

Swimming Leadership Group

20th November 2025

Venue: Teams

Time: 19:15 – 20:45

Attendees:

Tom Baster – Chair (TB)

Ian Makenzie - Specialist Member (League Swimming) (IM)

John Hidle – Licensing Lead (JH)

Kevin Brooks – Coaching Lead (KB) from item 3

Ekaterina Boyd – Swim England Head of Events (EB)

Claire Coleman – Swim England Head of Development (CC)

Gareth Picken – Swim England Sport Development Team Administrator (GP)

Apologies:

Richard Blackshaw

Danielle Brayson

Barry Saunders

Joan Wheeler

MINUTES	
1.	Welcome
	TB welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the year.
2.	Apologies
	Apologies were received by Richard Blackshaw, Danielle Brayson, Barry Saunders, and Joan Wheeler ahead of the meeting.
3.	Action Log
	TB explained the actions recorded in the action log. All actions were completed, updated, or paused. For action 25/47, following an explanation of the action from EB and a discussion among the group, it is the preference of the SLG that the policy should say Open/male category, however it was acknowledged that this needed to be agreed by all disciplines.
4.	SOC Update
	TB raised that the minutes of the last meeting were circulated ahead of this meeting. TB advised the group of a proposal relating to the recent World Aquatic's removal of the word 'protest' from the Protest and Appeals Process. This should be progressed by a multi-sport approach. Action: CC to track progress of the proposal for changes to Protests and Appeals and feed back
5.	Sport Development Updates
	The report was circulated to the group ahead of the meeting. The key item was the Club Health Tracker. CC asked the group to push the CHT throughout the swimming community.

	<p>TB highlighted that the report talks about attracting officials at national events which TB will cover later in the meeting.</p>
6.	<p>Talent Update</p> <p>CC mentioned that Mike Parker is temporarily working in SE to support RB whilst DB is on maternity leave. CC further raised that there as part of the SE restructure, work such as the officials recruitment are moving from the Development Team to the Events Team. Further details will follow</p> <p>Action: CC to provide update at the next meeting</p>
7.	<p>Coaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews – 24/11/2025 <p>TB raised that there are three interviews taking place on Monday for the position of Coach Lead. All three candidates come from different coaching backgrounds.</p> <p>KB raised that as part of the competition review, a questionnaire has been circulated to the community for completion. KB has been pushing the questionnaire among his contacts and asked that the group also raise the questionnaire among their contacts.</p> <p>Additionally, there is an Aquatics Great Britain (AGB) summit taking place in February during which the competition review will be discussed.</p>
8.	<p>Officials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical Officials' Training and Development - Initial Training Proposal <p>TB shared with the group a presentation, the key items of which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due the changes at AGB level, it has been agreed that each home country can take the lead on the development of technical officials. - A suggested new officiating structure is being tested with the working group as the first step towards this. Further development plans will be presented as the Working party develop them <p>The group agreed with the initial draft proposal.</p> <p>Action: TB to continue to provide the group with updates.</p>
9.	<p>SE Summer Meet 2026 / SE Winter Meet 2025</p> <p>EB raised that the subgroup has been created with the purpose of looking at the viability of the competition. Feedback received that the event is currently not a great experience for those in and out of the water. Reviewing the format of the competition, age groups, and the number of invites sent out for the event took place this year, but further changes need to take place in the future. The 2026 Summer Nationals qualification standards are being announced to the community during the first week of December.</p> <p>EB further mentioned that because of the Commonwealth Games taking place next year, the community would like the Summer Nationals to run between Mon 27th – Sat 1st Aug, with the Open Water Championships taking place on the weekend of the 25th/26th July at Rother Valley.</p>
10	<p>Other national swimming events, including SE Winter Championships 2025</p>

	EB raised that entries are still open for the SE Winter Nationals with entry number looking promising. There will also be an exhibition relay taking place as part of the competition.
10.	<p>Licensing</p> <p>Two documents were circulated ahead of the meeting. JH raised two items from the document to be discussed with the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through speaking with members of the community, there seemed to be confusion around the definition of a Level 4 meet. JH proposed that the definition used in the future should be that which is outlined in the SE regulations. The group agreed with the proposal; however, CC raised that the group needed to be mindful that if the SE regulations were rewritten, this would then be impacted. - JH proposed that Level 1 meet should have a Jury of Appeal as part of the competition. TB raised his concern that there are few people experienced in being on a Jury of Appeal, and it adds a level of complication to the competition. The group did agree that a panel should be established for major cases where expertise are required. - - There was discussion about the implementation date, and it was felt that this could not be agreed at this stage <p>It was agreed that further work was needed in this area before publication of changes</p>
11.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>EB raised there is a discrepancies between junior national records and junior trophies as one uses the date of birth of the athlete as of the 31st December and the other uses the date of birth of the athlete on the day of the competition.</p> <p>JH suggested that Swim England should follow the example of higher-level competitions which is the age of the athlete as of the end of the calendar year rather than the age of the athlete on the day of the competition. The group agreed.</p> <p>Action – TB and EB to review the discrepancies between the junior national records and the junior trophies.</p>
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>TBC</p>