

# Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

<b>Present:</b>	Tom Baster	Chairperson
	Joan Wheeler	SOC Liaison
	Barry Saunders	Competitions Lead
	Mark Davies	Technical Officials Lead
	John Hidle	Licensing Lead
	Kevin Brooks	Coaching Lead
	Richard Blackshaw	Head of Performance
	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

**Min No:**  
**24/53**

## **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Martin Lees.

**24/54**

## **Action Log**

- 24/54.a The log was reviewed:
  - 24/31.b – National Camp Dates
    - RB to check these have been circulated
  - 24/32 – 2025 National Qualifying Window
    - Further request to extend declined.
    - Event details to be published w/c 9 December
  - 24/44.b – Strategy Update
    - Feedback received has been incorporated into the scorecard with publication being finalised
  - 24/45.c – County Pathway Activity
    - Currently being worked on with guidance to be issued to SLG shortly
  - 24/45.d – Competition Pathway
    - RLOs have been given flexibility for 2025, with the document to be updated in time for 2026 planning
  - 24/48.c – AGB Swimming Officials Group
    - To be raised at the next SOC meeting 26 November.
    - A meeting of the group has been pencilled in for 11 January

**24/55**

## **SOC Update**

There has been no SOC meeting since the last update.

**24/56**

## **Sport Development Update**

- 24/56.a A written report was circulated in advance.
- 24/56.b TB advised the group of elements of swimming technical officials' education that he was looking to deliver.

- 24/56.c In response to a question, CC confirmed that the Coaching Strategy has not yet been written, and that the intention is to co-create it with the coaching community.
- 24/56.d In response to a question, EB advised that there will be some liaison with AGB on the Event Volunteer Recruitment Project but that it will be led by the needs of Swim England. It will look at values as well as the job description for each role under consideration.
- 24/57 Talent Team Update**  
RB gave an update on work currently being undertaken in the areas of development camps and the performance squads, and outlined future plans.
- 24/58 Competition Planning**
- 24/58.a **Swim England Summer Meet**  
A paper outlining the proposals for 2025 was circulated in advance and BS outlined the changes from 2024. EB confirmed commitment to publish all event information w/c 9 December.
- 24/58.b **Regional Short Course Championships**  
A disparity in the number accessing the event across regions had been identified and the group discussed reasons for this, in some cases linked the level of qualifying time set. It was agreed that the purpose of the meet needs to be included in the updated pathway document and an offer to support those new to the event management role was extended.
- Action**  
RB to ensure purpose of these events discussed as part of pathway review.  
MD to extend offer of support to specific Region in question.
- 24/58.c **Correspondence re 2026 Competition Structure**  
RB confirmed that there will be no change to event requirements until the competition review is complete.  
The group also expressed around the comments in the correspondence around the lack of succession planning for key event management roles.
- Action**  
TB to contact the author regarding both topics.
- 24/59 Coaching**  
KB advised that the National Coaches Technical Panel are due to meet on 4 December.  
On that date there will also be a session after the Winter Championships Technical meeting on Coach Wellbeing, details of which had been circulated to the group previously.
- 24/60 Officials**
- 24/60.a The last meeting of the SOG was mainly concerned with the proposed development of technical officials training.  
The other subject covered was strapping for medical devices (e.g. glucose monitors, insulin pumps). A reminder was issued that a Certificate of Exception can be sought for this reason.

24/60.b TB has received an approach from Swim Ireland with a view to having some collaboration over officials training and appointment opportunities. It was agreed that for it to go ahead an MOU would be needed, and full consideration would need to be given to the financial and legal position.

**Action**

TB to respond, with copy to HA, suggesting an exploratory meeting.

**24/61 Meet Licensing**

- 24/61.a A proposal to update the licensing criteria for leagues was circulated prior to the meeting:
- To ensure that leagues licensed at the level appropriate for the standard of swimmer taking part
  - To remove the need for qualifying and upper limit times

The group accepted the proposal.

**Action**

HA to update documentation on website accordingly.

26/61.b A request was made for a reminder to be issued to Referees completing Meet Report forms that they need to be accurate when confirming whether licensing conditions have been met.

**Action**

HA to circulate suitable message.

**24/62 Leagues**

No report.

**24/63 Any Other Business**

24/63.a The group were asked to consider suitable recipients for the Harold Fern and Alfred H Turner awards.

**Action**

Names to be emailed to TB for nominations to be drawn up.

24/63.b TB advised of a situation that has arisen around an event policy of fining swimmers for missing swims in particular circumstances. Once the matter has been resolved, consideration to be given to issuing guidance. It was agreed that a formal policy may need to be considered if the issue is cross-discipline.

**Action**

TB to draft paper for consideration.

24/63.c In response to a question, EB confirmed the format of the Winter Championships.

**24/64 Date of Next Meeting**

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January