

Regional Fees

Issue

1. Setting the Regional Fees for 2018-19

Summary

2. The Board have agreed the following Regional Fees for 2018 (collected by Swim England through the membership system):
 - Cat 1 - £5.50 (50 p increase);
 - Cat 2 - £5.50 (50p increase); and
 - Cat 3 – Nil (No change)

Recommendations

3. Council notes the changes.

Background

4. The ASA has confirmed that its fees for 2018 will be
 - Category 1 £9.10
 - Category 2 £26.40
 - Category 3 £5.20
5. At the beginning of the 2017-18 financial year, the ASA restructured substantially its Participation Team with the result that the service and support it gave the Region was lost. In order to maintain the good, professional support, the Board agreed to restructure its own staff and appointed:
 - Suzanne Philpot as Regional Executive Officer;
 - Kelly Stannard as Administration and Member Services Officer.
6. The Board also committed substantial amounts of the Region's reserves to fund development activities in each of the disciplines over the next three years.
7. The Board's approach has been and remains to:
 - continue its existing policy of not charging any fees in the 4th Quarter of the calendar year;
 - increase the fees (if necessary) by small amounts each year; and
 - give a much advance notice to the Region's clubs as possible – in the past the Board has given clubs a three-year plan.
8. The ASA charges for the 4th quarter and, along with other Regions, category 3 members.

Argument

9. Following these changes to our committed cost base by taking on additional staff who were previously employed by the ASA, the Region is now in a position where the membership fee does not cover the cost of running the Region and employing staff. At present the Region is reducing its reserves, but at some point in the future fees will have to be increased to enable the Region to continue to operate.
10. In the past the Region has given clubs a 3 year fee increase plan. Given the current uncertainty about how reserves will decline and what might happen to costs in the future, the Board has decided that changes will be reviewed annually going forward.