REGIONAL OPEN WATER PROGRAMME

SELECTION DOCUMENT ~ 2022-2023

1.0 Overview and Rationale

We aim to produce athletes with the ability to join Swim England National Talent Pathway Programmes.

The strategic goal of the programme is to have a system that will support and enhance the development of high quality senior athletes for the future, and seek to identify individuals with the aspirations to achieve Olympic podium success.

This document allows Regions to identify swimmers to attend regional open water programme activities using open water results, rankings and technical and tactical observations. Elements of the document are intended to ensure that all available information and circumstances can be taken into account in identifying swimmers relevant to the above aims.

Decisions based upon discretion will be made subjectively, with reference to what is known about the individual swimmer. This allows the finite resources of the programme to be applied in a flexible and targeted manner.

2.0 Open Water Swimming Regional Development Days

Minimum activity level: attendance at a one day open water pool event in May/June and or a one day open water venue event in June/July. (Various dates/locations).

2.1 A maximum of 30 swimmers will be selected to attend the Regional Open Water Development Days as follows:

2.2 The top three ranked males born in 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 & 2006 in the 1500m (long course) and the top three ranked females born in 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 & 2006 in the 800m (long course) in the comparative age groups from performances achieved between 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022.

2.3 Further selections if required will be made by the Regional Open Water Lead in consultation with the Regional Open Water Head Coach. Such selections may be made on a technical, tactical, physical or performance basis.

3.0 Coach Selections

3.1 Selection of coaches to contribute to the delivery of camp activities will be made by the Regional Open Water Lead in consultation with the relevant Swim England National Talent Officer. Coach selections will reflect the availability of regional open water knowledge. It is recommended that the Head Coach has attained or is working towards the Level 2 Open Water Swimming Coach. In some regional circumstances this may require a head coach to be appointed from outside the delivery

Region whilst seeking to achieve a balanced knowledgeable staff to ensure quality of delivery and coach development outcomes.

3.2 Coaches interested in contributing to the camps as a member of staff should note their interest to the Regional Open Water Lead of each specific regional event in the first instance.

3.3 To promote inclusion, coaches interested in attending any camp activities on a voluntary basis to assist or observe should note their interest to the Regional Open Water Team Lead.

4.0 General Conditions

4.1 All swimmers participating must be a registered swimming member of an ASA affiliated club.

4.2 World Class Programme open water swimmers are not eligible for selection.

4.3 Swimmers accepting selection must be available and make a commitment to attend all aspects of the programme. Including providing information when requested, attending the specific activity invited to (as detailed in selection letters) and maintaining a commitment to their own development in the sport.

4.4 Only swimmers selected will be notified by the region.

4.5 Any swimmer who has withdrawn or been excluded from past regional programme activities may be ineligible for selection.

4.6 Should further opportunities arise outside of this guidance document, the region reserve the right to make further selections if required these will be made by the Regional Open Water Lead in consultation with the Regional Open Water Head Coach. Such selections may be made on a technical, tactical, physical or performance basis.

4.7 Each Region shall appoint a Safety Officer.

4.8 There shall be no right of appeal if a swimmer is unsuccessful in attaining a place with the regional programme.