

# Artistic Swimming Leadership Group

## Minutes of the meeting held 22.02.22 via Zoom

Draft minutes' subject to approval by all members of Artistic Swimming Leadership Group.

**Present:** Maria Ramos (MR) – Artistic Swimming Chair  
 Sarah Clarke (SC) – Athlete Reward & Recognition Lead  
 Louise Ross (LR) – Coach Education & Masters Lead  
 Ian Atkinson (IA)- Executive Director for Artistic Swimming Events  
 Karen Thorpe (KT) – Head of Performance Artistic Swimming  
 Hannah Secher (HS)– Officials & Workforce Lead  
 Ekaterina Boyd (EB) – Head of Events

**Apologies:** Claire Coleman (CC) – Head of Development  
 Jim Boucher (JB) - SOC Liaison

**Administrator:** Nicola Ross (NR) – Leadership Group Administrator

Min No:	
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> Apologies – Jim Boucher and Claire Coleman
2.	<b>Technical Lead updates</b>
2.1	<p><b>Camps/Competitions</b></p> <p>Athletes have been selected and competitions identified for all squads. KT confirms there is still a lot of development work to be done with athletes.</p> <p>KT details the recent challenge of unvaccinated athletes on the Junior programme and isolation periods in other countries. KT and MR will continue to monitor in line with FINA guidance.</p> <p>We have secured the services of a Mental Health Skills Coach and Nutritionist. Both have a priority list of athletes to support.</p> <p>A new group of 9 athletes who are a part of the DiSE programme will participate in monthly training, volunteering at Regional Competitions, possible coaching qualifications and KT is looking at arranging a summer camp for this group. KT is receiving a lot of positive feedback from the athletes.</p> <p>KT is currently organising the Regional Development Work. 3 Regions have offered to run the package- Midlands, London and East. The other regions are either looking to run only parts of the package or are yet to engage. KT also in communication with Scotland.</p> <p>ASLG approved the proposals and plans outlined by KT</p>

	<p>Interviews will be taking place shortly for the National Coach role.</p> <p><b>Action 1 - KT has started to pull together conditions, processes and communication and will liaise with MR to complete.</b></p>
2.2	<p><b>Grades</b></p> <p>36 grade days been held in total, evenly across the regions. There have been some minor technical issues and SC would like to thank the Membership Team for being so efficient at dealing with queries and entering results in a timely manner.</p> <p>SC will continue to monitor and communicate with the South West region to include Wales. Most Regions are now carrying out face to face days and are holding routine grades.</p> <p>As Covid restrictions are lifted there should be no restrictions with swimmers travelling between regions, however the ASLG recommended that Regions remain responsible for hosting sufficient grade days to meet their needs and travel between regions should only be done on an exceptional basis. Due to resource issues, dates for Grade days are slower at being available via the website. Moving forward the Regional Emailer should be used to communicate dates.</p> <p><b>Action 3 – SC to email HC routine grade information.</b>  <b>Action 4 – SC/MR to confirm communication lines through the Regional emailer for grade dates.</b></p>
2.3	<p><b>Officials</b></p> <p>HS delivered a Level 3 online course with 11 new applicants. 14 new applicants for the Level 2 online course will start on 24/02/22. Regions have been informed they can deliver judges courses from January 2022. The group recommends face to face courses, alternatively the Regions should arrange to deliver an online course.</p> <p>Chief recorders course completed in November 2021, with 7 newly qualified. Each new CR will be mentored at one of the National Events to finalise their experience.</p>
2.4	<p><b>Coaching</b></p> <p>All L1 practical assessments are now complete.</p> <p>LR confirms that the new qualifications are making progress and is hoping to run a course in May, mainly face to face but also online.</p> <p>Ongoing request to ensure Regions request courses through IOS to demonstrate the correct level of demand.</p> <p>LR reported that the On-line elements have proved very successful as more coaches able to attend with shorter but more frequent time commitments.</p>

3.0	<p><b>NAGs and Champs update</b></p> <p>NAGS will close 02/03/22, numbers currently look low. EB will circulate on the Regional Emailer to boost entries.</p> <p>IA will not be able to attend the NAGs but will be able to support preparation.</p> <p>EB is confident with the current work force for the event and updates the group on progress of all volunteer roles.</p> <p>EB is negotiating the venue cost and investigating Wi-Fi connection.</p> <p>EB confirms that NAGs will be the first newly branded Swim England event and tickets are now live. EB will continue to monitor Covid setbacks/restrictions.</p> <p><b>Champs</b></p> <p>Entries will open 24/02/22 and close on 23/03/22.</p> <p>The ASLG discuss and agree to amend the timetable.</p> <p><b>Action 5 – EB to circulate NAGS on Regional Emailer and inform MR so the Leadership Group can promote on Social Media.</b></p> <p><b>Action 6 – EB and MR to discuss how to cover the absence of IM at the NAGs</b></p> <p><b>Action 7 – ASLG to support EB with recruiting for non-technical support volunteer roles by sending any suggestions/contacts via email.</b></p> <p><b>Action 8 – EB &amp; KT will discuss how to enter GB team into Champs.</b></p> <p><b>Action 9 – MR will adjust the timetable and liaise with EB.</b></p>
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7	<p><b>AOB</b></p>
	<p>From the previous LEN meeting, MR has shared a general FINA and LEN update with the ASLG.</p> <p>FINA technical congress will be 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.</p> <p>MR confirms the Junior Europeans date has not been confirmed but is likely to be 29<sup>th</sup> June - 3<sup>rd</sup> July.</p>