

British Water Polo Leadership Group Meeting

Wednesday 27 November 2019

Summary

1. Attendees

The meeting was chaired by Fergus Feeney.

Attendees included:

Alan Anderson: Chair of the Scottish Water Polo Committee.

Jack Buckner: CEO of British Swimming

Fergus Feeney: CEO of Swim Wales, Board member of British Swimming with oversight of Water Polo.

Andy Fuller: Water Polo Development Manager for Swim England.

Julian Knight: Finance and Policy portfolio holder with the Swim Wales working party for Water Polo.

Sharon MacDonald: Director of Development at Scottish Swimming.

Ian Mackenzie: Swim England President and Interim Water Polo Leadership Group Chair.

Victoria Waters: Regional Development Manager for Swim Wales with oversight of Water Polo.

George Wood: Sports Development Director for Swim England.

2. Terms of Reference

The Group shall review draft Terms of Reference and confirm these at the next meeting. Sub committees could be established for core areas if considered appropriate.

3. Working Relationships

The recent meeting held by the CEOs of British Swimming and the Home Nations saw an agreement on key responsibilities for each of the respective bodies.

Home Countries:

Development of the sport from Learn to Swim into water polo

Talent pathway

Domestic competition pathway

Home Country international competition pathway

Robust selection policies for domestic squads, teams, coaching staff etc.

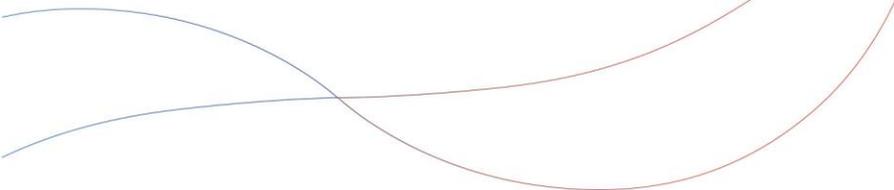
Development of coaches and officials

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Domestic governance structure
Management of budgets, including parental contributions where appropriate
Promotion and media coverage of the sport at domestic level.
Provision of Home Country kit to domestic representative teams and squads
Support UK Sport bids and bid for Home Country Sports Council funding

Collaboration across the Home Nations would be important to agree performance standards, metrics, selection policies, coaching qualification standards, officiating qualification standards and so forth.

British Swimming:

Development of the international competition pathway for British teams
Governance and leadership of the sport at British level - initially through the Home Country and British Swimming Management Group
Provision of robust selection policies for Great Britain teams and squads - players, coaches, team staff.
Administration and management of the International Transfer Certificates - liaising with Home Countries as appropriate
Management of budgets, parental contributions etc. for British teams and camps. (This can be outsourced to a Home Nation if required against an agreed SLA.)
Promotion of the sport at British level
Provision of team kit to British teams and squads.
Submission of plans to UK Sport.

4. Talent Programmes

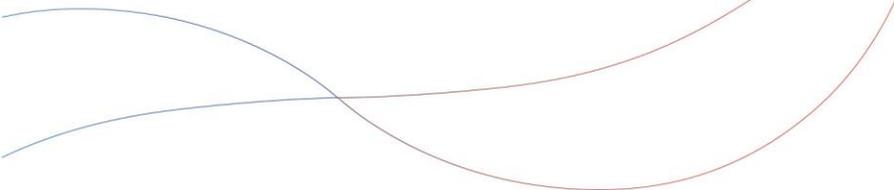
British Swimming have engaged David Meli to work on a submission to UK Sport. This is to be against their new criteria, performance matrix, and situational analysis. This is a multi-stage process with an initial submission in late 2019 followed by work in early 2020.

Alongside the work on the UK Sport submission, wider planning for British activity will begin under the auspices of this group. This will build upon the work undertaken in the UK Sport submission but will recognise that investment may not be forthcoming from this process.

In respect of current activity there are two European Championships scheduled for 2020. These are for the U19 age bracket. Both have squads preparing for the tournaments as representatives of Great Britain.

For all other age brackets (U17 and Senior) Home Nations can plan activity for 2020. During 2020 this group will convene to review requests to sanction entry for teams in these age brackets into future events as Great Britain, confirm coaching and management personnel, and establish the economic model for activity.

A formal process for sharing national talent programme activity and resources will be established to ensure consistent standards and an effective dovetailing into British activity where relevant.



5. Development, Competitions and Events

The current participation profile across Great Britain is roughly as follows:

Wales: c380 registered persons

Scotland: c1000 registered persons

England: c7000 registered persons

As part of the planning work being undertaken in each Home Nation a coordinated calendar will be established to support wider collaboration.

Work streams will require prioritising but sharing learning and where appropriate, resources on coach education, officials training, volunteer training, and club development will be part of the long-term work of the group.

Competition programmes (as part of development) should be looked at in terms of how they support widening participation and talent development. These should form part of a coordinated calendar and comprise bespoke domestic activity, collaborative activity and effective partnership working with third parties. From an English perspective, the work being undertaken by David Meli will shape future English activity and this will need to be borne in mind.

Ian Mackenzie confirmed that he had been asked to be involved with the British Water Polo Championships. The group recognised the value of the competition and would ensure open communication.

The hosting of international events was considered important. The need to have the Talent Plan in place was recognised so the group could establish which events could be bid for and what process should be in place for ensuring that any hosting process complies with British Swimming requirements. As it stands, following discussions with venues, there will be no bid for hosting a qualification tournament for either of the U19 squads in 2020.

6. Communications

A clear internal communications plan will be finalised once the Terms of Reference are finalised. In the interim, members of the group will continue to liaise on areas of work as discussed in the meeting.

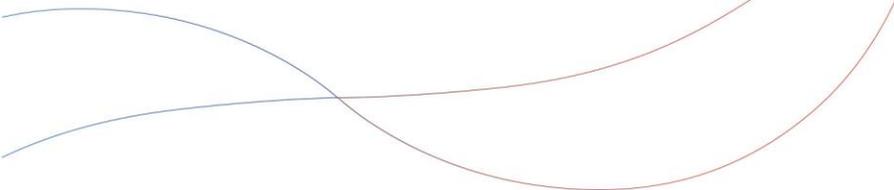
Once complete, a summary of any plan led by the group, will be published alongside periodic progression updates.

A summary of the discussion points from each meeting, including attendees, will be published after each meeting.

7. Coaching and Officiating

A Level 3 coaching certificate is being developed. The next meeting for the working group on this will take place in early December in Loughborough.

There are 2 officials currently active on the FINA list and 3 currently active on the LEN list. The Group agreed that the same officials would be nominated for 2020 for retention on the list.



FINA List: Mike Jukes; Max Gerasimov

LEN List: Mike Jukes; Max Gerasimov; Damien Taylor

Criteria will be agreed at the next meeting for the nomination of officials to attend FINA and LEN schools and for submission to the FINA and LEN lists.

8. Wider Business

Integra, the membership management system for England and Wales, will be updated for January 2020 with each player being made aware of the International Transfer Regulations and their need for compliance as part of the registration.

Scotland have a different IT system and will implement changes accordingly.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for early 2020.