

Midlands Coach Forum Notes

Thursday 9th April, 2020

50 coaches across the East & West Midlands attended the first joint coach's forum held online.

Swim England staff in attendance: Helen Weeks (West Midlands Club Development Officer), Amanda Swan (West Midlands Regional Club Development Officer), Fiona Conway (East Midlands Regional Club Development Officer), Sue Paget (East Midlands Club Development Officer), Tom McManus (Para-Swimming Talent Coach), Richard Blackshaw (National Talent Officer)

Tom McManus and Richard Blackshaw gave an update from a Para-Swimming and England Talent perspective.

British Para-Swimming

- 1st April 2020, British Para-Swimming ended the 2019-20 season
- Attend no more competitions/camps 2019-20 season
- Planning new activities from 1st September 2020 with a focus to peak at the Paralympic Games ^[1]_[SEP]
- Continue to support athletes remotely
- Mid-season athlete reviews will still take place on 27th April 2020 and will look to confirm athlete programme places until 31st December 2020, extending the current programme year by 3 months ^[1]_[SEP]
- Early season athlete reviews will take place in December 2020 to check progress towards new annual goals and review programme places

England Para-Swimming

- Cancelled all National talent events until the end of June
- 4th & 5th July National Junior & Youth Development camp will be reviewed at the start of June but likely to be cancelled
- All Talent programme athletes will have their 2nd review of the 2019-20 season in June 2020
- Athlete selections for the 2020-21 season will be completed in July 2020
- We are working in partnerships to remotely support England Talent athletes
- Weekly training programme/schedule of events is in place and communicated each week
- All England talent athletes, parents and coaches have access to a variety of resources via Box (cloud system)
- All Regional training programmes have been cancelled until September 2020

- National Coach Development programme June workshops transferred to online delivery, additional 1-1 coach feedback session to be offered in June and July
- Planning underway for all Regional and National athlete and coach development programmes starting from September 2020

England Talent Update

- Joining the Forum doesn't go against the rules of Furlough as long as you haven't been asked to attend by your employer and it is for connecting purposes

Swim England support and activity has been divided into 4 different task forces to ensure clubs, workforce, athletes and events are ready to return to action

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/action-plan-podcast/>;

1. Clubs/Structure

FAQ's constantly updated

Case studies

Club guidance <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/club-coronavirus-toolkit/>

Covid-19 budget tool

Survey

2. Work force

Online workshops for volunteers and paid staff including officials, coaches and other club volunteers

3. Engaging members

4. Events

- Regional forums are being carried out for Club chairs
- Sport England have a grant application for £20mil with possibly more made available <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds/community-emergency-fund>
- Information document of remote coaching updated <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/criteria-land-work-home-coronavirus-outbreak/>
- Example videos regarding how clubs have been remote coaching and how they have set up.

Swim England material available weekly via youtube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbdK9FG_t6ENQRhds_NNtXQ

Content includes:

Technical

Psychological

S&C

Connecting

This will be generic and also Swimming, Artistic swimming, Water polo and Diving specific

- Regional Conferences will be online and a tentative date of the 6th of June has been set
- Talent pathway is likely to look very different next season along with the selection policies but I don't have any details to give out at present
- The talent team are working hard to support the Performance squad with gym sessions, meetings and the continuation of the Metro fit survey and monitoring.
- The talent team are working hard to support the junior squad with a Q&A session with Aimee Willmot on dealing with the Covid 19 situation and swimming in general
- Competition calendar is likely to look different next season but I don't have any detail on this at the moment
- UK coaching have released a variety of coaching CPD opportunities which you normally have to pay for
- Curious coaches club
- Connected coaches
- Themes for future forum meetings
- Detraining/Maintaining video Claire Lobb
- OADF
- I am here to support anyone I can in any way - RB

Questions / concerns raised by the coaches

- Coaches are keen to receive a timescale and guidance on when the competition programme for the rest of the year will be released

Action: Fiona Conway to take to competition task force / John Hidle to raise at SLG

- Will there be a new selection criteria for National, Regional and County Camps and will guidance be provided on this?
- The qualifying window – what happens now? There is now a big hole for licensed meets and events?

Action: FC to take to competition task force / JH to raise at SLG

- Will National / Regional / County qualifying times remain the same? Clubs would like to see guidance on this Nationally

Action: FC to take to competition task force / JH to raise at SLG

- The Senior Leadership Group Meeting where decisions will be made about the competition calendar will take place on 18th April, coaches have requested another meeting following the SLG for an update – Midlands Coach Forum will take place on a weekly basis as planned so an update can be provided once officers have information to relay.
- Coaches raised a concern around the opening of facilities, once they do open, will competitions be able to take place or will mass gatherings still be restricted? We can't answer this question or provide guidance from an NGB perspective until we have further guidance from the Government.

- Coaches would like to see Swim England provide guidance on the required lead in time, once swimmers are back in the water, will there should be a specified time frame before competition can begin for all clubs?

Action: FC to take to competition task force / JH to raise at the SLG

- Coaches would also like Swim England to provide guidance to clubs on re-entry into the water, will this be led by the Government, Leisure Centres or the NGB?
- Coaches would like to receive guidance on a return to open water swimming, suggested that this could potentially be sooner than pool swimming due to the nature of the sport?
Action: to be raised to the relevant task force

Next Forum – Thursday 16th April @ 6pm