

Water Polo Leadership Group

Microsoft Teams

5th February 2025

Time: 18:30 – 20:00

Attendees:

Ian Mackenzie (IM)

Steve Kinloch (SK)

Chris Stephens (CS)

Mike Hesketh (MH)

Paul Metcalfe (PM)

Tom Wall (TW)

Craig Figs (CF)

Ekaterina Boyd (EB)

Richard Blackshaw (RB)

Claire Coleman (CC)

Gareth Picken (GP)

Chair

Communications Lead

Officials Lead

Competition Lead

Co-opted Member

Coaching Lead

Swim England Water Polo Programme Lead

Swim England Head of Events

Swim England Head of Performance

Swim England Head of Development

Swim England Development Team Administrator

	Minutes
25/1.	Welcome
	IM welcomed the group to the first meeting of the year and introduced Tom Wall as the new Coaching Lead for the group.
25/2.	Conflict of Interest
	There were no conflicts of interest declared throughout the meeting.
25/3.	Action Log
	Action 1 – SK, CC and EB have reviewed the Water Polo content on the Swim England Website. Some outdated content was noted and can be updated promptly. Further conversations with the Marketing and Communications teams still need to take place to further progress with this action. All other actions were completed ahead of the meeting.
25/4.	SOC Update
	The minutes of the last SOC meeting were circulated to the group ahead of the meeting. Two points CC raised with the group;

	<p>1) Risk assessment portal – been in development for a number of years with an aim to go live later in 2025.</p> <p>2) Governance and coach compliance (Project Tower) – coach compliance with DBS checks and safeguarding training.</p> <p>CS asked whether complaints within the Water Polo community listed in the minutes were match specific and if so would then be an area of concern for him.</p> <p>RB explained that the complains initially went to Andy Salmon, but has since been passed to RB for review. The complains refer to a couple of aspects within the discipline but they are not match specific and therefore not of concern for CS.</p>
<p>25/5.</p>	<p>Sports Development Report</p>
	<p>1) CC outlined the key projects currently taking place within the Development team. These projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new strategy, - The G9 group, - The National Awards, - The Club Links project, - The Coach/Committee toolkit. <p>2) PM asked about Club Affiliation process and the amount of administrative work that is expected. CC replied that Helen Weeks, Swim England will be working with the regional teams to understand what key areas clubs must have and demonstrate and which areas can Swim England be more lenient with.</p> <p>Action - CC to pass on PM's comments to the Governance team.</p> <p>3) RB updated the group on the Coaching Strategy which is managed by the Swim England Coaching Management group. A survey has been circulated to all affiliated coaching members 300 responses have been received with 45 booked for face to face consultation.</p> <p>4) In addition, the Coach Education project is progressing well and the Water Polo Coach Professional Project has closed with 9 coaches approached for development over the next 12 months.</p> <p>5) DICE funding application was due at the end of January for the 2025-27 period. 170 athletes are on the programme across all the disciplines.</p> <p>6) CC further raised the availability of a support toolkit which will be circulated to the group following the meeting for further distribution. This toolkit will over support and workshops for clubs.</p> <p>Action – CC to circulate the toolkit to all members.</p>

25/6.	Water Polo update
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) CF explained that the senior mens and womens teams competed in the World Cup in December with the men's team finishing 10th and women's team finishing 4th both in division two. 2) The first National Training camp took place in Sandwell during January with further camps organised. Both senior teams, under 20's teams and under 18's teams alongside DISE attending. 3) Recruitment has taken place and appointment made for the coaching of both senior teams. Two assistant coaches have been appointed to the under 20's teams as well. 4) Women's World Championships qualification is almost confirmed subject to the final World Cup championships later this year. 5) The finances are a concern with World Aquatics offering £600 for a twin room per night. RB is working with Aquatics GB for a more financially viable option. 6) TW asked about the application process for the assistant coaches, especially for the women's programme. RB replied that interviews have taken place with final selection to be declared shortly.
25/7.	Events Update
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) EB updated the group that 42 teams have entered the under 17/19's National Age Groups. The draw will be published imminently. There was a discussion about the delivery of national events. 2) Under 15's women's and men's National Age Groups are scheduled for November with venues to be confirmed.
25/8.	Coaching update
	As this was TW's first meeting, there were no updates for the group.
25/9.	Communications update
	SK explained that communication is developing well and the relationship between Swim England and Water Polo England is strengthening. Additionally, there is more social media engagement with posts relating to the discipline.
25/10.	Officials update
	CS updated the group that he is sourcing officials of the National Age Groups. CS is also working alongside CF to acquire referees and table officials for the Talent Centre Games.
25/11.	AOB

	No additional areas of business. IM closed the meeting.
25/12.	Date of Next Meeting
	9 th April 2025 with the regional representatives.