



Update to Member Leagues January 2020

Dear Colleague

1. Minutes

- I enclose a copy of the minutes of the 2019 AGM for your general information
- We welcome David Broome as our newly elected Chairman. David is Chairman of City of Leeds Swimming Club and a qualified and respected Referee (standing at 6'7" not many coaches argue with him!) David brings a lot of knowledge and experience to our Executive and we look forward to working with him to take JIL forward.
- Please note the changes to rules (3); (6) and (15)
 - Rule 3 was amended to provide flexibility to host leagues when booking pools for the October semi-finals
 - Rule 6 – the canon will be very interesting in that it can now be swum in **any order** of sex or age – you must have one boy or girl from each of the four age groups but other than that the coaches will now have complete discretion as to have they swim them – e.g. you could swim four girls, followed by four boys, or any other permutation.
 - Rule 15 – recognising that most finalist have at least two hours travel to the finals, often by coach and having experienced instances of coaches breaking down en-route, it was sensible to give the Referee the discretion to delay the start to allow for such a contingency, but conscious of the need to complete the competition within the allotted pool booking.
- Please note the payment details for your 2020 fees and remit funds if you haven't already paid. Please can you also ensure that you send a remittance advice to Susanna when making the payment (sue.carden@juniorinterleague.co.uk)

2. 2019 Finals

- We'd like to extend our gratitude to White Rose League and Derby & Notts League which hosted the two area finals last October and ensuring they ran so well. Special mention should go to Terry Wilkinson (White Rose) and Jeff Pickering (Derby & Notts) who did sterling jobs organising the events.
- I'd like to extend thanks to Susanna for her tireless effort over many years now in organising the Grand Final, it is a huge undertaking. Sadly, this year we had a number of issues with the pool and equipment, that were beyond our control and which inevitably led to the gala going on for longer than anticipated. This is extremely frustrating after all the planning that Susanna has put in, and we thank the finalists for their patience on the day. We are taking active steps with Corby LC to ensure that the issues are reviewed and addressed in time for the 2020 final. If the issues cannot be resolved satisfactorily then an alternative venue will be sought out.



3. Website/e-mail forwarding

- The website has been updated, however most of the links to the member league contacts are not currently active. Due to GDPR we do not release your e-mail address to enquirers and the best way for them to get in touch with member leagues is therefore to use the generic address on our site. To this end we need to point that address to your e-mail behind the scenes. To authorise this link you will need to approve the connection within 24-36 hours of our setting it up. Therefore, if you receive an e-mail request to this effect, please can you action it straight away, otherwise we will have to keep repeating the process.
- We have removed all reference to Arena from the website following the conclusion of their sponsorship deal at the end of December 2019. Could we please ask that you do likewise on your individual websites, where relevant.

4. Sponsorship

- We are actively seeking replacement sponsors and hope to be in a position to make an announcement shortly. In the meantime, please can we ask you to refer to the League as the Junior Inter-League in communications, not the Arena Junior League, particularly in light of the developments at NASL below.

5. Proposed launch of Junior League under the umbrella of NASL

- You will be aware from earlier correspondence of the intention to launch a junior version of the Arena Swim League, modelled on our programme but with three rounds on fixed dates across the country. We met with representatives of NASL on Saturday 18th January and expressed our concerns at the potential impact this could have on our member leagues and setting out again why their structure had been rejected by the JIL delegates. NASL however currently appear intent on pursuing their idea, spurred on by Arena.
- We believe that the existing JIL structure works well for the development of junior swimming, providing a diverse and flexible framework within which member leagues can structure their competitions to best suit their local calendar and conditions. We are not the least bit concerned when you swim your individual rounds provided that they are concluded in time to determine the teams going forward to our Area Finals in October.
- JIL has been running successfully now for forty years, thanks in no small part to the commitment of our members. It is without doubt the premier junior league in the country and with your support we are committed to ensuring that it remains so.

6. Licensing of Finals/Proposed change of Age at Date

- An approach was made to licence the 2019 Grand Final, however this was rejected, because of the two separate age dates currently contained in the rules.



- We believe that the finals should be licenced, because it raises the profile of the events and as a bonus allows swimmers the opportunity to gain ranking times (effectively free of charge).
- To this end the Executive Officers are unanimous in the view that we should revert to a common age for all swimmers based on the date of the Grand Final in November, for both the Area Finals and the Grand Finals. This is permitted under Regulation 410.5, with the two events forming one competition, and should facilitate the granting of a licence, initially for the final, but hopefully in due course the semi-finals.
- We would like to implement the change with effect from the 2020 finals and are proposing holding an EGM by Skype (or suitable alternative) on Thursday 19th March to vote on the change.
- Could I please therefore ask that if you have any representations/comments to make on the proposed change, that you revert to me by the end of February, at the latest.

7. Additional Member Leagues

- We are looking to extend the breadth of JIL and have capacity to accommodate several additional leagues without the need to change the current structure of our finals. If are aware of any junior leagues that may be interested in affiliating, then please could you pass me their contact details?

8. EGM (19th March 2020 7.30pm)

- I will forward details of how to join the meeting electronically in due course.
- Following the successful use of Skype at the AGM it would be great if as many delegates as possible could join the meeting.

Kind regards

Bob Thompson
Hon Sec Junior Inter-League
25 January 2020