

# Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2019

Crowne Plaza Royal Victoria, Sheffield

**Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting**

**Present:**

Tom Baster	Swimming Manager
Barry Saunders	Competitions Manager
John Hidle	Licensing Panel Chair
Mark Davies	Swimming Officials Group Chair
Sharon Lock	Masters/Open Water Officer
Martin Lees	Para-Swimming Development Manager

**Staff (non-voting):** Helen Akers Administrator

**Min No:**

**19/15**

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Alex Harrison, Verity Dobbie and Brian McGuinness. Grant Robins had advised that he would be late but was ultimately unable to attend

**19/16**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

**19/17**

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**19/18**

**Confirmation Decisions Made by Email**

No decisions had been made by email.

**19/19**

**Correspondence**

The main area of correspondence had been the Terms of Reference for the Group, with some queries from TB to the SOC still outstanding.

**19/20**

**SOC Update**

19/20.a No update due to late withdrawal of AH, TB to discuss with Chair of SOC.

- 19/20.b TB outlined the defined roles required for the group going forward, additional roles can be filled but are subject to SOC agreement. There was some discussion as to whether filling some roles with volunteers would conflict with staff appointments and whether there would be any liaison across the same role in different Leadership Groups. The impact of maximum terms of appointment on succession planning was also raised.
- 19/20.c It is not intended to replicate the roles on the sub-groups because of the duplication and cost implications.
- 19/20.d The revised Terms of Reference for the group were accepted in principle but there are reservations about some specific areas. TB to draft a response from the group to the SOC, to be copied to the group for comment.

## **19/21 Competition Calendar**

- 19/21.a Written reports were circulated prior to the meeting. Whilst GR had expected to be able to attend, he was unfortunately delayed at staff interviews.
- 19/21.b Following a request from Events, BS to speak to GR about a later closing date for the 2020 Winter Championships.
- 19/21.c Provisional dates for events for 2021 were included in the papers.
- 19/21.d Following the meeting of Regional Swimming Managers on 22 June, TB expressed concern that the shortened window had led at least one region to consider holding their Championships in 2020 on a school day which the group agreed was not acceptable. GR to be asked to advise the PIG group of this consequence whilst consideration is to be given to all licensing applications for 2020 Regional Championships to be subject to review by the SLG.

## **19/22 Para-Swimming**

- 19/22.a A written report was circulate prior to the meeting.
- 19/22.b Online discussion regarding the recent classification of an individual had highlighted the need for support to athletes and their families in such situations.
- 19/22.c JH and ML to take for issue arising as a result of an inclusive event being held in the East Midland Region which is badged as a regional event.
- 19/22.d The criteria for receiving an invitation to the British Summer Championships (55 long course points) had led to a swimmer with a significantly higher number of short course points entering the Swim England meet. ML and BS to address before the summer 2020 events.

Additionally Swim England do not currently have a minimum qualifying level. However as a number of athletes are currently awaiting reclassification it was agreed that this would be considered again for the 2021 event.

- 19/22.e ML gave an outline of the current waiting lists for classification and the costs involved.

- 19/22.f Following a situation that arose at the British Swimming Summer Championships it was confirmed that only events that are sanctioned by the WPS need to be run under WPS rules and use the appropriate paperwork. TB to issue a statement covering this, along with the issues raised at the recent RSM meeting.

### **19/23 Open Water**

- 19/23.a A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting regarding the possible introduction of an event series, utilising existing regional events. Following discussion it was agreed that as all regional events are currently open, it was unlikely that such a series would add any value. Consideration to be given to extending the season by utilising additional events outside the current window leading up to the national championships.
- 19/23.b It was confirmed that a number of issues relating to open water officials' training had been discussed at the recent British Swimming SOG meeting and were already in hand.
- 19/23.c There had been a recommendation from a recent Health & Safety Steering Group meeting that the role of Safety Officer be considered an operational rather than technical official role. It was agreed that an outside agency be contracted to deliver the requisite training to at least one individual from each region before the start of the 2020 season, to be paid for by Swim England.

### **19/24 Masters**

- 19/24.a ToR, as amended after the last meeting, were circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion subject to a number of changes. SL to submit amended document to HA for transmission to SOC.
- 19/24.b Job Description for Chair circulated prior to meeting. It was agreed that the Chair will also be the Swim England representative on the HCMWG, SL to update accordingly.
- Recruitment to commence once ToR agreed, SL advised that the incumbent post holder will not be applying. TB or alternative SLG representative to be included on the interview panel.

### **19/25 Licensing**

- 19/25.a Secondary Strobes - Following the recent circulation of an email to Regions, a number of discrepancies between the contents and what was agreed by the SLG had been identified rendering the dates quoted unachievable.
- It was agreed that the current position, where conditions state whether or not a secondary strobe will be available, will continue until such time as the audit of current provision and requirements has been fully and correctly completed, and that it is expected that this will be carried out by Swim England staff and not volunteers. HA to advise RLOs.

### **19/26 Officials**

- 19/26.a The next meeting of the Swim England SOG is scheduled for 28 September.
- 19/26.b Following an open recruitment process, Margaret Roberts has been appointed to the British Swimming SOG as Open Water Specialist.

**19/27 Any Other Business**

- 19/27.a BS advised that British Swimming have now made it a requirement that the pre-event technical meeting be run by the Event Officer, with the involvement of others as required. It was agreed that this change would not be adopted by Swim England.
- 19/27.b BS advised that he has a meeting arranged with Tim Jones and GR for October to discuss events.
- 19/27.c SL advised that an adult athlete code of conduct is under consideration, the group confirmed that there were no objections in principle.

**19/28 Date of Next Meeting**

The following dates and venues have been agreed previously:

- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – Radisson Blu, Castle Donington
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 – SportPark, Loughborough

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