

Meeting of the Water Polo Leadership Group

Wednesday 16th April 2026 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Venue: In person/TEAMS

Members	Initials	Mtg 1 11.02.26	Mtg 2 16.04.26	Mtg 3	Mtg 4	Mtg 5
Ian Mackenzie, Chair	IM	✓	✓			
Craig Figes, Swim England Water Polo Lead	CF	✓	A			
Mike Hesketh, Competition Lead	MH	✓	✓			
Steve Kinloch, Communications Lead	SK	✓	✓			
Paul Metcalfe, Co-opted Member	PM	A	✓			
Chris Stephens, Officials Lead	CS	✓	✓			
Tom Wall, Coaching Lead	TW	✓	✓			

Non-members in attendance on 15.04.2026:

Claire Coleman, Head of Aquatics Clubs	CC	✓
Richard Blackshaw, Head of Sport	RB	A
Ekaterina Boyd, Head of Events	EK	✓
Catherine Searcy (Minutes post meeting)	CS	X

Key: ✓ = Present, A = Apologies given, P = Partial attendance, X = Non-attendance

STANDING ITEMS: ADMINISTRATION	
26.15	Chairs Welcome
	IM welcomed everyone to the meeting.
26.16	Apologies
	Apologies received in advance from CF (annual leave) and from RB who is experiencing a number of technical issues whilst at the AGB Champs in London. .
26.17	Declarations of interest
	No changes or conflicts of interest were reported by any member present.
SECTION 2: Agenda	
26.20	Action Log
	<p>Mtg 28.10.25 Item 25.30 Water Polo Update: Action to be reassigned to RB from CC, as work now sits with Sport</p> <p>Mtg 10.12.25 Item 25.33 Events Update: MH to help facilitate a conversation between EB and Dave Andrews (BWPL).</p> <p>Action: MH/EB to facilitate a meeting date with BWPL</p> <p>Mtg 10.12.25 Item 25.36 Officials Update: SK has chased the Communications Team for a meeting in the near future to discuss how the volunteers can work with the team to support awareness of Water polo. Suggestion that the work completed a number of years ago by SK, CC and EB that included a pathway of what information would go through but that hasn't happened recently.</p> <p>The Communications Team has fed back that they are not receiving the information they need and in discussing this, it was identified SK could support SE staff.</p> <p>Action: EB and CC to arrange a working meeting with the Communications team and SK to progress matters.</p> <p>Mtg 10.12.25 Item 25.37 AOB: Water Polo GB Origins League application - CC believes this had stopped operating however MH and CS believe otherwise. Discussion around comms to be sent to the league as not SE affiliated, therefore no member benefits under SE.</p> <p>Action: IM to write formally to the league about the application and copy CC in.</p> <p>Mtg 11.02.26 Item 26.7 National Talent Update: No update was available. MH did provide information on potential coaching candidates who missed an opportunity for international development because of the lateness of information. The group expressed disappointment at this. IM and MH have previously informed SE of their dissatisfaction with the communication from the Water Polo Team</p> <p>There was a discussion around concerns about mistakes/issues and lack of communication involving SE that volunteers are having to work around. This has been raised with RB previously.</p>

	<p>Action: IM asked that all members send any concerns to him directly for him to then escalate to Ally Whike.</p>
26.21	<p>Sport Directorate Update</p> <p>None available.</p>
26.22	<p>Events</p> <p>EB gave a verbal update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Polo NAGS u19 female and Open Qualifiers event takes place this weekend (18/19 April) – merchandise will be there. • Branding – this is being updated following the end of the Go Cardless contract. The look and feel is intended to be more useable across all sports. • All events going well so far in 2026 – feedback has been positive. • Internet connection continues to be an issue at GL1 - this has been escalated to the operator to look into. • Under 15's event 7/8 November 2026 – start planning to see if we can get Anna Goncharenko to attend as part of the Women Who Whistle programme and engage with Nick Brooks (at SE) over comms. • Discussion around website project which is due to go live in 2027. <p>Action: EB to ask Craig Morris, Head of IT, or someone on the project, to attend a future WLPG to give an update.</p> <p>Action: Josh Hardy's presentation on Sport80 update at the SOC meeting on 28.04.26 to be shared with Leadership Groups.</p>
SECTION 3: CLOSE	
26.23	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Swim England Membership Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC informed the group that this is being relaunched to all members with focus on club experiences • Hoping to provide Leadership Groups with specific data dependent on the sample size • Please encourage the water polo community to complete the survey if you are interacting with anyone over the coming weeks <p>Officials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swim England have nominated two referees for the European Aquatic Education School – Scott Orchard and Ivan Foretic. • CC has requested AGB pay directly for it. <p>Action: CC to chase status of the payment asap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request from BWPL to add a new delegate to our list of water polo delegates for SE affiliated events – Jonathan Griffiths. The group supports this nomination to the list. • Action: CS to inform Swim Wales that Jonathan Griffiths has been approved to be added to our list of water polo delegates.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was noted that Max Gerasimov has been doing exceptionally well and has now been appointed to officiate at one of the World Cup finals.• June 2026, European Aquatics Annual Meeting – MH, Trevor Pledger, Jeff Parker and Tad Deko attended as Swim England representatives in 2025. MH requested approval to do so again in 2026. No budget is required to attend. Decision: Approved by all.
26.24	Date of Next Meeting:
	Wednesday 17 th June 2026 6:30pm – 8:30pm Via Microsoft TEAMS

Meeting closed.