

Swimming Management Group

Minutes of meeting held on 23rd March 2019
at SportPark, Loughborough

Present:	Tom Baster	Swimming Manager
	Grant Robins	England Programmes Team Leader
	Barry Saunders	Competitions Manager
	John Hidle	Licensing Panel Chair
	Sharon Lock	Masters/Open Water Officer
	Verity Dobbie	Masters Working Group Chair
	David Metcalf	Swimming Officials Group Representative
	Helen Akers	Administrator

19/1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mark Davies, Martin Lees and Alex Harrison.

19/2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th October 2018 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

19/3 Matters Arising

19/3.a 18/49.a - Radios

Item is still under discussion as keen that correct specification is identified. BSa to ask Ekaterina Boyd (SE Events) for an update.

19/3.b All other identified matters arising were listed as agenda items

19/4 Confirmation of Decisions Made by Email

19/4.a No decision had been made by email. Decisions made during a conference call were listed as agenda items.

19/5 Correspondence

19/5.a The email from Bernard Simkins was noted. TB has acknowledged and will follow up with the thanks of the group for his contribution.

19/5.b A letter regarding qualification for the Summer meets was discussed and it was noted that any decisions relating to the British Swimming Summer Championships, whilst having an impact on the Home Country competitions, are outside the remit of this

group. The next review is scheduled for 2020 and there will be no changes before then.

It was acknowledged that in 2018 there were difficulties with updating the published lists of qualifiers – the administration process has been reviewed and this should not happen again.

It was also noted that a number of the issues raised related to coach education, which GR continues to address.

TB/HA to respond to original author in line with discussion.

19/6 SOC Update

19/6.a Certificate of Swimming Disability - being redesigned to include additional categories and clarify wording around rule exemptions.

19/6.b Jury of Appeal – new appointment policy still under review but it is expected to be that the Management Group will be responsible for appointing the Chair, the Chair will then select the two additional members from those available at the event as and when necessary. It was suggested that for Swimming the responsibility for appointing the Chair may be delegated to the Event Director. However any changes will not take effect until after the 2019 Summer events.

There is also a move to increase the number of individuals who can be considered for the role of Chair.

19/6.c Terms of Reference

The ToR for the Management Group have been agreed.

ToR need to be agreed by the SMG for the newly formed Open Water Development Group, as it is a temporary group these will be submitted for noting by the SOC.

ToR for the Masters Working Group were listed as an agenda item.

19/6.d 150th Anniversary

A request had been received from the Anniversary working group for consideration to be given to swimming marking the organisation's anniversary in some way. It was agreed that this would be via spot prizes at the Summer Meet, provisionally specially printed hats with the anniversary logo.

It was also suggested that anniversary medal ribbons and lanyards might be appropriate, but it was felt that this should be a corporate decision across all disciplines.

19/7 Competition Structure & Calendar

19/7.a A document outlining the various dates relating to the entry processes for the Summer meets was circulated prior to the meeting and BSa gave some background to the changes.

As Swim England entries close at the Team Leaders' meeting the reduced entry period is not expected to cause an issue. However any withdrawals will reduce the standard of swimmers eligible to enter, and this will impact particularly on the older age groups. The process also relies on the correct contact details for swimmers being held on Integra.

The change in entry process has already been publicised on social media and regular reminders are scheduled. It was suggested that Regions be asked to assist with this.

19/7.b 2019 Summer Meet

Swim England event details have now been published.

19/7.c 2019 Winter Championships

Following further discussion since the last meeting, the date has been agreed as 5th to 8th December inclusive. It was noted that this will clash with the LEN European Short Course Championships in Glasgow.

Feedback from the 2018 event was that coaches would prefer Junior to B finals.

Following discussion around the rationale for which age to use and how awards would be made for the younger age group, GR is to take matter to the next Coaches' Forum.

19/7.d Winter Championships 2020 Onwards

Taking into account feedback regarding the 2019 dates, it was agreed that going forward the Swim England Winter Championships will be held on the first full Thursday to Sunday in December.

The dates for 2020 will be 3rd to 6th December inclusive.

This may have implications for the closing date and qualifying window, which will be addressed in due course.

19/8 Swimming

19/8.a Written reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

Additional points of note:

- GR gave some background to moving distance swimmers to the Phase 3 Open Water camp rather than the pool.
- It was made apparent after the screening process that additional resources are required to safeguard the mental health of both athletes and coaches.
- Swim England will need to maintain a performance squad leading into the next Commonwealth Games to counteract fears that the British Swimming World Class squad will be reduced in the next Olympic cycle.

19/8.b Coach 2024

As there are now 50/60 coaches considered capable of delivering at a multisport event it is possible that rather than running the next programme with a new cohort of coaches, it will be used to re-educate the existing pool. No firm decision made as yet.

