were received by Claire Coleman.	
3.	Action Log
IM listed the actions detailed in the log. Actions were either completed or an update was provided during the item.	
IM informed the group that interviews for the Coach lead post had taken place and an appointment was imminent.	
4.	SOC Update – 15.10.24 + 26.11.24
The last SOC meeting took place the day before and therefore the minutes will be circulated ahead of the next WPLG meeting. IM updated the group on the last set of minutes which were circulated to the group ahead of the meeting. IM clarified that MSLG stands for the Masters Swimming Leadership Group as this was not detailed in the minutes.	
SK raised that the minutes say that the regional championships are run by the regional teams, whilst regions host, they don't always run the competition.	

5. Sports Development Report

The Sport Development report was circulated to the group ahead of the meeting. The new strategy has been approved by the Swim England board and is scheduled to be launched shortly. Additionally, there is ongoing development in user experience which will make processes simpler for everyone involved in the organisation.

CF raised his thanks to Josh Hardy and the digital team for his support with the development of the British Water Polo League website.

EB explained that the number and length of matches will be increased for the under 17's and under 19's competitions and therefore subsequently a small charge will be required to offset some of the cost for extending the amount of pool time.

6. Terms of Reference

IM raised that on reviewing the information on the website, he noticed that much of the information relating to the group was out of date.

SK offered to review the website further and list the areas which need updating.

Action – SK to work with EB regarding the WPLG information on the group.

In addition, when reviewing the group's terms of reference, a youth representative was not stated as a specific group member role. IM mentioned that he would raise this with the SOC for clarification.

Action – IM to speak with the SOC as to whether a youth representative is mandatory for a discipline leadership group.

7. Aquatic Plan

IM began by explaining that the discipline should support and implement the aims and objectives of the new strategy.

On reviewing the Water Polo specific aims set out by the group during 2020, IM highlighted that:

- The discipline engagement aim was 14'000 members by the end of 2024, however, current membership numbers are around 6'000.
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- Progress has been made on the development of coaches and officials with an increase in numbers throughout the regions.

Referring back to the new strategy, IM suggested a working group to implement elements of the strategy to create a Water Polo centered approach.

Action – WPLG members to contact IM if they wish to be part of the implementation group or if they have any ideas to contribute to the group.

8. AOB

PM raised that he saw a cross-parliamentary committee on swimming meeting recently take place. PM asked whether SE had representative attending the committee meeting.

Action – EB to raise with Ally White whether a SE representative attends the parliamentary committee meeting for swimming. Who is the representative?

9.	Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting will be on 5 th February.	