

Diving Leadership Group

16th September 2025 – 12:15 – 13:30

Attendance:

Lottie Thompson	Chair (LT)
Sam Buck	Coaching Lead (SB)
Alex Harrison	Sport Operations Committee (SOC) Leadership Group Liaison (AH)
Sally Freeman	Competition Planning Lead (SF)
Sophie Bolton	Competition Planning Support (SBn)
Ekaterina Boyd	Swim England Head of Events (EB)
Claire Coleman	Swim England Head of Development (CC)
Gareth Picken	Swim England Sport Development Administrator (GP)

Apologies:

Joel Trenchard	Volunteering Lead (JT)
Sarah Barrow	Technical Officials Lead (SBw)

Agenda
Welcome and Action Log
LT welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received by JT and SBw. LT detailed the actions listed in the Action Log. Actions were either complete or in progress.
SOC Update
AH updated the group on the key areas discussed at the recent SOC meeting. Two key items were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A proposal has been submitted in relation to membership fees for 2026. This was agreed by the SOC and will next be raised at the next Swim England board meeting. - Fern and Turner awards still need to be decided on before the National Awards which is taking place on Saturday 29th November 2025.
Development
The development report was circulated ahead of the meeting; key items include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stronger clubs is one of the key targets for Swim England and as part of that work has begun to develop the national philosophy which in part is focused on sustainable clubs and the relationship between clubs and operators. - Club Health Tracker; CC asked that the group encourages all clubs within the community to engage in the project as the data received helps to shape the support and work which organisation delivers to clubs.

Events Update

A competition review paper has been circulated ahead of the meeting. This is a cross-discipline, multi-level review. Swimming and Water Polo will be reviewed first, followed by Diving and Artistic Swimming with the aim that the review suggestions will be implemented for 2027.

SF asked why the Diving and Artistic Swimming reviews are taking place after Swimming and Water Polo.

EB mentioned that the Diving Review will take place before the conclusions of the Swimming Review are established. This decision was made purely because of capacity and the amount of time each review requires.

In response to a comment raised in the competition review paper, LT mentioned that masters' divers is regulated by an external body, the Great British Diving Federation (GBDF), and not Swim England which is why there are no Swim England organised diving competitions. It was noted that the Group had previously expressed desire to include GBDF master divers as part of the Swim England competition pathway.

EB agreed that this is something that needs reviewing.

LT further mentioned that there is currently a review of the competition conditions for the competitions which Swim England do hold and questioned whether this wider review would impact on the competition conditions review.

EB mentioned that as the changes in the competition conditions review are slight changes rather than complete reformatting of competitions, this shouldn't be a problem.

Competitions Lead

- Competition Dates
- Future of Events

Ahead of the meeting, the Shaping England Diving Events paper was circulated. LT, on behalf of SF, mentioned that from the review of diving events, the only recommended change to the National Age Group performance standard was an increase from 165 points to 175 points for the Group C Girls 3m event.

In respect of National Skills Finals, it was proposed that the Group E divers should be split into two groups (E1 and E2) due to the number of athletes in that group. The Group was supportive of these changes.

Furthermore, the Group discussed the proposed changes to the Group C National Skills Finals conditions as outlined in the paper. It was agreed that these would be further developed and approval sought via email.

Claire raised that due to the recent changes in the Marcoms team, there is a drive for all communications going out to the community to be clear and understandable for a wide range

of people and therefore this needs to be taken into consideration when these changes are announced to the wider community.

25th – 28th June 2026 is the proposed for National Age Group Championships at Sandwell. The group agreed that Sandwell would be a suitable venue for 2026.

Coaching Lead Update

SB mentioned that there are a few coaching courses booked across the country. SB hasn't heard much from Craig McCulloch regarding the progress made on the coaching strategy.

CF asked if the group knew of anyone in the wider community who would be able to support the reviewing of the biomechanic elements of some of the online courses.

Action – DLG to provide CF with any contacts to assist with the biomechanics review of the online course.

Volunteer Lead Update

In the absence of JT, LT raised that a review of the of the key competition volunteer roles has taken place highlighted those volunteers at a regional, national and Aquatics GB level. This has been shared with the Swim England Events team. It was noted that further analysis could be done to identify those at club level and wider volunteer roles.

Technical Lead Update

LT explained that currently a J2 course is booked in to take place on the 4th of October in Sheffield with 12 attendees signed up. This course will be run by LT. Furthermore, a J1 course is booked for September and December.

Talent Lead

CF updated the group that the Talent Games will be taking place in November.

Athletes on the DISE programme are booked to complete the J1 course in September to widen their knowledge of the role of judges in the discipline.

The joint Swim England and Aquatics GB conference will be taking place this weekend at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

The new junior squad will have their first camps in the coming weeks. Half the group in Sandwell and the other half in Berlin.

Talent Development Centre's are being re-named as Performance Development Centres over the coming months. New contracts are being agreed with each of the 7 centres to last the next 3 years with a focus on improving the daily training environment for those on squads, in the wider club and also wider network of clubs and 5m venues, providing access to the 10m and dryland facilities for those without. There is an athlete, coach and parent focus to the workshops on offer and formal bi-annual meetings to take place to report activity and enable more support from Swim England. Bringing in operators, head coaches, regions and chairs of committees to the meetings to strengthen understanding and support.

AOB
There were no additional items of business.
Date of Next Meeting
18th November 2025 Action – LT and GP to outline 2026 meeting dates for the group.