



DORSET COUNTY ASA

NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Dear Dorset Clubs and Members

With our swimmers gradually heading back to the pool, but life still anything but "normal", our aim is to keep our clubs informed with news relating to aquatics sports in Dorset. This is our first County newsletter and if there is anything you would like to see included in a future issue let us know at dorsetasa@gmail.com. Can we please remind you that the Swim England website also has a wealth of regularly updated information to support clubs and members.

County Management

Since 7 April County business has been the responsibility of a DCASA Emergency Committee, which has met monthly and the minutes of those meetings can be found on the Information pages of the County website. Earlier this month we asked our clubs and members of the Association Executive to approve the appointment of a DCASA Emergency Management Board so that County business can continue during these unprecedented times in accordance with our constitutional rules. The response was an overwhelming 90% "Yes" vote from the membership. Management of County business can now continue until such time as meetings can be convened.

DCASA 2019/20 officers have also agreed to remain in post to help maintain communications until an Annual General Meeting can be held. They are as follows: Discipline Secretaries – Ray Honeybun (Swimming), Karen Yendole (Masters), Chris Seall (Synchro), and Fred Fowler (Water Polo); Regional Representatives – Andy Smart (RMB and Swimming), Karen Yendole (Masters), Gerry Griffin (OW), Chris Seall (Synchro), and Chris Pryke (Water Polo); DCASA Roles – Steve Johns (ParaSwim/Disability) and Jill Beard (Officials).

Dorset Clubs Survey

With the proposed opening of indoor pools on 25 July, we asked our clubs to complete a Return to Swimming survey. Replies were received from 15 of those 18 clubs and the response showed that some clubs were faring better than others – in being able to communicate with pool providers, secure immediate pool time, and in regaining regular slots come September. Clubs using smaller venues managed by councils or local trusts and school pools have fared best, while larger clubs dealing with multiple-venue operators have not been so lucky and with the likelihood of losing precious prime time slots in the back-to-school period to expanded LTS programmes. Also highlighted was an inconsistency in policy across the County of pools managed by the same operator. The findings of our survey have been shared with SWR and we will again be asking our Clubs for an update on their experiences in the Autumn.

Stronger Affiliation and SwimMark

All clubs not SwimMark accredited are reminded that Stronger Affiliation is mandatory for Swim England club affiliation in 2021. Stronger Affiliation evidence should be uploaded to the online portal by 16 November latest, so that it can be checked and approved by Swim England SWR ahead of the national deadline of 1 December 2020. Clubs can view the full guidelines for Stronger Affiliation at www.swimming.org/swimengland/stronger-affiliation-process.

Dorset Clubs that have already achieved Stronger Affiliation are: Weyport Masters, Dorset Synchronised Swimming, Weymouth, Sherborne Storm, and Bournemouth SC.

Club Constitutions

A new approval process for Club Constitutions has been announced by the SWR with immediate effect. Clubs must now agree changes to an existing constitution with the County Association, and after which the proposed draft must be approved by SWR, before submitting to the Club AGM. Most Dorset Clubs are now 2018 compliant, but for assistance contact Di Gibbs dorsetasa@gmail.com. Please note that in 2021 it is likely Swim England will again update the Recommended Format for Club Constitutions!

Safeguarding and Time to Listen

Anyone listed on a club's Coach & Teacher Register must hold a current DBS and Safeguarding certificate. SWR virtual Safeguarding Courses are now in place of the old face-to-face workshop. Sessions are limited to 12 attendees and the course FOC but those who book and do not attend will be fined £20. Dates currently available are:

19 September	11.00	10 November	18.00
14 October	18.30	12 November	18.00
17 October	11.00	14 November	09.30
17 October	15.00	14 November	14.00
20 October	18.00		

To reserve a place go to <https://www.swimwest.org.uk/training>
Those who have already done a full Safeguarding Course but need to renew can do so online at www.ukcoaching.org/courses/learn-at-home/sgp

Online Time to Listen courses for club welfare officers have now been approved. Dates currently available are 12 September (10.00) and 7 October (18.00).

To reserve a place go to <https://www.swimwest.org.uk/training>

Teaching and Coaching Courses

For Teaching and Coaching Courses available as online blended learning refer to <https://www.swimming.org/calendar/training-courses/>. However, no practical modules will take place until government guidance permits the professional bodies that provide tutors to review the situation. Once practical modules are permitted, candidates will be given a timeframe in which their course must be completed.

Officials

Dorset Officials training for Judge One, Judge 2 and Judge 2 Starter recommences in September with theory sessions being delivered by Zoom and followed by mentored practical work as and when competition recommences. Full details <https://www.dorsetasa.org/volunteers/officials/2020-officials-training/>

Young Volunteers

A SWR Young Volunteers Programme for 14 to 18-year olds is scheduled for 2020/21. The new look Programme will offer project-based activity working with Young Volunteers from their clubs in line with the National Youth Advisory Panel projects and will be delivered regionally with up to six short online workshops. Again 25 hours of volunteering will be a component of the Programme but, dependant on current restrictions, those hours will not necessarily have to be undertaken at the pool. Application forms and Club Terms of Reference are to be issued by SWR shortly, and full details of workshops will be available later in the year.

County Competitions and Licensing

An update on Return to Competition for all disciplines is expected to be issued by Swim England sometime in September and with that information on meet licensing, which is also currently on hold. However, with the news that Sheffield's Ponds Forge has been mothballed for the foreseeable future and the Life Centre in Plymouth closed until April 2021 the future of many competitions, regardless of any relaxation in licensing, will be in doubt.

Swimming News

A total of 430 swimmers have been selected for the Swim England National Development Programme, which is the first step onto the national framework. Swimmers were chosen using the new adjusted selection guidelines introduced for 2020-21 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Swimmer selection was based on Swim England LC rankings in each individual Olympic pool event from times achieved between 22 March 2019 and 15 March 2020. From Dorset those selected are: BCS – Jamie Workman; Poole SC – Max Looker, Tilly McHugh, Charlie Meek, Luca Sartorius; Swim Bournemouth – Frank Chappels, Connor Cherrington.

Twelve youngsters have also been added to the 2020-21 Swim England Para-swimming Talent squad. Dorset para-swimmers selected are Luke O'Dowd (Tornadoes of South Dorset) and Zack Sturgess (Swim Bournemouth).

Swim England

A revamp at Swim England has resulted in job losses and a new corporate structure. Sport development and delivery remains the remit of the Sport Development Directorate headed by Director George Wood, while a Development Team led by Claire Coleman oversees four priority areas of Governance (Helen Weeks), Volunteering (Sarah Darragh), Club & Operator Relationships (Andy Jack), and Club Growth (Becky Walker). The Development Team will work with the Regions and the club network, while the Directorate will also work with the Discipline Leadership Groups, each of which will have a Talent Team.

The Club Development Officer role no longer exists, which means a loss to the SWR of Andy Jack, but Regions will continue to employ their own staff.

Finally, a new Diploma in Sporting Excellence programme is to be introduced. Details to follow once more is known.

Next Issue:
November 2020

Dorset County ASA, August 2020.