

Diving Leadership Group

21st January 2025 – 12:15 – 13:30

Attendees:

Lottie Thompson	Chair (LT)
Joel Trenchard	Volunteering Lead (JT)
Sam Buck	Coaching Lead (SB)
Sarah Barrow	Technical Officials Lead (SBw)
Sally Freeman	Competition Planning Lead (SF)
Sophie Bolton	Competition Planning Support (SBn)
Craig McCulloch	Swim England Head of Coaching (CM)
Charles Calvert	Swim England Talent and Inclusion Officer for Diving (CCt)
Claire Coleman	Swim England Head of Development (CC)
Gareth Picken	Swim England Sport Development Administrator (GP)

Apologies:

Alex Harrison	Sport Operations Committee (SOC) Leadership Group Liaison (AH)
Connie Ford	Swim England Diving Talent (CF)

Agenda

Welcome and Action Log

LT welcomed the group to the first meeting of the year.

Apologies were received by CF and AH.

LT listed the actions detailed in the action log and the following actions were discussed:

- Coaching qualification progress – CM is creating a framework to develop a new curriculum. Currently gaining feedback from stakeholders on the framework. CM recognized the Coaching team will reach out to DLG in the future to progress specific Diving developments. LT suggested SB to support with this development. CM agreed that SB should be involved in the development process.
- CC updated the group that the Judge Licensing process links to a wider development review of the membership systems, therefore this was currently on hold. It was confirmed that the technical officials lists would continue to be maintained manually by SBw.
- The Volunteer Survey action will be progressed during a meeting between Andrea Startin, JT and CC.

All actions other actions were completed.

SOC Update

LT read out a written update from AH on the latest SOC meeting during which:

- An update was provided by Andy Salmon on the Strategy and has been well received by the community.
- There is a new approach to regional-national ways of working with senior staff from each Region forming an operational group with national directors which should help communication flow and programme delivery.
- SOC terms of references have been updated to reflect new Swim England SLT roles and personnel.
- A full governance review to include all committees and their structure, roles and responsibilities is planned to be undertaken in 2025.

Development

- General update

CC provided the group with a verbal update of the Sport Development Directorate review, whilst a written version was circulated during the meeting.

Key items included the Swim England (SE) Strategy, G9, the National Awards and the Senior Leadership recruitment.

Event Update

SF has been liaising with the National Events team regarding the key roles in the National Age Groups (NAGs) Championships, providing potential names to be contacted. The Expression of Interest for judges has also been circulated.

National Skills Finals is currently in a planning phase with the first planning meeting due to be held later that week. The 2026 and 2027 Expression of Interest has been circulated to all regions with responses being received from some regions already.

Ratification of 2025 event conditions

LT highlighted that the 2025 event conditions had been approved by the DLG via email prior to Christmas. The DLG ratified the approval.

Accordingly, LT raised that there needed to be a few changes to the current 2025 competition pathway, however the current version available cannot be edited.

Action: GP to speak with Marketing team to get an editable version of the competition pathway document.

Coaching Lead Update

CM updated the group that the coaching team is undertaking some coach development work which is integrated into the talent camp structure. This opportunity is to understand better what methods of development work for coaches and what needs improving.

Volunteer Lead Update

JT explained that there is a R1 recorder course was booked in for Saturday 15th February in Plymouth.

The SE Expression of Interest form is live with three people signed up to date.

CC suggested a 'What is a recorder' content form to explain what the role is in order to generate more interest.

Action – JT to develop this and provide to Andrea Startin.

It was noted that a case study at Armada Cup could be included used for future marketing of the course.

Technical Lead Update

SBw raised that a series of J1 courses booked in for 2025. SBw is Struggling to get a date in the diary for J2 courses. There is interest within the North East region to host a J2 in Autumn 2025.

The technical officials' register is up to date. National judge cards are currently missing.

Action - SB to speak with Ian as to whether he knows where the National judge cards might be.

LT mentioned that Roger Page could be considered as Assistant Referee at the National Age Groups Championships to support Emily Saunders.

Talent Update

CCt updated the group that the funding from the School Talent Search should now have been distributed. 'Virtual talent' pilot is currently being tested in London with the aim of widening the reach to the rest of the country. SB flagged that the website needed to be updated before the launch of the pilot.

Competition dates 2026 & onwards

SF raised that National Age Groups Championships always clash with the Junior European Championships which causes pressure for some club coaches to be in two places at once and therefore whether the NAGs can be moved to an alternative date. SF also raised the closeness of all diving competitions. And suggested this could be also be reviewed.

CC raised that any consideration of moving the competitions needs to engage the Events team in terms of capacity as well as a wider view particularly for NSF which is hosted by the regions. It was noted that the date of GCSEs and A Levels should also be taken into consideration.

Action - SF to pull together a group to consider options to include the Events Team.

AOB

No additional items raised by the group.

Date of Next Meeting

18th March 2025 (possible need to move due to 8 nations championships for SB)

