

## **World Class Programmes Update- Disability Swimming**

Both UK Sport and Sport England have recently announced changes to funding responsibilities in relation to the support that will be given to both Olympic and Paralympic Sports. These changes have taken place in order to ensure that National Governing Bodies can maximise their delivery taking into account that the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are taking place in London.

The purpose of this release is to outline the changes to the British Swimming community.

As from the 1st April 2006 the funding streams from both UK Sport and Sport England were re-aligned in order that NGB's could deliver a UK wide seamless pathway with their medal potential Athletes.

With this in mind along with UK Sports strategy for 2012 both British Swimming and the ASA have undergone a review of the Disability Swimming programmes and their delivery.

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 the Disability Swimming programmes will change as outlined below:

World Class Performance will become World Class Podium

World Class Potential will become World Class Development

These programmes will be delivered by British Swimming and be collectively known as "the World Class Pathway".

UK Sport have advised British Swimming that the World Class Start Programme should not be the responsibility of the World Class Programmes, and that it should sit within the Home Country programmes and regions. World Class Start will therefore become England Talent and will be delivered by the ASA in partnership with British Swimming. The ASA delivery will also include the newly established Advanced Apprenticeships in Sporting Excellence scheme (AASE) developing talent across all the ASA regions.

The 2007 British Swimming and ASA Programme Consideration Policies are posted on the British Swimming website [www.britishswimming.org](http://www.britishswimming.org)

In addition to the programme review British Swimming and the ASA have undergone a staffing review to facilitate the changes. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 there will no longer be two Coaching Co-ordinators but four new posts of Regional Talent and Development Coaches whose role will be to create and implement regional structures and systems that will identify and support talented disabled swimmers to underpin the World Class Pathway.

I am aware that you may have a number of questions as to how it will impact upon the current structure. I would like to re-assure everyone that the current service delivery to our World Class Programmes will not be affected and once we have established the new structure I believe that we will be delivering a focused service with a particular emphasis on developing stronger partnership Disability Swimming structures with all of the 8 ASA Regions.

Tim Reddish

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