



## Deaf Swimming

### **UK Deaf Sport, British Swimming, Swim England, Scottish Swimming and Swim Wales.**

All parties are committed to supporting the development of deaf swimming. Each recognises and acknowledges the challenges that exist for deaf swimmers and those that are on the deaf pathway to competing at International Competitions, including the Deaflympics Games. There is a commitment to working together to help support deaf swimmers through the pathway while acknowledging the remits and responsibilities of each party.

### **Clarity of roles and responsibilities:**

**UK Deaf Sport** are the key national body representing all deaf sports and athletes in the UK. They are the key contact for all National Governing Bodies to work with on the development of deaf sport.

**British Para-Swimming** are an elite body with a clear focused remit to support athletes that are eligible and on the world class pathway to the Paralympic Games, through individual plans, camps and competition programme.

**Home Nation Swimming Governing Bodies** are there to increase and develop opportunities for people to participate and compete in all aquatic disciplines. The Para-Swimming Talent programmes in each Home Nation is specifically focused on swimmers that are eligible for Paralympic Games pathway, however the wider swimming Talent pathway is open to all swimmers who achieve the criteria.

### **Next steps:**

To look at how the pathway can be developed further the following steps have been agreed:

- 1) Each party has agreed to work together to look at how the current deaf swimming pathway can be developed and supported. This process will involve a review into current provisions, consulting with GB Deaf Swimming Club, engaging with deaf swimmers and then developing a plan. The key areas that were identified include:
  - Deaf swimmer needs (inc pathway)
  - Coach/Teacher/ Officials resources and education
  - Home Nations and British Para-Swimming opportunities.
- 2) UK Deaf Sport to attend meetings with Home Nations to review progress against actions.
- 3) UK Deaf Sport will continue to be the body that will lobby DCMS and government agencies for the recognition of deaf athletes and Deaflympics.
- 4) Joint approach to raising the profile of deaf swimming, the achievements of deaf swimmers and Deaflympics. A communication sharing process to be put in place led by UK Deaf Sport.
- 5) UK Deaf Sport will continue to work with and alongside the committee members of GB Deaf Swimming

These steps will be reviewed and updated regularly with communication updates provided via UK Deaf Sport and GB Deaf Swimming to the deaf swimming community.

For any questions on this or to find out more, please contact UK Deaf Sport at [info@ukds.org.uk](mailto:info@ukds.org.uk)