

Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 21st March 2020

Via Zoom

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting

Present:

Tom Baster	Swimming Manager
Ian Mackenzie	SOC Liaison
Grant Robins	England Programmes Team Leader
Barry Saunders	Competitions Manager
John Hidle	Licensing Panel Chair
Mark Davies	Swimming Officials Group Representative
Sharon Lock	Masters/Open Water Officer
Jeroen Peters	Masters Delivery Group Chair
Martin Lees	Para-Swimming Development Manager

Staff (non-voting): Helen Akers Administrator

Min No:
20/1

Welcome & Apologies

TB welcomed JP as the new Chair of the Masters Delivery Group.

Apologies were received from Alex Harrison, with Ian Mackenzie welcomed as his substitute.

20/2

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 13th October 2019

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

20/3

Matters Arising

20/3.a 19/31.b – whilst the Regional Chairs broadly support a widening of the window, it is unlikely that the PIG will support this. Discussions around the issues caused and the implications of any changes to continue.

20/4

Confirmation on Decisions Made by Email

No decisions had been made by email.

20/5

Correspondence

20/5.a Some email correspondence had been received from one region around the decision to exclude the weekend of 14/15 March and converted short course times from the new Summer qualification window.

- 20/5.b GR outlined the reasoning behind these decisions and in anticipation of a further call in the next week, asked for a steer from the SLG on their views regarding the competitions taking place.
- 20/5.c Following discussion, the Group agreed that it would not oppose cancellation of the Summer meets.
- 20/5.d TB to contact correspondent and advise them to wait for further announcements, and to contact Chair of SOC and Swim England CEO to inform them of the view of the Group in this respect.

20/6 SOC Update

- 20/6.a IM gave an update:
- Winners of the Harold Fern and Alfred H turner awards have been agreed
 - It is not expected that the Swim England AGM will go ahead in the usual format
 - A recommendation has been made to the Board to increase the fees payable for Complaints
 - There has been a review of the Category 1/Low Level Competition criteria – TB to cover under item 20/12

20/7 Implementation Planning

Nothing to report on this ongoing process.

20/8 Competition Calendar

20/8.a Regional Championships

- 20/8.a.i School Days – the Regional Chairs were in agreement that competitions at Regional level should not be scheduled during curriculum hours. Additionally the shortening of the window to avoid the exam period has actually led to an increase in the number of events being held immediately prior to the exam period.
- 20/8.a.ii Open Finals – the reasoning for the change was discussed, however it was agreed that the timescale and process for making the proposal was not acceptable.
- 20/8.a.iii It was agreed that any proposals for changes from the Regions should be brought to the meeting of the Regions held annually in June, so that all parties are aware.
- 20/8.a.iv If the Summer Nationals are cancelled, then TB to instruct all Regional Chairs to cancel their corresponding events if they have not already done so, making the points raised moot. They can then be discussed further at the meeting of Regions in June.

20/9 Swimming

- 20/9.a Reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

- 20/9.b GR gave an update on the current situation around the cancellation of camps and programmes.
- 20/9.c The Swim England Swimming team are preparing social media message to encourage engagement around psychology, strength & conditioning, lifestyle and nutrition. Intention is to signpost other resources through a hub format and to integrate with the other disciplines.
- 20/9.d Several submissions (DiSE, Sport England) are on hold but these are not considered a priority and further guidance is expected to be issued in due course.

