



# DORSET COUNTY ASA

## NEWSLETTER

December 2020

### County Management

#### Dear Dorset Clubs and Members

Welcome to the second DCASA Newsletter, which contains a round-up of up-to-date information relevant to our clubs and aquatic sports.

In August we asked our clubs and members of the Association Executive to approve the appointment of a DCASA Emergency Management Board so County business could continue in accordance with our constitutional rules. Following the overwhelming "Yes" vote from our membership, the Management Board has continued to meet monthly and the minutes of those meetings can be viewed on the county website <https://www.dorsetasa.org/rules/>

DCASA now has a Zoom licence currently used by the Management Board, Discipline Committees and Officials but the facility is also available for use by our clubs for club committee and coaches' meetings. For bookings, contact Di Gibbs [dorsetasa@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetasa@gmail.com)

DCASA trophies from all disciplines have also been recalled. With no competition taking place this is an opportunity for refurb, repair, and replacement of our stock and to create a digital record of cups and shields, some of which date back as far as the early 1930s. Thanks go to our clubs of past winners for their assistance.

### Dorset Clubs

After a brief return to the pool, clubs have once again been out of the water and Dorset will emerge from this second lockdown to Tier 2 status. Dorset clubs return with "supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s" able to continue under current Swim England Guidance, and with the under-18 rule to include swimmers who were under 18 years of age as of 31 August 2020.

For other 18/overs, club activity can continue if individuals from different households do not mix pre, during or post training. Water polo and synchro can therefore continue with distanced activities that do not involve interaction such as drills, but the implications for 18+ pool swimmers, or swimmers returning home from a Tier 3 university are far less clear but hopefully will be soon clarified.

In October, Sport England announced a £16.5 million Return to Play fund to help organisations financially impacted by Covid-19. Seagulls and Poole SC took advantage of the match-funded Return to Play: Active Together crowdfunding initiative and which, for Seagulls, was kickstarted by Chairman David McWilliams cycling around Dorset to

## Stronger Affiliation and SwimMark

the home pools of all our affiliated clubs (see DCASA website for full story). Both clubs quickly reached their targets, but the crowdfunding initiatives continue.

September sadly marked the dissolution of the Tornadoes of South Dorset SC, which started life in Weymouth in the early 1980s as Thornlow Tornadoes SC and produced notable athletes such as Laura Moss, the first Dorset swimmer to be selected for an Olympic squad, and European medallist Jay Lelliott. The club will be greatly missed.

Nearly all Dorset clubs that are not SwimMark accredited have achieved Stronger Affiliation by the national deadline of 1 December 2020 as follows: BCS, Bournemouth SC, Dorset Synchronised Swimming, North Dorset Turbos, Sherborne Storm, Swim Bournemouth, Wareham & District, Weymouth SC, Weymouth & Portland WPC, and Weyport Masters.

Dorset clubs with SwimMark accreditation or in the process of reaccreditation are as follows: Blandford, Bridport Barracudas, Poole, Seagulls, and West Dorset.

## Club Constitutions

An update to the Swim England Recommended Format for Club Constitutions is not due until 2021. However, any club wanting to make minor changes to existing Rules should now agree those changes with the County Association first, after which the proposed draft must be approved by SWR before submitting to your Club AGM. For assistance contact Di Gibbs [dorsetasa@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetasa@gmail.com).

Clubs should note that one requirement of both SwimMark and Stronger Affiliation is clear signposting to Welfare information on the front page of a club website is mandatory. The DCASA website has also been updated accordingly.

## Safeguarding, Time to Listen and Team Manager

There are no online Time to Listen workshops scheduled at present, but virtual Safeguarding Courses instead of the old face-to-face workshop are still available and will be FOC until 31 March 2021. To reserve a place go to <https://www.swimwest.org.uk/training> Dates currently available are:

9 December	18.00
10 December	18.00
14 January 2021	18.00

Those who need to renew a safeguarding qualification can do so online at <https://www.ukcoaching.org/courses/learn-at-home/sgp>

An online Team Manager workshop will be held on 2 February 2021 starting at 19.00; email [swimsouthwest@swimming.org](mailto:swimsouthwest@swimming.org) to book.

## Officials

Dorset Officials training for Judge One, Judge 2 and Judge 2 Starter recommenced in September with theory sessions being delivered by Zoom and followed by mentored practical work when competition recommences. Further information can be found on the Officials pages on the DCASA website.

## Young Volunteers

The Swim England SWR Young Volunteers Programme for 2020/21 is underway. The new look Programme for 14 to 18-year olds will offer project-based activity working with the YVs from their clubs and be delivered regionally with online workshops. The Programme has been

## County Competitions

opened to YVs unable to complete the 2019/20 Programme with any voluntary hours already accrued carried over to the current Programme. Anyone who has missed the deadline to apply should contact Jackie Hilleard direct.

