

Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Swimming Official's Leadership Group Meeting
Wednesday 18 October 2023 @ 19:00 hrs

Present	David Metcalf (DM)	Manager – SE ER SOLG
	Yvonne Stead (YS)	Regional Director – Not Present
	Louise Mackie (LM)	Bedfordshire
	Sarah Nootboom (SN)	Cambridgeshire
	Jane Howell (JH)	Essex
	Jonathan Pope (JP)	Hertfordshire
	Stewart Murray (SM)	Norfolk
	Stephen Christian (SC)	Suffolk

Also Present: Gerry Metcalf taking notes

- 23/31 Apologies**
23/31.1 Apologies received from Chris Galer Norfolk (substituted by Stewart Murray) and Yvonne Stead - Director
- 23/32 Declarations of conflict of interest**
23/32.1 None declared.
- 23/33 Previous minutes**
23/33.1 The minutes of the 14 June 2023 were circulated and approved following the meeting.
- 23/34 Matters arising**
23/34.1 None.
- 23/35 Ratification of items agreed since last meeting**
23/35.1 None.
- 23/36 Activities completed since the last meeting**
23/36.1 **World Aquatic Rules Updates**
There have been further updates on smaller scales, often one 2 one deliveries to enable renewal of BS Official's Licences
22/36.2 **Swim Meet Software**
The updates to prevent volunteers applying to officiate or be mentored for regional competitions from outside the Region is still to be updated. Software is saving valuable time of volunteers. DM to continue to monitor the software and liaise with Richard Dexter as and when required.
Action: DM

- 23/36.3 **BS Para Officiating CPD**
DM has delivered a further CPD on 23 August 23 which 51 participants attended, majority were from within the region.
- 23/36.4 **Para-Swimming Gala – 17 September 23**
First gala back after Covid, 12 classifications of athletes completed. Entries lower than anticipated, this was reflected across the country.
- 23/36.5 **Regional Masters Championships – 1 October 23**
LM updated the meeting that the Championships was held in Newmarket, the scoreboard had been repaired and working. The meet went well with no issues.
- 23.36.6 **Regional Referee Training**
A course took place at Chippenham VH, on Saturday 14 October 23, attended by Chris Galer (CG), Gerry and David Metcalf. Seven candidates attended the refresher day prior to the national examination being held on Saturday 4 November 2023.
- 23.36.7 **WA Rules Update**
JH ran a further WA Rules update on 10 October 23, 26 technical officials attended.
- 23/37 **Activities planned before the next meeting**
- 23/37.1 **Regional SC Championships**
Planning for Regional Winter SC Championships in Luton are underway, applications are open for Official's Applications via Swim Meet. Gerry Metcalf is the Technical Director. Entries close on 18 October 23.
- 23/37.2 **British Swimming Para Officiating CPD**

DM will be delivering a BS Para Swimming CPD for Technical Officials on Wednesday 3 January 2024 @ 7pm. Further details to be updated and circulated shortly.
Action: DM
- 23/38 **British Swimming/Swim England Updates**
- 23/38.1 **British Swimming Referee Course Leader Training**

DM updated the meeting that he had heard that the only further information was that he heard verbally that there may a course in the autumn of 2023. To date no further information or confirmed date have been forthcoming. DM was not confident that anything will come of it, the process had been going on since the SE SOG Meeting in March 2022, it appears no one is taking ownership (BS SOG/SE SOG). The impact of inertia, will affect the volunteers and athletes going forward.

At the date of the meeting new Regional Referee Course Leaders Darren Peck, Henry Watkinson, Jane Howell, Louise Mackie had not received any communication, access to documentation or information from British Swimming/Swim England. DM to continue to pursue the issue.
Action: DM

23/38.2

SE Transgender and Non-binary competition policy

Swim England have developed this competition policy with respect to transgender (“trans”) and non-binary individuals. This includes reference to anyone whose gender identity or expression is different to the gender assigned to them at birth.

The categories are designated as:

- Female – athletes with a birth sex of female
- Open - athletes with a birth sex of male, trans or non-binary competitors and any competitor not eligible for the female category

This policy refers only to Swim England competition (including those organised by our member Regions, Counties and Clubs) and was implemented on **1 September 2023**.

Further information can be found on the Swim England website:

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/swim-england-transgender-non-binary-competition-policy/#competition>

23/39

Referee Training and Examinations

23/39.1

There will be no central BS Referee examination in November 23. Individual course leaders are arranging invigilation for their candidates.

