

Swimming Officials Group

Minutes of meeting held on 25th September 2024
Via Zoom

Minutes subject to approval by the Swimming Officials Group

Present:	Mark Davies Colin Evison David Broome Ian Lamb Terry Bream David Metcalf Ralph Shortland Jill Beard Bob Outtram Paul Kendal	Chairman North West Region North East Region West Midland Region East Midland Region East Region London Region South West Region Specialist Member – Para Swimming Specialist Member – Open Water
Guest:	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
Staff:	Helen Akers	Officials Development Coordinator

24/13 Apologies

No apologies were received.

24/14 Swim England Officials Training Proposal

A paper was circulated shortly in advance of the meeting outlining some proposals for reviewing and changing the current Swimming Technical Officials training processes and CC gave some background to reasons for them and how they were arrived at.

A discussion around the topic followed, with the following specific points being raised for consideration:

- Different regions currently have some differences in their application processes for J2 and J2S which may require a bespoke process going forward
- Contact details for candidates can be an issue
- In some areas the conversion rates from J1 Theory to fully qualified are still low
- Information gaps due to the timing and content of membership information provided
- Engagement of existing officials to deliver training remains an issue
- Aiming for standardisation of delivery, competence and training experience for all
- The need for training and support for course leaders, mentors and referees was acknowledged
- The need for more practical elements to Referee training - whilst this is currently an AGB programme, an English Development Programme is being considered
- The need to look at ways of engaging the audience with development opportunities

It was agreed that overall the group was comfortable with the paper in theory and that work would now start on moving forward.

24/15 SLG Update

MD advised that at the last meeting concerns were raised around the level of service being received from AGB in a number of areas relating to Swimming Technical Officials, which will now be escalated to the SOC.

24/16 National Updates

- All J2 logbooks requested so far have been sent out
- The group noted reports of licensing packs not including all items – contact should be made with the Officials Licensing team (officialslicensing@swimming.org) to resolve

24/17 Any Other Business

24/17.a Open Water Referee Training

PK requested any information available on Complaints and Protests

Action – HA to provide a copy of the relevant Swimming Referee presentation

24/17.b Mentoring CPD

JB requested that consideration be given to reviewing the previous CPD, CC advised that some form of education in the area would be part of the proposed support package for course leaders and mentors.

24/17.c Strapping over Monitors

DB advised that there have been issues with athletes being challenged over wearing strapping to protect monitors. CE advised that a Certificate of Exception could be issued for this, any other strapping is subject to the decision of the Referee on the day.

Action – HA and CC to look at messaging to the officiating and club communities to reinforce the guidance

24/18 Date of Next Meeting

- 28th November 2024