

Draft

Swim England South West Region Water Polo Committee Meeting **Date:** Thursday, January 16th, 2025 **Time:** 7:00 PM onwards **Location:** Zoom (virtual meeting)

Attendees:

- Simon Tomlinson (Chair, Water Polo Committee)
- Mike Coles (SESWR Water Polo Manager)
- Jim Robinson (SESWR Water Polo Finance Officer)
- Chrissie Robinson (Chair, SESWR)
- Steve Williams (SESWR Manager)
- Nick Hume (Head Coach)
- Sue Webb (Talent Centre Administrator)
- Phil Whiting (BWWPL Representative)
- Bradley Poole (Somerset Representative)
- Kit Greenslade (Devon Representative)
- Laura Kania (Gloucester County Representative)
- Becky Bellett (Regional Academy Girls' Administrator). Joined at 19:45 hours
- Dominic Granville (Regional Academy Boys' Administrator). Joined at 19:45 hours

Absent with Apologies:

- John Spicer (Boys' Head Coach)
- Glen Mitchell (Dorset Representative)
- Toby Hogg (Cornwall Representative)
- Chris Selby (Wiltshire Representative)

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1. Simon Tomlinson opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1. Simon Tomlinson declared his interest as the owner of Wyvern Swimwear, a supplier to swimming and water polo clubs.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

3.1. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

4. Head Coach Update (Nick Hume)

4.1. Nick Hume provided an update on the academy, noting the recent U11s competition and the upcoming U8s competition.

4.2. He highlighted the need for more coaches, particularly female coaches, to get involved in the regional academy and talent centre programs.

4.3. A discussion followed about the need for more training sessions before competitions to improve player familiarity.

- **Action Item:** John Spicer and Nick Hume to consider scheduling friendly matches before competitions.

5. Regional Academy Numbers and Age Groups (Simon Tomlinson)

5.1. Simon Tomlinson requested a breakdown of academy attendees by age group to identify potential deficits and inform recruitment strategies.

- **Action Item:** Mike Coles to provide a breakdown of academy attendees by age group.

6. John Spicer's Report

6.1. John Spicer's report was taken as read. It reiterated the need for more coaches and highlighted some clashes in the boys' calendar.

6.2. Laura Kania (Gloucestershire representative) offered the assistance of newly qualified coaches from Cheltenham.

- **Action Item:** Laura to send contact details of potential coaches to Mike Coles.

7. Swim England Calendar and U18s Dates

7.1. Mike Coles noted that the U18s competition dates were missing from the Swim England calendar.

- 7.2. Simon Tomlinson provided the provisional dates for the U18s competition (4th/5th October and 18th/19th October) as emailed by Joe Mountfield.
- **Action Item:** Mike Coles to add U18s dates to the calendar and circulate to the committee.

8. Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (Mike Coles)

- 8.1. Mike Coles presented the Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan for 2025.
- 8.2. He highlighted a vacancy for someone to lead the plan due to the resignation of Paul Robbins, the former Vice Chairman of the Regional Board.
- **Action Item:** Anyone interested in the Diversity and Inclusion role to contact Mike Coles or Chrissie Robinson.
- 8.3. Chrissie Robinson mentioned an EDI forum on February 19th that people could sign up to attend.

9. Finance Update and 2025 Budget (Jim Robinson)

- 9.1. Jim Robinson expressed concern about the lack of communication from the Finance Director of the Region regarding the 2025 budget and financial reports.
- 9.2. Chrissie Robinson offered to intervene and set up a meeting with Geoff to obtain the necessary financial information.
- **Action Item:** Chrissie Robinson to arrange a meeting with Jeff and Jim Robinson to discuss the budget and financial reports.

10. Regional Player Fees and Academy Session Fees

- 10.1. Mike Coles proposed raising the fee for players to represent the Southwest from £30 to £35 and increasing the regional academy session fee from £15 to £18.
- 10.2. A discussion followed about the need to increase participation before raising fees.
- **Action Item:** All county representatives to actively recruit more players to the regional academy.
- 10.3. The committee agreed to defer the decision on fee increases until the next meeting, pending the outcome of the recruitment drive.
- **Action Item:** Mike Coles to draft an email to go out to all parents asking them to pay on block for the Regional Training Academies at £15.00 per session (£120.00) for the administrators to send out.

11. Inter-counties Competition

- 11.1. Mike Coles proposed tweaking the Inter-counties age groups to include U11s and U13s, playing on smaller pitches, but dropping the senior competitions, both male and female.
- 11.2. Kit Greenslade (Devon representative) confirmed that Exeter might provide three-quarter size goals for the competition.
- 11.3. The committee agreed to maintain the entry fee at £150 per team, with a potential discount for counties entering all four age groups.
- 11.4. A discussion ensued about whether to separate the U17s competition into boys' and girls' categories.
- 11.5. The committee agreed to maintain the entry fee at £150 per team, with a potential discount for counties entering all four age groups.
- 11.6. A discussion ensued about whether to separate the U17s competition into boys' and girls' categories.
- **Action Item:** Kit Greenslade to arrange transport of goals to Millfield for the Inter-counties competition.
 - **Action Item:** Mike Coles would ask Taunton Deane Water Polo if the region could use their goals at the competition, as the region did provide a grant to purchase the goals, and arrange for transportation.
 - **Action Item:** County representatives to gauge interest in U17s entries and report back at the next meeting.

12. Regional Academy Updates (Becky Bellett and Dominic Granville)

- 12.1. Becky Bellett and Dominic Granville joined the meeting to provide updates on the regional academies.
- 12.2. Dominic reported a significant increase in new players (47) for the upcoming academy session, mainly from Exeter.
- 12.3. The committee discussed the need to address the disparity in participation between boys and girls.

13. Confirmation of Payments

13.1. The committee confirmed that all payments for regional academy sessions and competitions were up to date.

14. Coaching Courses (Mike Coles)

14.1. Mike Coles provided an update on upcoming coaching and refereeing courses.

14.2. He mentioned an assistant water polo coach course starting on February 2nd and a referees course planned for April.

14.3. Simon Tomlinson emphasized the importance of continued mentoring for newly qualified referees.

15. Questions from County Officers

15.1. Kit Greenslade raised two points:

15.1.1. Clarification on the Inter-counties date (confirmed as dependent on pool availability).

15.1.2. The need to update the Southwest website with current information.

- **Action Item:** Steve Williams to address the outdated information on the Southwest website.

16. Any Other Business

16.1. No other business was raised.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting

17.1. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th, 2025.

18. Adjournment

18.1. The meeting was adjourned at 20:30 hours.