



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Water Polo Leadership Group Meeting
25th June 2025

Present	Ian Mackenzie (IM)	Director Representative
	Tim Whitwham (TW)	Bedford
	James Walker (JW)	Chelmsford SC
	Martin Vinter (MV)	Colchester
	Jackie Spinks (JS)	Hitchin

Also present: James Salmon (Jsa), Regional Manager, and Emma Winter (EW), Regional Administrator.

25/10 **Apologies**

- 25/10.1 JSa opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was declared inquorate.
- 25/10.2 Apologies received from Dean Walker (DW), Water Polo Manager, and Jonathan Lowy (JL), Hertford SC.
- 25/10.3 JSa reported that owing to personal circumstances DW has decided to step down as the Water Polo Manager.
- JSa explained that regional activity will be put on hold until a new manager is in post.
- JSa reported that he and EW will try to keep things going.
- 25/10.4 JS asked about the recruiting of a new manager and whether there is a job description.
- JSa reported that there will be an advert, but if anyone present is interested in taking on the role and wishes to put their name forward, that would be appreciated.
- JSa confirmed that there is a job description and this will be sent out, together with a nomination form, to anyone who is interested.
- 25/10.5 IM reported that it will be taken to the Board on Tuesday 8th July and once the Board have made a decision to advertise then it will be advertised on the website.
- IM asked JSa to send the job description to everyone at the meeting.

25/11 **Declarations of conflict of interest**

25/11.1	None declared.
25/12	Previous minutes
25/12.1	The previous minutes had been circulated.
25/12.2	The minutes were approved.
25/13	Matters arising
25/13.1	There is one item outstanding from the previous meeting - the team selection policy.
25/13.2	JSa reported that this was discussed at the last meeting and the policy had been circulated post meeting for feedback. JSa asked if anyone had any feedback on the policy.
25/13.3	JS raised the matter of having parent coaches being able to take a team if their child is in that team. She suggested that the only way this could happen would be if another coach makes the selection.
25/13.4	MV commented that it is very difficult to get all the players to a Regional Academy training session for selection because of large distances to travel. JS also added that there have been issues with other water polo events being on the next day and parents not being willing to give up two days.
25/13.5	IM asked everyone to look again at the team selection policy ready to discuss it once the new manager is in place.
25/14	2025 Plan and Budget
25/14.1	JSa reported that the plan for 2025 has not been followed, especially around Regional Academies. So far three sessions have been cancelled as they were not organized. Three sessions are booked for the rest of the year. One on 13 th September at Haberdasher Askes' School, one on 18 th October and one on 15 th November, both at Chelmsford.
25/14.2	JSa stated that once the dates for the remaining Inter-Regionals are confirmed, the pool sessions can be used for team selection.
25/14.3	JSa reported that the budget is slightly off track, with less income, but also with less expenditure.
25/15	Updates from representative
25/15.1	MV reported that Colchester are hosting a tournament in a week's time for the under 15s. Seven teams have been invited.

- 25/15.2 IM asked if MV would be able to run a table officials' course.
- This will not be possible this year, but MV will consider it for next year.
- A discussion took place around table officials' courses and level 2 coaching courses.

25/16 Any other business

- 25/16.1 JSa raised the need to select coaches for the Inter-Regionals.
- JS agreed to take on both the under 14 and under 18 girls' teams.
- MV agreed to take on the under 14 boys' team.
- TW suggested contacting Adam Page to see if he would be interested in taking on the under 18 boys' team.
- 25/16.2 JSa advised that there is a Water Polo Summit being held on 3rd July in Manchester and asked if anyone would be interested in attending on behalf of the Region.
- TW asked JSa to send him the information about it and he will see if he would be able to attend.
- Action: JSa to send TW the Water Polo Summit information.**
- 25/16.3 JSa reported that the Swim England awards are now open for nominations.
- 25/16.4 It was confirmed that JS can start reaching out to the under 18 girls to pull them together.
- EW will support JS as necessary.
- 25/16.5 JS asked if the Region has a list of Water Polo referees.
- EW and JSa confirmed that the Region does not have a list.. EW asked JS to send her the names and contact details of the people she knows.
- IM suggested that EW contacts Chris Stephens to ask him for a list of referees.
- Action: JS to send EW names and contact details of referees**
Action: EW to contact Chris Stephens regarding a list of referees
- 25/16.6 IM reported that World Aquatics have changed the rules of the game as from 1st July.
- The pool will be reduced to 25 metres for all games.



25/16.6.1 As from 1st July possession will be 28 seconds rather than 30 seconds and 18 seconds rather than 20 seconds.

Swim England will be adopting the new rules from the 1st July, so the timing system needs updating.

25/16.6.2 Teams are now composed of 14 players rather than 13.

25/16.6.3 IM reported that Chris Stephens will establish the full details of the changes and they will be circulated.

25/17 Confidential items

25/17.1 No confidential items.

25/18 Next meeting

25/18.1 Next meeting will be arranged once a new manager is in post.