

Coaches Technical Panel Minutes

Minutes of the CTP held 18 September 2019, 1030 – 1230hrs
Room B11, Airthrey Castle, Hermitage Road, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA

Present

Ally Whike (AW)	SS Performance Director
Alan Lynn (AL)	SS National Coach
Morag Mitchell (MM)	Coach Representative (Midland District)
Kostas Kalitsis (KK)	Coach Representative (East District)
Brad Hay (BH)	Additional Coach Representative
Samir Ahmed Fernandez (SAF)	Guest coach
Brian Dalgleish (BD)	Guest coach
Andrew Addison (AA)	Guest coach
Shona McCallum (SMcC)	SS Executive Officer, Performance (minute taker)

Item

Action

1. **Apologies**
Phil Reid (PR), Chair; Ian Wright (IW), Coach Representative (West District); Gregor McMillan (GMcM), Coach Representative (North District); Ross Douglas (RD), Additional Coach Representative. In PR's absence it was agreed for AW to Chair the meeting.
2. **Notes from previous Meeting**
Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record.
3. **Actions from previous meetings**
28 June 2019
Item 4: AW summarised the data provided by DMcK at the previous meeting adding that consideration was to be given to further analysis on the Top 50 data looking at length of time to reach Top 50 and duration within Top 50 including whether there was a number of times that athletes dropped-in/out of the Top 50. AL added that discussion taken place at the Coach Symposium and detail uploaded onto HIVE.

Item 5: AW sought confirmation around removing 50m events from events for 15/under in line with the Selection Policy and as part of the effort to encourage swimmers to compete in more distance events. Discussion took place on the potential budgetary impact for meets which the group considered would be minimal and CTP were supportive of removing these 50m events whilst highlighting the need for consideration when planning the programme for SNAGs to avoid any conflicts.
AW noted the process for making this change with consultation to take place with both Swim Committee, for agreement and British Swimming, to ensure a continuity of events in the various Championships, adding that if the process was successful there would be a requirement for a clear message to be communicated.

Other items as detailed within Actions document.

4. **CTP Terms of Reference**

AW advised that at the first meeting of each season the Terms of Reference were reviewed to ensure their relevance with an openness to any suggestions for change.

The core group were confirmed, with the approach taken to additional coaches from the area where the meeting is being held invited to attend, agreed.

AW ran through each of the core areas for CTP with discussion taking place on a couple of the items. AL commented on the Institute Network Service Provision feedback, reporting on SNOG with recent changes being made to the group and requirement to impart details of the work being carried out by the group to other relevant areas, which includes CTP. AL advised that Nikos Jakubiak would attend the next CTP meeting on 6 November to this end, adding there was a possibility that Neil Shanks may also attend.

SAF questioned the possibility of the invited additional coaches being tasked with providing detail relating to a topic/new idea that the group may be looking to discuss at the meeting, which would allow them to make a positive and more productive contribution to the meeting, with AW/AL advising on the topic.

The Selection Criteria were discussed with the option of inviting coaches at a different stage within clubs/athlete journey, being raised.

AL updated that Andy Figgins was currently looking at the possibility of pulling a coaching group together the evening before Short Course to establish some type of Coaches forum, which could then have the potential to bring their points of view to CTP. This Forum would be a separate identity away from SS

5. **SNAGs/Summer Meet 2020**

SNAGs

Following on from Item 5 within the Actions and the drive to remove 50m events for 15/under athletes, concern was raised on the importance of 50m events for certain technical skills with further discussion ensuing in relation to SNAGs, particularly with regard to the objective of the meet as a National Championship. Consideration was given to athletes' preparation for SNAGs and whether this was solely for 50m events or if it was longer distances with the added bonus of swimming a 50m event, with technical skills part of this preparation. The option of including the 50m events with the proviso that a swimmer must be entered in the same event in a longer distance was put forward, however it was felt that other opportunities existed for competing 50m events. The question of whether the events would be removed from the British Summer Meet was raised with AW to take forward with BS noting the general vibe to remove the event, and dependent upon BS response will determine whether this will happen this year or next.

