

SWIM IRELAND BOARD MEETING**TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2024****POINTS OF NOTE FOR CLUBS, REGIONS, AND STAFF**

The Swim Ireland Board of Directors held its fourth meeting on Tuesday 24 September 2024. The meeting took place in Irish Sports HQ. The following Points of Note may be of interest:

- Chairperson of the National Water Polo Committee (NWPC) Lochlann Walsh, together with NWPC Treasurer Keith Lynch and Swim Ireland Head of Disciplines Development Damian Ball updated the Board on the work of the NWPC. The Board was updated on the Water Polo Strategic Plan 2024-2026 which the NWPC has been working on. The Plan aims to continue to improve the standard of the domestic game and the governance and operation of the sport and clubs, to grow and support the associated workforce and the sport itself and to further develop the performance side of the sport.
- Swim Ireland Performance Director Jon Rudd delivered an update post Paris Olympics, including providing some insights into the behind the scenes at the Games and reflections on the Games and performances. The following results were noted:
 - 43% of Team Ireland's Medals were produced by Swimming
 - 1 x Gold & 2 x Bronze (the first Olympic medals in 28 years)
 - 1 x Olympic Record & 1 x European Record achieved
 - Irish Swimming achieved 11th Position on the Medal Table (of the 210 World Aquatics Nations)
 - 6 x Irish Senior Records achieved
 - 4 x Individual Event Finals (3 Athletes) and all individual athletes progressing beyond the Heats
 - 11 of 13 Swims Finished in Semi-Final/Top 16 Equivalent Positions
 - Three Relays Competed & both Male and Female Medley Relays Advanced to 11th Position (these being the first Female relays at an Olympic Games in 52 years)
 - Ireland's largest ever Swimming Team at an Olympic Games (6 Male & 6 Female athletes)
 - This was Ireland's first appearance in Olympic 10km Marathon Swimming
 - Third Games in succession for Irish Diving to feature and second to feature both Male & Female Divers
- Swim Ireland Director of Operations Mary McMorrow delivered an update to the Board on progress under the Infrastructure Pillar of the Swim Ireland Strategy. Specific reference was made to the publication of the National Swimming Strategy in August on the back of a very successful Olympic Games. A funding announcement made in late August by the Minister for Sport Thomas Byrne, of €500,000 per annum to Swim Ireland for each of the next three years to support the roll out of the National Swimming Strategy through the appointment of Swimming Activators was very welcomed. The Board recognised that this is something that we have been advocating towards for quite some time. Strategic deployment and utilisation of these Activators is currently being considered, including potential impacts on the staffing structure. The Board noted that a Working Group will be formed to develop an Action Plan for implementing the Strategy. The Group will be chaired by former Chairperson of Swim Ireland Peter Conway and will include Swim Ireland Director Joe Cosgrove and members of the Management Team.
- The Honorary Treasurer delivered the August 2024 Finance Report and August 2024 Management Accounts including a forecast to year end. The Board noted that the approved budgeted deficit of

€105k is likely to be realised. The Finances are being monitored carefully.

- The Board approved the Draft Budget for 2025 for submission to Sport Ireland as part of the 2025 Core Grant application.
- The CEO delivered a report on a mix of Operational matters including the 2025 Business Plan which has a key focus on club and regional development, the importance of which was discussed by the Board. Additional discussions centred on demand for education courses and sponsorship opportunities.
- The Board noted that the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Grant had closed for applications on Monday 1 July, and we have supported 6 Local Authorities with their applications for swimming pools.
- The Board noted that the Complaints & Disciplinary Officers Report shows that there are 12 cases open. The Executive advised that a training programme on the topic of complaints is a priority under the Club Support & Training programme that is currently being developed.
- The Board noted that an independent audit of governance practices undertaken by KOSI on behalf of Sport Ireland had rated Company compliance with the Governance Code as 'Excellent' and recognised the work of the Executive and volunteers in this regard



Mary McMorrow, Swim Ireland Company Secretary

24 September 2024