

# Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Present:**

Tom Baster	Chairperson
Joan Wheeler	SOC Liaison
Barry Saunders	Competitions Lead
Kevin Brooks	Coaching Lead
Richard Blackshaw	Head of Performance
Claire Coleman	Head of Development
Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
Helen Akers	Group Administrator

**Guest:** Danielle Brayson National Technical Lead (Swimming)

**Min No:**  
25/1

## **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Euan Dale, Mark Davies, John Hidle, Martin Lees and Ian Mackenzie.

25/2

## **Action Log**

- 24/31.b – National Camp Dates  
Now circulated
- 24/45.c – County Pathway Activity  
This is now being overseen by Mike Parker, whilst the general delivery is as prescribed there are some inconsistencies and discussions around County engagement are ongoing
- 24/48.c – AGB Swimming Officials Group  
This item was covered in the SOC minutes circulated
- 24/58.b – Regional Short Course Championships  
Review is ongoing, TB to contact specific region discussed previously
- 24/58.c – 2026 Competition Structure  
Correspondence sent and County visit carried out
- 24/60 - Officiating Collaboration with Swim Ireland  
Correspondence sent but no response as yet
- 24/61.a – League Licensing Criteria  
Complete
- 24/61.b – Licensed Meet Reports  
To be communicated via SESOG at next meeting
- 24/63.a – Harold Fern and Alfred H Turner awards  
For future consideration
- 24/63.b – Fining of Athletes  
Paper drafted and circulated for comment. The general consensus appears to be to retain the option, which causes some concern

### **25/3 SOC Update**

- 25/3.a The minutes of the last meeting were circulated in advance.
- 25/3.b In response to a query around the expressed intention to make the 2025 Summer Meet “more ethical” EB confirmed that this related to the welfare of all client groups and the negative impact of the size of the 2024 meet.
- 25/3.c TB thanked JW for raising the issue of the AGBSOG as requested and advised that he had been approached with similar concerns around the SESOG. In the absence of the Technical Officials Lead it was not possible to comment further.

### **25/4 Sport Development Update**

- 25/4.a A written update was circulated in advance.
- 25/4.b The term G9 relates to a collaborative strategic working group, which is made up of a nominated officer from each Region and a Swim England representative, which will meet on a quarterly basis.
- 25/4.c It was requested that future reports include the dates of any events or activities mentioned

**Action** – RB/DB to action for future reports

### **25/5 Talent Team Update**

- 25/5.a A written report was circulated in advance.
- 25/5.b Following feedback regarding dates of upcoming DiSE events, an offer was made to provide details of the swimmers involved for circulation.

**Action** – RB to advise TB

### **25/6 Competition Planning**

#### **25/6.a Winter Championships 2024**

- 25/6.a.i BS shared the initial data from the post-event survey, which indicated that the event was generally well received, although it was noted that the sample was small related to the number at the event in the various capacities. The view of the group was also positive although it was acknowledged that there were some areas for consideration. Thanks were offered to all of those involved in the delivery of the event.
- 25/6.a.ii EB advised that an Event Management debrief meeting was scheduled for 20 January, which will be followed by a meeting of the Competitions Sub-group to formulate recommendations to the SLG for the 2025 event. It was acknowledged that the 2024 closing date was late due to the change of event dates and that this should not be replicated for 2025.
- 25/6.b UKAD Presence
- 25/6.b.i A paper was circulated in advance regarding the future approach for UKAD attendance at Swim England National swimming events.

25/6.b.ii EB and RB confirmed that the decision not to request attendance at the meet in question had been a conscious one. There was some discussion around the reasons for this and the fact that any future decision needs to be communicated so that athletes can make an informed decision around entry.

25/6.b.iii It was agreed that as the Swim England Lead on anti-doping, Anna Garside be asked to review the paper with a view to making a recommendation on a process for the decision making at future events.

#### **Actions**

- CC to forward paper to AG with a request to make a recommendation around the required process
- Recommendation to be forwarded to SLG by email for agreement, with a view to it being submitted to the March SOC meeting

### **25/7 Coaching**

25/7.a It was noted that while a lot of work had gone into the Coach Welfare talk at the Winter Championships and the feedback from those who attended was that it was excellent, some were unable to attend due the timing and the length of the day.

25/7.b Discussion took place around ways of making the Summer Meet more of an experience for those athletes attending, particularly the younger ones. Topics for consideration included elite athlete appearances, inspirational medal presenters and limelight moments.

### **25/8 Officials**

25/8.a TB reported that an online referee CPD pilot had been run with positive anecdotal feedback received. Ideas for future delivery options were discussed but it was stressed that any national delivery would need to be sustainable project with a long term plan.

25/8.b TB summarised his view of a recent County Championship visit.

### **25/9 Meet Licensing**

25/9.a The changes around League Licensing agreed at the last meeting have now been implemented.

25/9.b There was a suggestion that Regional Licensing Officers be invited to the next Regional Swimming Managers meeting.

### **25/10 Leagues**

No report.

### **25/11 Any Other Business**

25/11.a Subjects to be covered at the next Regional Swimming Managers meeting were outlined, with a suggested date of late March.

25/11.b Following a request, the start time of future meetings was changed to 6p.m. The group were also asked to reflect on whether Thursday remained the most convenient day.

25/11.c RB advised that the coaching strategy consultation stage will include 4 workshop sessions, alongside a series of surveys. QR codes are available to advertise these at County Championships.

**25/12**

**Date of Next Meeting**

- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March