



Surf Life Saving Sport has at its core an essential purpose, saving lives. Whilst increasing both fitness and skill levels in our members it also acts to showcase the contribution of lifesaving in our communities.

This document (working plan – November 2015) outlines the direction for SLSGB in building robust, as safe as possible, efficient to run and cost effective sport events. It captures the thoughts, guidance and knowledge of the Sport and Event committee, selected individuals with the knowledge, pedigree and insight into SLSGB sport, namely: It operates under an agreed Terms of Reference and reports to the board of SLSGB and supports and guides the work of the National Events Manager, Nigel Bowen.

Sport and Event Plan 2016-2018

SLSGB Still Water Series

2016 strategy – refine/‘tweak’ existing format to make more efficient to run

Dates: 26th March – Cardiff (Open/Masters) - 16th April – Millfield (Nippers) - 17th April – Millfield (Youth)

Specifically through:

1. Use of Meet Manager
2. Athletes to submit entry times (preferably a 50m time) for events (advisory not compulsory)
3. Provide guidance with entry packs of expected swim times of each event based on 2014 winning times

Context – it was felt that 600/650 entrants (nipper) represents the ‘tipping point’ at which it becomes non-viable to run a one day event. The group felt strongly that as well as the additional cost burden of a second day (circa £2,500), logistically, for families, it would also discourage attendance.

590 nippers attended in 2015 and the committee felt a plan is needed that can cope with an increase in participation in the coming years. Currently there are only a limited number of pools available to use: Millfield, Hengrove (Bristol) Cardiff and Swansea.

2017 strategy – Evolve Stillwater format to be fit for purpose, encourage better development of nipper level, through using the correct equipment and the running the

right races.

Considerations for 2017. Changing age groups, capping numbers, introducing entry level times, reducing the event programme, better time management, fining teams for 'no shows', 2*25m pools, extending the day, managing the event by age groups. Welsh club attendance. Consider participation verses competing.

Locations: Cardiff (Nippers) (Youth) – better access, facilities, space and pool and to allow growth in numbers. Open/Masters - TBC

Open/masters group would be made more competitive in 2017, with uncontested (2 or less entrants) in an age group being combined at the discretion of the race director and only Gold and Silver medals presented where appropriate. Member communications to go out in 2016 in order to give early warning that 2017 competitions would evolve in this direction.

Sandy, Keith, Rob, Matt, Sarah to form Still Water sub group to consider further and bring recommendations to the committee on how to achieve the above aims in 2017.

SLSGB Surf Life Saving Series

2016 strategy – stick to known venues, fix competitiveness and attendance

6th/7th August – Exmouth (Masters) – 8th IRB (Subject to harbour masters permission)

9th/10th August – Exmouth (Youth) – 12th/13th August – Exmouth (Nippers) - 20th/21st August – Portreath (Open)

Specifically through:

1. Personal encouragement by all committee members of club and athlete attendance (open)

Context – Numbers in 2015 in the open category were very low, this needs addressing. It was agreed that the open must be prior to the World Championships to a) showcase our top athletes and b) enable training in the run up to the worlds.

2017/2018 strategy – Early engagement with interested clubs, specifically

For 2017/2018 we are starting to work with club's who are keen to host national events, now, so we have time to plan and introduce new clubs and venues into the calendar. Locations where financial contribution from the local community reduces cost, logistics work and where the venues provide a natural amphitheatre for spectators that showcase our national athletes and sport will be preferred.

Consider splitting youth and masters from nipper. Develop a shortlist of event locations that meet a defined event criteria. Consider linking competition venues with competence levels, i.e. a level 3 or level 4 event. Be mindful of developing participant's whilst not putting at risk.

No increase to entry fees in 2016

SLSA Wales

Engagement with SLSA Wales resulted in feedback that more Welsh clubs would turn up to

SLSGB events if the format reverted to best team, not best club levelling the playing field to bring in smaller teams

Early engagement with SLSA Wales more formally around planning and scheduling 2017 dates and selection criteria for the One Team and athlete development to be undertaken.

Considerations:

Announce 2017 dates and locations by January 2016. In the future the aspiration is that the closing ceremony of the Nationals announces the host club/location the following year with a passing of the competition flag to the new host, or similar.

Board Masters have been engaged around the possibility of a 2017 combined event and they are keen, however it may be logistically challenging. Competition runs from Wednesday to Sunday.

The committee very much liked the idea of running a showpiece invitation only event over the weekend lunchtime slot between the boardmasters final or semi-final heats to raise the profile of our sport. The committee agreed to explore the concept of a Golden Flag showcase event in 2016 either at or holding around the Open or Celtic Cup. **Scope** an event and format that might be suitable for a 1 hour event for a limited number of individuals, possibly both youth and senior. If the 2016 event proves successful then it is suggested we explore integrating the event into Boardmasters 2017.

It was agreed that better interaction with the RNLI would be necessary in securing the release of athletes who work as lifeguards.

SLSGB IRB Championships

2016 strategy – Align with nationals and enable competition prior to World Championships

8th August – Exmouth (subject to harbour masters permission)

Celtic Cup

2016 strategy – refine/‘tweak’ existing format and return to linking it to the Open Championship

19th August – Portreath (agreed)

One Team Selection Events

2016 strategy – select squad at least one month in advance of World Championships (2-14 September) to enable team training events

June preference (tbc) – Portreath (tbc) with Gylly as back up both Youth and Senior.

Context – The One Team are hoping to ensure team selection is seen as more transparent in 2016 through publishing a clear criteria and selection event dates in early December. You must attend trial unless extenuating circumstances.

One weekend of competition racing in heats repeatedly against each other. Competitors to do at least 4 events. 2017, move towards squad selection and training camps.

Officials

2016 strategy – develop the pool and quality of officials

The committee agreed the need to develop the number and quality of officials available to officiate at SLSGB events.

Specifically:

1. ensuring the sports arenas are set up to enable officials to do their jobs well
2. ensuring the right officials are selected for the right roles. Be selective!
3. ensuring officials roles and responsibilities are clear and briefed before competition
4. ensure officials have the right kit
5. promoting fair decision making
6. consider how to support Officials through not charging for their award

Sandy and Paul to form an Officials sub group (co-opt Emma Phillips) to recommend to the committee an action plan to support the development of Officials. Report to the next meeting.