Minutes of Event Team wash-up meeting

Monday 6 March 2023

Present : Gary French, Lisa Osman, Michele Trevithick, Diane Lee

Apologies : Sandra Yeoman, Robert Hart.(reports submitted prior to the Meeting)

!. Venues

Salisbury provided excellent facilities and positive support from Salisbury Club and Staff from 5 Rivers. No backstroke ledges provided although they do have them. These to be used in the future.

There are problems at the Link Centre with lighting on the window side, lumps of rust falling onto the pool side and electrical failure into the pool and office areas on the final day.

Marlborough pool was well supported by the staff . The scoreboard is not working but there are plans to replace pads and scoreboard in the next few months. Time was reduced from the original booking once entries were received and we now have a credit note to be used against our next booking.

Risk assessments have been provided for all County Competition venues.

2.Officials

Swim Meet Manager working well. All sessions made licence requirements, although some sessions were light with others almost too many. It is problematic when officials pull out of the event at the last minute . Black trousers were well received by the Ladies.

Officials happy with the food so many thanks to Richard Smith for sourcing and collecting on each day.

Drinks for the officials caused problems eg no decaf coffee, ran out of milk, lack of volunteers showing up to oversee resulting in some of the event team having to both put the urns on and source water.

Negative feedback received from one official re expenses. it was noted that the County was following well documented policy.

3. Pool deck

Spectator bands worked well at both Salisbury and the Link with pricing at the right level. Heat start sheets were copied and bought by the parents. Everything ran to time and feedback from the Coaches after the Championships was positive.

4. IT and Office

No problems with entries- all submitted in duplicate as required. All swimmers who wished to swim were accepted albeit on a time trial basis in some cases. A document was produced detailing all dates, venues, sessions with warm up and start times which was useful and will be continued moving forward.

Warm-ups were updated to reflect running fast to slow.

Removal of 100IM finals resulted in a very short session .

5. Medals

No problems reported. Tigersharks did a sterling job in executing this task throughout the Championships.

6. Meet Director on Day overview

The team collaborated extremely well to produce the best event in the circumstances for all the swimmers. There are things to be improved upon and they will be included in the recommendations. It was agreed at the Coaches meeting that if an event was swum at Salisbury then there should be 8 finalists.

Problems that were dealt with during the Championships:

* An S14 swimmer was allowed to swim in the Age group competition with times being recorded as if they had been swum in the Championships. This was agreed as being in the best interests of the swimmer.
* An asylum seeker was granted permission to swim as a time trial in the events for which he had the qualifying times. Unfortunately, the individual was moved from the area prior to the start of the competition.
* A complaint was received by Paul Robbins from a parent at Calne Alpha. This was forwarded to the event team who had a discussion with the Club Coach. The Club Coach wrote to the Coaches Committee thanking the event team for all their efforts and confirmed that the views of the parent were not the views of the Club.
* Suspension of a club resulted in the removal of all their swimmers in the last weekend of competition.
* A question was raised on top boy/girl awards, para swimmers and comparability of points.
* A complaint was received about only allowing one parent to watch and the lateness of the notification. After some investigation it was found that the letter had been from a grandparent. The Club concerned agreed to deal with the matter.

Recommendations

The points allocated to para swimmers and able-bodied athletes cannot be compared fairly. The recommendation is that there should be a separate top para award as well as top boy/girl

Warm-ups to be produced for each weekend, not in age groups and championships.

Review of how drinks are provided for officials.

Removal of 100IM finals requires a relook at the programme but linked into venues below.

Meet pack- when it comes together the event team are to meet face to face to go through it all to avoid errors eg in age groups finals went from youngest to oldest but in Championships went from oldest to youngest. Need to establish consistency.

Dates and venues for 2024 to be reviewed. Based on previous studies all Championships minus the Distance events are due to be swum at the Link. Circumstances have changed and this should be reassessed based on additional information on alternative venues. The team will look into what is available at Salisbury, the Link and the LC pool at Bath and report to the CDDP meeting who can make decisions based on knowledge.

Diane Lee