

Swim England Water Polo Strategy 2020-2025

Swim England is aiming to double the number of registered water polo players in the next five years as part of its new strategy to develop the sport.

On 29 Apr 2020, the National Governing Body's Water Polo Leadership Group published the comprehensive [Swim England Water Polo Strategy 2020-2025](#), which details a number of targets to help the sport grow. It has been developed following months of consultations with players, officials, volunteers and sports administrators.

The strategy is the vision of the Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group chairman Toby King, who is keen to boost the profile of the sport.

A total of 6,900 water polo players were registered with Swim England in 2019 but the goal is to see that number increase to 14,000 by 2025.

The document details plans to enhance participation and training at every level of the sport.

Swim England's competition structure will be reviewed and there will be a drive to recruit more technical officials at all levels of the game.

The strategy also includes a real impetus on coaching, with a regular coaches' forum and opportunities to share training techniques.

Strategy to be proud of

And there will be better communication with the water polo community, which will include reports on how well performance targets are being met.

Toby said: "Despite the current challenging circumstances, I am delighted to be publishing our five-year vision for water polo. We believe we can double the number of registered players in the next few years, which should help us boost the profile of the sport. This will lead to more and better competitions, coaches and officials, as well as helping us compete on the global stage and attracting more funding."



Mike Coles, Swim England South West's Water Polo Secretary and President (pictured) said: "The new strategy follows on from the regional roadshows in December 2019, and the work of the new Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group. **Please ensure the strategy is circulated as widely as possible.**

"Please note that it has been sent to all of Dorset ASA water polo teams who have supplied me with the names of the current teams in Dorset. If my email has not gone to the correct member of your club, then I apologise and feel free to get in touch with the correct contact person. It has also been sent to all secretaries of the Bristol & West Water Polo League.

"Coming up in the near future will be a proposed Coaches Forum for the region, hosted by Sean King. And also in the pipeline will be an online referees' course and table officials course. Details of these courses will follow shortly.

"Also, note that Swim England Stronger Affiliation comes online in December 2020, so now is the time to make sure your club is ready for this process. Take a look at the Swim England website:

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/stronger-affiliation-process/>

to see what you need to do, and remember there are plenty of online courses available through Swim England South West (<https://www.swimwest.org.uk>) for Safeguarding and Team Manager training.

"Please let me know if you require any further information, and hopefully, I will be able to assist."

George Wood, Swim England Sport Development Director, also welcomed the new strategy and praised the work of the Water Polo Leadership Group: "This strategy contains a number of ambitious targets demonstrating our commitment to growing water polo. Clearly we're in difficult times at the moment and when we get back in the water we will need to assess the impact on this strategy. However, we'll be working hard to achieve the ambitions set out in the plan.

"The Water Polo Leadership Group has enthusiastically developed a strategy to be proud of and we thank Toby and everyone connected for their vision and hard work. We will do everything we can to ensure this succeeds and opens up this fantastic sport to a new generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers."

Toolbox



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