20/10 Para-Swimming

- 20/10.a Two papers were circulated prior to the meeting.
- 20/10.b.i Provision of Strobes – it has been identified that the gap between full provision at Level 1/2 and Level 3 meets is far bigger than anticipated by some parties.
- 20/10.b.ii Given the current situation it is unlikely that the deadline of September 2020 for Level 1 & 2 meets will be met. SLT have been made aware of this.
- 20/10.b.iii Following further discussion around reasonable adjustment requirements and athlete support, it was agreed that a position statement be drawn up and used to respond to individual enquiries, and to continue engagement with UK Deaf Sport.
- 20/10.c.i S15 Pathway – following a Complaint to the Judiciary and raising of the topic at the Regional Chairs' meeting, the guidance regarding the inclusion of deaf swimmers in the para-swimming pathway is to be reissued. In summary S15 athletes are only able to compete as para-swimmers at Regional Para-Swimming and Junior National Para-Swimming Championships. At all other competitions they should be competing in the able bodied events and not in the M/C events.
- 20/10.c.ii There was a discussion around the signposting and communication of the pathway for deaf swimmers, and the misinterpretation at various levels. It was agreed that ML would write some clear guidance, to be circulated via the RLOs to all meet organisers.

20/11 Open Water

- 20/11.a The conditions for the Masters Open Water Championships in September were approved, subject to the removal of reference to Swim England Laws. However, it was agreed that they should not be published or the event promoted in any way until a decision is made as to whether to go ahead.
- 20/11.b The decision as to whether to go ahead with the Age Group event is a Swim England one, but as it falls between the two pool events, the decision will be influenced by those. Whilst the event falls outside the current social isolation period, obviously training and qualification will be an issue, with many Regions already asking for guidance.
- 20/11.c The pool to OW officials' conversion course scheduled for May will not be able to go ahead as proposed, but consideration is being given to running it

online. However, if there are no events running then there will be no opportunity to assess competency. The lack of events may also have implications for officials relicensing opportunities.

20/12 Masters

- 20/12.a TB outlined the process leading to the appointment of JP and the ongoing actions needed to set up the group.
- 20/12.b The 12 month trial of allowing Category 1 members to compete in the Masters Inter County event is now due for review, and the SOC have supplied data for this purpose. It was agreed that TB, SL and JP would carry out the necessary review.
- 20/12.c SL advised that the programmes for Try Open Water and Start Masters are now on hold.
- 20/12.d JP raised the issue of Sportsystems using a different system to calculate points than that used by the Masters Decathlon. JP and SL to discuss further.

20/13 Licensing

- 20/13.a At the Regional meeting last June it was agreed that multi-level meets could only be held if they were for different events under different licence numbers. However in at least one Region the RLO was unaware of this and has continued to allow combined level meets.
- 20/13.b There has also been issues in the same Region with clubs disregarding the criteria around session length.
- 20/13.c JH to communicate with all RLOs for onward transmission, with sanctions being applied to clubs' future meets for non-compliance.
- 20/13.d All licences for meets to the end of May have been cancelled, no new ones are being issued for June or July with RLOs monitoring cancellations. Consideration needs to be given to applications for the autumn to avoid a standing start but with consideration to calendar congestion.

20/14 Officials

- 20/14.a As at 10th March, 333 had registered for the Judge 1 online training, 226 had completed it and 136 had uploaded their certificates and been issued with their logbooks.
- 20/14.b Obviously the cancellation of events has had an effect on completion poolside work for candidates under both schemes. A number of holding messages have been sent and a decision on extension of timescales will be made once the situation is more stable.

20/15 Any Other Business

- 20/15.a Commonwealth Games 2022
TB to contact SOC/SLT to establish who responsible for decisions and delivery. GR advised that Team Leader interviews are scheduled, venues for

swimming holding camps are being considered and that it is hoped that trials will be incorporated in the British Championships in the April.

20/15.b GDPR

The implications of the decision to restrict the availability of contact information to volunteers has been partly resolved due to the lack of events. The Regional Chairs' meeting was advised that the situation would be resolved by the end of March, TB to contact SOC if that is not the case.

20/15.c BS confirmed that there was no pressing deadline from a competition perspective to make an announcement regarding the summer meets, but the sooner the better from an athlete perspective.

20/16 Date of Next Meeting

20/16.a It was agreed to hold monthly online meetings given the current fluid situation:

18th April 10:30

16th May 10:30

20th of June was provisionally set as the date for the annual meeting of the Regions, with consideration to be given to inviting the Regional Chairs.