AW

Summer Meet 2020

AW highlighted the clash of dates (10-12 July) with the European Juniors, taking place during the same period in Edinburgh, and the resulting move of the Scottish Summer Meet to Glasgow. AW commented on the philosophy of holding both meets at the same time feeling that this should not happen. AW provided options of moving the meet to either the week before, straight after Scottish National Open, or the week after, straight before the British Summer Meet, and sought feedback on preference from CTP. Comment was made that the original date of the meet had been straight before the British Summer Meet but had been pulled back due to school holiday period. Discussion took place on both options along with the number of days the competition would be held over and the scheduling of events with or without the 50m events, resulting in a consensus for the later date. AW commented that he would look to gain further feedback from the coaching community by addressing the question on HIVE, advising that both options would need to go to Swim Committee for their feedback on 26 September, following which confirmation of the date would be made public by the end of the month.

AW

Discussion then took place on the Scottish National Open Championships and the role of the event in its current format whilst looking to ascertain the purpose of the meet in the future. AW advised that traditionally it had been a preparation meet for European and World Championships, but with the ever changing environment and swimmers looking at 2-day prep. meets rather than 4-days was there some way it could be made more attractive to gain increased numbers competing to ensure it remained viable. Various viewpoints were held; from it being an attractive meet to attend through to suggestion on changing the number of days, or changing the format dependent upon location. However, after discussion it was agreed that the current timing and format of a 4-day meet should remain, acknowledging that the meet is used for different purposes for different

people with an acceptance of less entries when the meet is in a less favourable geographic location.

6. **Calendar Planning**

AL updated that following earlier discussions he would update the calendar to reflect what was discussed with confirmation of an updated calendar to be issued at the end of the month, commenting that SS Squad activity dates were currently provisional.

AL

AW reported that BS were looking to establish a 10-year plan, with a paper being put together for a 4-year rolling cycle issued 2years in advance, commenting on the benefits this would bring to all when making plans, adding that BS events for the following year were due to be advised by the end of the week.

AL commented that SS would look to have available dates relating to Commonwealth Games preparation for the November CTP meeting and advised that SS would look to take a small group to the US National Winter Championships from 2020 onwards providing the event reverts to SC yards giving both athletes and coaches the opportunity of an excellent skills orientated learning experience, focussing on process and goals.

Clarification was sought on when SS and Districts set dates, with AW advising that Districts set their dates and SS highlight meets that will provide the opportunity for development of athletes as and when they arise. Comment was made on athletes having to make choices with both viewpoints being held.

7. **Coach Development**

AL referred to the Symposium which was now in its 4th year, commenting that he felt it was improving but was interested to hear the viewpoint of the coaches either positive or negative.

Those who had attended provided positive feedback on the speakers from Basketball, noting the massive benefits from them previously being athletes as well as being motivational particularly around promoting females in sport, commenting that it would be interesting to have similar from a male perspective next year. The use of the Wallace High School pool for the practical session provided a more realistic option and providing the acoustics were improved would be the choice for future events, with feedback on the workshop beneficial in highlighting the importance of the swimmer/coach relationship. In general it was felt the Age Group strand was much improved on previous years. Feedback on the Senior Coaches workshop, where an inside view was provided, was also positive with coaches finding it really useful to hear how things were in reality along with establishing what the Senior coaches were looking from the development coaches with healthy conversations and debate taking place.

AL noted that Coach Development was progressing behind the scenes with further updates to be provided at the next meeting.

8. **Updates**

S.N.O.G

British Swimming

SNOG

AL commented on the newly reformed group with updated and agreed Terms of Reference with both a core group which would attend all meetings and extended group attending alternate meetings, adding that the meeting dates were set with both CTP and AHPG meetings arranged to dovetail.

British Swimming

AW reported on the recent attendance of AW/AL at a PIG meeting where the main objective was to update the group as a result of the current format not achieving what it set out to. AW updated that the group was now reduced in size with 4-5 meetings scheduled each year with Agenda's specific to the time of year and additional guests being invited based on the Agenda topic. AW commented that he felt this was a positive move forward and sees the group as being custodians of the sport

The second part of the day focussed on the planning cycle with each sport being asked by UK Sport to submit a 1-page document requesting investment, not just for the next 4-years but up-to and including 2032. AW commented that BS were a bit further on in the process than the other aquatic disciplines and would look to bring any updates to the next CTP meeting following the PIG meeting on 23 September.

AW advised that World Class swimmer decisions would be advised later in the week along with para-swimmers.

9. AOB

AW made note of the excellent performances over the summer, adding that the 4 swimmers attending the Para World Championships had all achieved medals.

- 10. Date of next meeting:** 6 November 2019, 1030hrs – 1230hrs
Meeting Room 2, Royal Commonwealth Pool,
Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BB