At a meeting with Swim England's Swimming Leadership Group in September, County Associations were notified that the usual eight week slot for County Championships in January/February had been cancelled and we were asked to run County Championships if possible, with a designated "window" of 31 May to 21 July inclusive.

At present we do not know what that might involve but anticipate a reduced programme of events and very much reduced number of swimmers taking part. Also, we do not know how qualifying times will be set, or whether Level X Racing times will be accepted. With so many unknowns firm planning is difficult but DCASA has reserved, as a start, 3-4 July 2021 at Littledown, which is the only available date at that venue in the permitted time slot that is outside of the proposed English schools exam period for 2021.

## Return to Competition and Licensing

Swim England has issued a five-stage roadmap for a Return to Competition. Before the current lockdown clubs were functioning at Stage 3 (15 Oct-31 Dec or later) with training and Level X Racing the only permitted activity. Dates for the start of Stage 4 are yet to be confirmed and social distancing will still be in place, but criteria are that the national situation will allow for competition in some areas (if not all of the country) and swimmers will have achieved race fitness.

Stages 4a-c must be delivered successfully before progressing on to Stage 5, and progression through Stage 4 is as follows:

- Stage 4a – L4 competitions held within club training sessions only, with L4 licensing available one month prior to start.
- Stage 4b – Normal L4 single club competitions to take place, with L4 licensing available one month prior to start.
- Stage 4c – Trial multi-club activity of pilot L4 competitions with a limited number of clubs participating. Swim England will identify a small number of meet promoters who will be invited to apply for a licence.

Stage 5 again anticipates social distancing still be in place, but government guidelines will enable competition on a larger scale although permitted numbers remain smaller than normal. It is at this point that licensed L1-3 competitions will be introduced by Swim England, and include County/Regional Champs with National Championships, if possible, at season end.

Each stage of the Return to Competition roadmap can only take place when the national situation permits and not before Swim England's proposals have been signed off by the Government's Digital, Media & Sport Committee.

## Swimming

The SWR Regional Pathway Programme was held online 19 and 26 September with 36 swimmers participating. Dorset swimmers selected for the 12-years Programme were Jessica Huggins (Poole), Finley Lock (Seagulls), George Honor (Seagulls), Cody Collins and Hugo Young (Swim Bournemouth).

The first phase of Level X Racing for Cat 2 swimmers began on 23

October with 50m and 100m swims across all strokes together with 100m IM, and the fastest swimmers in each age group featuring on a national leader board published on Swim England's website and social media channels. A second phase of the competition is planned in early 2021 in the hope as many clubs as possible will take part.

In November, the Swim England National Junior Squad for 2020-21 was announced. Of the 71 swimmers selected, nine came from the SWR and with Robbie Hemmings (Poole SC) being selected from Dorset. The National Junior Squad will be led by Swim England talent officers Mike Parker and Richard Blackshaw.

The National Arena Junior League has proposed starting its 2021 programme in March 2021 with galas held in club training sessions and results fed into national league table. The top eight clubs will be invited to a face-to-face gala in September 2021 if possible. Cost is £10 per team.

### Para Swimming

An online National Para-Swimming Pathway Engagement Day will be held on Sunday 13 December 2020 (09.45-16.30) for athletes, coaches, and club administrators interested in developing Para-Swimming within their club environment. For further information or to book a place <https://www.swimwest.org.uk/file/se-para-swimming-national-pathway-engagement-day-flyer-dec-2020.pdf>

### Water Polo

The SWR Water Polo Academy will run from January 2021 and with a possible change of venue from Millfield to three locations in the north, south and east of the region, which offers an opportunity for Dorset to become an Academy venue with clubs from South Wilts and South Somerset. The SWR Water Polo Secretary, Mike Coles, is also seeking interest for an online L1 WP Coaching course in addition to a L2 course. A Table Officials course is also in hand.

### Swim England

Swim England has notified a membership fees freeze for 2021, which are as follows for the Swim England SWR.

- National: Cat 1 £9.20, Cat 2 £27.75, Cat 3 £5.20.
- Region: Cat 1 £3.00, Cat 2 £3.75, Cat 3 £2.00, Club £85.00.
- County: £3 all categories.

Online Membership will shut down on Wednesday 9 December, so clubs will not be able to make membership batch submissions until January, but clubs will still be able to view their data.

2021 renewals submission and payment are required by 28 February 2021. If you have any queries, contact the Membership team at [renewals@swimming.org](mailto:renewals@swimming.org)

### Next Issue: March 2021

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December 2020.

*Finally, very Merry Christmas from everyone at Dorset County ASA and hoping that the New Year brings more peaceful times to you all!*