19/8.c Diploma in Sporting Excellence

The DiSE programme will be run in conjunction with Sport England and will replace the AASE programme. The exact format and application process is not yet known but may involve an annual submission to secure funding.

19/8.d Pre-race Activation

Whilst this is promoted by Swim England, there have been cases where meet organisers have not permitted it. It was agreed that this requires further education for organisers to be aware of the purpose, and for coaches and athletes to be aware of their surroundings and the impact on others.

19/8.e Social Media

BSa raised comments that had been made on social media regarding attendance by the Performance Centre coaches at BUCS. GR confirmed that the comments were factually inaccurate and the coach concerned had been spoken to. He also confirmed that there is an intention to increase the number of Performance Centres, although future support may not be financial.

19/8.f Team Selection

It was commented on that of athletes and coaches at the recent event in Nice, the most northern representative was from Derby. GR has recognised this and it will be addressed in the future.

19/8.g Regional Championships Standardisation Proposal

This was circulated prior to the meeting and it was accepted that there had been some issues with events in 2018.

There are also concerns that some Regions are planning to run their events on 3 consecutive weekends in 2020, without considering the implications of this decision.

To try and ensure a clear and unambiguous delivery of the requirements going forward, it was agreed that this will be delivered face to face at a meeting of Regional Swimming Managers and Regional Licensing Officers on 22 June 2019.

GR will also include in his presentation to the Regional Chairs at their next meeting on 8th May, although it was acknowledged that this is not necessarily the best forum for event specific items.

19/9 Para-Swimming

19/9.a A written report was circulated prior to the meeting.

There were two comments on the Pathway section:

- It was not mandated that Regional Para-swimming Championships be held in March and October
- The National Junior Para-Swimming Championships is not a Swim England event

19/9.b TB gave some further background to the issue that arose at a County Championships, as referenced in the report, and advised that the Para-Swimming team have been tasked with leading on education in this respect.

JH advised that the Regional Chairs have also asked for a guidance document and this request has been discussed with the Chair of the SOC. It was agreed that this matter would be covered in the proposed Regional meeting.

It was also suggested that more training was required for officials, which will be passed back to the SOG.

19/9.c It was commented that issues had been caused at events when swimmers not suitable for classification were being put forward, resulting in disappointment for athletes.

19/10 Open Water

19/10.a The Development plan for 2019 and beyond had been circulated prior to the meeting and SL gave some background as to how it had been structured. It was identified that the Competition section sits under this group.

19/10.b It was noted that many of the Regional representatives at the initial meeting on 5th January 2019 had an officiating background, which had resulted in a narrow view of some areas of the plan.

19/10.c It was agreed that there was a need to prioritise areas of the plan for the next 12 months. A meeting will be held of interested parties to coincide with the National Age Group Championships, to present the plan and identify priority items.

19/11 Masters

- 19/11.a** Proposed Terms of Reference for a group to replace the current Masters Working Group were circulated prior to the meeting. VD gave some background to the form and content.

Following discussion, whilst acknowledging the amount of work put into the proposed document, the Group agreed that in its current form it was too lengthy and prescriptive with the concern being that it may restrict the work of the new group going forward. VD and SL to revert to the authors with a view to producing a broader document limited to the proposed role of the group, which could then incorporate the responsibilities into its operations as it sees fit.

- 19/11.b** It was agreed that the current group could continue until a new structure was in place to enable an orderly handover.

19/12 Meet Licensing

19/12.a Licence Levy

It had been commented at the recent meeting of Regional Chairs that the levy had not been increased for some time. Following some discussion around the rationale for an increase and the way the levy was used it was agreed:

- The levy is a nationally set fee
- There will be no change to the amounts at this time

19/12.b Purpose of Licensing

Originally licensing was introduced as a method of ensuring that times entered into Rankings were fit for purpose. Over time this has changed to include standards over and above those required for that purpose i.e. strokes, backstroke ledges. During discussion it was acknowledged that whilst these standards are important, licensing may not be the correct method for them to be enforced. It was agreed that these issues would be addressed at the meeting of Regions in June.

19/12.c Strokes

No update has been received on progress against the published timeline for introduction.

19/12.d Qualifying Window

A social media comment had been identified regarding level 1 meets in the qualifying window being able to accept entries from swimmers in age that cannot qualify for the Summer events.

19/12.e Licensing Documentation

All of the updated documentation is now available on the website, it is up to each individual RLO to enforce the use.

19/13 Officials

- 19/13.a** A meeting of the group was held on 13th January 2019, with the main item of note being the progression of the development of online Judge 1 training.

19/14 Next Meetings

19/14.a The following dates and venues were agreed:

- Tuesday 30th July 2019 – Sheffield
- Sunday 13th October 2019 – Radisson Blu, Castle Donington
- Saturday 21st March 2020 – SportPark, Loughborough

A conference call will be held in January 2020 if required.