9 Candidates are expected to take the examination.

23/39.2

BS Referee Training Course 2024

DM/CG are planning to run in 2024 a series of training sessions, face to face, at Freckenham VH, Suffolk if there is sufficient demand. Demand will be reliant on resits and new applications for the 2024 national course. This course, as on previous occasions (pre Covid), is there to complement the theory work of the Referee Course Leaders and not intended to replace it.

DM to plan for the 2024 budget and dates which will be circulated to all regional course leaders.

Action: CG/DM

23/40

County Matters within SE East Region

23/40.1

Virtual delivery of Judge level 2/Judge Level 2S (starter) courses by Counties within the Region

DM thanked those who were present at the meeting who had already volunteered to assist in the running of online courses. DM asked for help in providing more dates for applicants. Since the last meeting JP, CG and JH have volunteered to assist in running online courses. The more County Coordinators participating spreads the load and allows more options for working trainees.

DM requested dates from the beginning of December 2023 onwards for J2 & J2S courses into 2024.

Action: All

23/40.2

Training Workbooks

DM asked which Counties post the printed bound copies of the BS supplied judge level 2/2S workbooks to new candidates. All confirmed they supplied new candidates with BS workbooks and the WA rules update amendments.

23/40.3

Judge level 1 poolside experience

DM reminded everyone that county coordinators must also check that the candidate has attended level 1 or 2 galas either during their mentoring as a judge level 1 or post qualification before they can move onto judge level 2 training.

Action: All

23.40.4

Judge Level 2/2S Theory sessions and Mentoring Requirements

DM reported there had been instances in Cambridgeshire where candidates had attended poolside mentoring sessions, **had some competences signed off before they had attended the first theory session.**

DM reminded everyone that no mentoring shall take place until candidates have attended the first theory session, be it online or face to face.

The meeting was reminded that JL2/2S trainees must have mentored experience at licensed galas level 1 or 2. For JL2S trainees, only shadowing a starter at these levels is allowed.

Action: All

23/40.2

County Updates

A discussion took place by County coordinators as to what was going on within their own Counties and future planning.

Problems /Issues encountered etc:

Bedfordshire

No Beds ASA county website
Swim-Meet manager about to be purchased
Now SE Bedfordshire-new polo shirts just to arrive
No discussion about black trousers

Cambridgeshire

No Executive, no meetings, no information
No discussion about black trousers

Essex

Nothing to report, black trousers from 1/9/23

Hertfordshire

Black trousers for county championships

Norfolk

Low level of uptake for judge 2 training
Black trousers for county championships

Suffolk

Brought in black trousers in January 2023
JL1T coming through are interested & very keen

23/41

SE ER SOLG Development Plan and Annual Budget

23/41.1

SE ER SOLG Plans for 2023 – the latest referee training day added to the budget

DM will start to produce a draft plan for 2024 shortly.

Action: DM

23/42

Issues/Recommendations to the Regional Board/Operations Committee

23/42.1

None

23/43

Any other business

23/43.1

DM notified the committee that he has been appointed to the Paris Para-Olympics in 2024 as an International Technical Official.

23/44

Confidential items

23/44.1

None

23/45

Next Meetings

23/45.1

The next meeting is scheduled take place by Zoom on Wednesday 17 January 2024 @ 7pm.

Date no 2 by Zoom - Wednesday 8 May 2024 @ 7pm

Date no 3 by Zoom – Wednesday 9 October 2024 @ 7pm

County representatives were reminded to notify DM of the details of the substitute if they could not attend a meeting.

Abbreviations used in swimming

SEER	Swim England East Region
SEER SOLG	Swim England East Region Swimming Officials Leadership Group
SEER SLG	Swim England East Region Swimming Leadership Group
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
SE SLG	Swim England Swimming Leadership Group
SE SOG	Swim England Swimming Officials Group
SE SOC	Swim England Sport Operations Committee
BS	British Swimming
BSSOG	British Swimming - Swimming Officials Group
TK	Timekeeper
Judge Level 1/2/2S	Judge Level 1 – Judge Level 2- Judge level 2S (Starter)
CTK	Chief Timekeeper
HA	Helen Akers – Swimming Officials Development Coordinator (BS/SE)
WPS	World Para Swimming