

Swim England Artistic Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 23.04.2022 at the National
Championship in Nottingham.

Present:

Maria Ramos - Chair
Sarah Clarke - Athlete Reward and Recognition Lead
Louise Ross – Coaching Lead
Hannah Secher – Workforce Lead
Karen Thorpe – Artistic Swimming Manager
Ian Atkinson – Competition lead
Claire Coleman – Head of Development

(Members are identified by initials)

Apologies

Jim Boucher – SOC.

Min No:											
1	Welcome and Introduction										
	MR thanked the group for making the time to meet during a busy completion weekend. The focus of this meeting would be competition aspects of the sport.										
2	National Championships (Junior & Senior)										
2.1	In anticipation of the move by FINA the Swim England National Championships for Junior and Senior age athletes, will mean that the Free Combination will now be replaced by Highlight routines. This change will be implemented for the 2023 competition Action: MR & CC to build a communication to Regional Managers and clubs										
2.2	In recognition of the higher standards emerging from the 2022 events, the qualification standard for Technical and Free Solos has been increased to a Gold standard. This change will be implemented for the 2023 competition Action: MR & CC to build a communication to Regional Managers and clubs										
2.3	From 2023, both Figure (F) and Routine ® grades are required for qualification.										
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3	National Youth Championships (Age Groups)																								
3.1	Following a lowering of standards in 2022 to help ease clubs and athletes back into competitive training after the pandemic, the standards will be raised back to pre-pandemic levels.																								
3.2	<p>Any athletes competing in any routine events will also need to have the equivalent routine grade to compete which will take effect from 2023</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Event</th> <th colspan="3">Minimum Grade</th> </tr> <tr> <th>9-10 years</th> <th>12 & Under</th> <th>13-15 Years</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Figures</td> <td>F3B</td> <td>F3B</td> <td>F4B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Solos</td> <td rowspan="4">(incorporated into 12&Under category)</td> <td>F3S+ R3S</td> <td>F4S+R4S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duets</td> <td>F3B+R3B</td> <td>F4S+R4S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Duet</td> <td>F3B+R3B</td> <td>F4B+R4B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Free Team</td> <td>F3B+R3B</td> <td>F4B+R4B</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Action: MR & CC to build a communication to Regional Managers and clubs</p>	Event	Minimum Grade			9-10 years	12 & Under	13-15 Years	Figures	F3B	F3B	F4B	Solos	(incorporated into 12&Under category)	F3S+ R3S	F4S+R4S	Duets	F3B+R3B	F4S+R4S	Mixed Duet	F3B+R3B	F4B+R4B	Free Team	F3B+R3B	F4B+R4B
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4	Swim England Combo cup																								
4.1	<p>This event is a celebration event, designed for those clubs who may not have reached national standards. In order to allow athletes to compete against similar ability and age, the grades are used to help categorise each team.</p> <p>Either figure or routine grades can be used to decide the category of swimmer, with the highest level being used as the maximum. Eg: a 13-15 Swimmer holding figure grade 3, but routine grade 4, will compete in division 2.</p> <p>Any athlete as part of the Swim England National Squad is not eligible to compete: Including Youth, Junior and Senior squad members</p>																								
4.2	<p>The minimum grades are confirmed as which will take effect from 2023:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Group</th> <th>Division 1</th> <th>Division 2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12 & Under</td> <td>Figure or Routine Grade 0-2</td> <td>Figure or Routine Grade 1-3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13-15 Years</td> <td>Figure or Routine Grade 0-3</td> <td>Figure or Routine Grade 3+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-18 Years</td> <td>Figure or Routine Grade 0-3</td> <td>Figure or Routine Grade 3+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 & Under</td> <td>Figure or Routine Grade 0-3</td> <td>Figure or Routine Grade 3+</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age Group	Division 1	Division 2	12 & Under	Figure or Routine Grade 0-2	Figure or Routine Grade 1-3	13-15 Years	Figure or Routine Grade 0-3	Figure or Routine Grade 3+	15-18 Years	Figure or Routine Grade 0-3	Figure or Routine Grade 3+	15 & Under	Figure or Routine Grade 0-3	Figure or Routine Grade 3+									
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5	Competition Grade Policy and Process		
5.1	The Group recognised that the sport has continues to build through covid recovery and that the lowering of the grades for some competitions was part of this. With the return to competition, the Group noted that athletes were now achieving a higher score in completion than their Grading Award. The Group agreed it was essential to recognise this achievement for athletes, coaches and clubs.		
5.2	The Group also recognised that participating in national competitors should be an achievement for athletes and that it should not be 'a given'. Analysis of results has identified that in some instances where clubs have not managed athlete expectations and as a result, athletes have taken part in a competition at too high a standard for their ability. This has created a negative experience for the athlete and also devalues the competition. The Group agreed that positive action was needed in this area.		
5.3	<p>A draft policy was discussed and tested. The Group felt that the outcomes of the draft policy met the aim. The Policy therefore will be applied to 2022 competitions and will be reviewed annually.</p> <p>Action : SC to analysis results to propose the promotions Action : CC to investigate how this can be achieved via direct fulfillment Action: MR to finalise policy Action: MR & CC to draft separate communication to Regions and Clubs regarding both aspects of the policy.</p>		