

**Swim England East Region**  
**Minutes of the Swimming Officials' Group Meeting – by Zoom**  
**Monday 12 October 2020 7.10pm**

<b>Present</b>	Mr. David Metcalf (DM) Mrs Louise Mackie (LM) <i>No Representative</i> Mrs. Kay McGuire (KM) <i>No Representative</i> Mr. Chris Galer (CG) Mr Stephen Christian (SC) <i>No Representative</i> Mr. David Robinson (DR) <i>No Representative</i>	Manager – SE ER SOG Bedfordshire (joined meeting at item 20.27) Cambridgeshire Essex Hertfordshire Norfolk Suffolk Disability Masters Open Water
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Also participated – None

**20/19 Apologies**

20/19.1 Apologies received from Paul Kendall – Open Water.

**20/20 Declarations of conflict of interest**

20/20.1 None.

**20/21 Previous minutes**

20/21.1 Previously circulated and agreed after the meeting - Agreed and accepted.

**20/22 Matters arising**

20/22.1 **Additional Strobe Lights – Hearing Impaired Swimmers – 20/04.1**  
See item 20/27.1

20/22.2 **Mentoring CPD – 20/04.1**  
DM advised that there had been no further updates since the last meeting.

**20/23 Novel Corona Virus – Covid-19**

20/23.1 Ongoing restrictions UK wide, no face to face officials training to take place

**20/24 Ratification of items agreed since the last meeting**

20/24.1 Nothing ratified.

**20/25 Activities completed since the last meeting**

20/25.1 Activities cancelled due to Covid-19.

**20/26 Activities planned before the next meeting**

20/26.1 Activities cancelled due to Covid-19

**20/27 British Swimming (BSSOG) / Swim England SOG (SE SOG) updates**

20/27.1 **Strobe lights – Hearing impaired swimmers**

This issue is still ongoing and has been affected by the SE shutdown. DM advised that there had been no further updates since the last meeting.

20/27.2 **Withholding of contact data for technical officials**

This issue is still ongoing and has been affected by the SE shutdown. This was an item at the last SE SOG meeting, there may be some progress with data for **licensed officials only** being sent by SE membership to Regions to assist with membership retention in light of the concern that membership may drop in 2021. DM had emailed County reps asking for assistance on the matter, only one reply received back. DM has submitted a report concerning the subject to Swim England.

20/27.3 **Swim England Level X swimming competition**

Nationally ten clubs have been selected to pilot Swim England's brand new swimming competition ahead of its official launch later in October. Level X Racing is a club time trial held in training with results being submitted to Swim England's Rankings database.

Basildon & Phoenix SC, City of Norwich and Flitwick Dolphins SC were chosen from the region.

Full details of the proposed Level X swimming will be published at the launch. CG gave an update of his involvement with Level X at City of Norwich. LM reported that Flitwick Dolphins had good feedback, although she had no involvement.

SE are currently updating the "Refereeing Swimming" beginners guide to enable the officials at Level X swimming sessions to have an understanding of the referee role.

20/27.4 **Referee Examinations and Training**

British Swimming officially cancelled the November 2020 Referee examination on 22 September 2020. DM had been updating candidates and course leaders with information had been sent from SE SOG. This was to ensure all parties were aware, as access to contact details has been an issue due to Helen Akers being furloughed.

20/27.5 **Judge and TK (Theory and mentoring) Training**

Since lockdown began in March through to the end of August, more than 170 candidates have completed their online training nationally. 23 candidates from the East completed this online theory training, unfortunately no contact details have been provided by SE to allow regional or local contact direct. (See 20/10.1 & 20/27.2).

<https://www.swimming.org/sport/judge-1-theory-success/>

SE are considering allowing candidates helping at Level X competitions to complete the TK theory part of the online judge level 1 and qualify as a TK (without practical assessment).

Judge level 2 & judge level 2S cannot currently be delivered face to face but can be delivered using online meeting facilities such as Zoom, Microsoft teams, Skype or FaceTime.

20/27.6 **Safeguarding and DBS checks for Course presenters**

DM discussed the issue of the current requirement for course presenters to be DBS checked and have a current Safeguarding certificate. DM outlined that there had been a discussion nationally with Claire Coleman on this. There was a general agreement that as there were no "one to one" contact only with candidates, DBS and Safeguarding should not be necessary. (Currently Wavepower Safeguarding states that it is a requirement.)

Courses are not put on by the region, counties do this. Consequently, the region will not be paying for costs of DBS and Safeguarding courses.

**20/28 County matters, updates from representatives**

20/28.1 **County Championships**

DM reported that Swim England has confirmed it is committed to doing everything it can to enable the County Age Group Swimming Championships take place in 2021.

However, due to the ongoing coronavirus restrictions, it is highly unlikely that these events will be able to take place in their usual January/February time slot.

To that end, Swim England has announced that the normal window will be suspended until later in the year.

An alternative window will now run from late May until 18 July 2021, with a further racing opportunity opening up for counties later in the year, so older swimmers sitting exams will be given the chance to participate at an appropriate time.

Meetings have been held with Regional and County Swimming Coordinators on a regular basis and will continue over the coming months to put plans in place for the revised county window.

<https://www.swimming.org/sport/county-age-group-championships-window/>

20/28.2 **Regional Championships**

DM reported that Swim England has also confirmed the current plan is to run Regional Championships within their usual window and it will be making every effort to enable this to happen. Further details to be confirmed.

20/28.3 The meeting discussed arrangements that were in hand locally within counties. It was acknowledged that the current situation is making it hard to make plans regarding officials training.

- 20/28.4      **Swimming Pools**
- Discussions took place regarding pools not yet open, one in particular UEA Norwich which is currently open, will be closing for four months later in October for essential maintenance.
- Many clubs have had a return but with restricted pool time available and or increased costs.
- 20/29                      SE ER Four-Year Development Plan and Annual Budget**
- 20/29.1      DM outlined that the current development plan like many other disciplines has been cancelled. The region has indicated that development can take place as long as it is cost neutral. This is hard to achieve regarding swimming officials; it was acknowledged that we support other aquatic disciplines.
- 20/30                      Regional Referee Training**
- 20.30.1      It was agreed that the planned regional trainee referee theory training in early 2021, at the regional office is cancelled. It was agreed the intensity of the training input, was not suitable for zoom type delivery and candidates would have to liaise with their course leader.
- The 2021 national training process is yet to be published by BS due to the unknown outcomes of Covid-19.
- 20/31                      Issues/Recommendations to the Regional Management Board**
- 20/31.1      No issues.
- 20/32                      Any other business**
- 20/32.1      None
- 20/33                      Confidential items**
- 20/33.1      None
- 20/34                      Next meeting**
- 20/34.1      No date was decided as the national situation on easing lockdown/restrictions. A meeting would be held in Autumn 2020 or sooner if required by Zoom.
- Meeting closed at 20:20 hrs.

**County representatives are requested to send a substitute when they cannot attend.**