

# Artistic Swimming Leadership Group

5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Via Zoom

## Attendees:

**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**  
**Keith Munday - Sport Operations Committee Leadership Group Liaison**  
**Gareth Picken – Sport Development Team Administrator**

Min No:	
1.	<b>Chair’s Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>
	MR welcomed KM to the group. KM provided a brief overview of his background and past experiences within swimming.
2.	<b>Matter arising from the action log</b>
	Covered in the agenda.
3.	<b>GB/England results and forward plans</b>
	<p>KT – the priority programme began last year. The impact is already showing – success at both the Europeans and World Championships (WC) (the team finalised in every event they entered at the WC).</p> <p>KT has been in touch with UK Sport off the back of the success at both competitions. Work to start to make sure the team qualifies for Paris 2024 which would require them to be in the top 12 in the world.</p> <p>KT – We are struggling to get a head coach as employment laws restrict the recruiting process for international coaches. The current visa process takes six months. Teams have been coached during international training camps, however this is not financially sustainable or time effective as many athletes are of university age and can’t spend most of their year moving from country to country.</p> <p>KM asked KT to what extent can elements of the coach be done remotely?</p>

	<p>KT responded by saying that we have tried to do that with an Italian technical coach, however we not sure how this works financially when we can't employ them. We need a visa for international coaches to be employed with us.</p> <p>MR highlighted that this isn't the case with other sports so it doesn't seem fair on the athletes especially as this is an Olympic sport.</p> <p>MR congratulated the whole squad on their performance and the best results ever.</p> <p>KT – under 13/15 team in Croatia when we medaled in a series of events.</p> <p>KT – we have the World Junior in Canada where we are sending three teams.</p>
4.	<p><b>FINA Update</b></p>
	<p>LR has reviewed the recent update from FINA. Her comments were that the lift content is fine; the hybrid content doesn't make sense. It doesn't say how the results work. The link between your number and the degree of difficulty is missing.</p> <p>KT – this has been a multi country task where the Russian Federation has been working on the section that is missing. We need to ask FINA if there is a document missing with the hybrid degree of difficulty table.</p> <p>HS – this is a draft document which won't be ratified until October and thus won't be instigated until January 2023.</p> <p>MR - the group need to be divided to review the document and establish the impact on: <u>competitions</u>, <u>coaching</u>, <u>judging</u> and <u>scoring</u>.</p> <p>LR - The big impact is around routine development and how coaches make sure that routines are not too difficult which will then impact on results.</p> <p><b>SC and KT – end of July – basic grades and competitions</b>  <b>Rest of the group – end of August - coaching, judging and scoring.</b></p> <p><b>MR – to draft a comms piece to the community about our approach – end of September.</b></p>
Separate to the agenda	<p>LR – has had issues with the IOS around two points; 1) AC course tutors have had a 20% cut for the same amount of work. 2) three tutors have been payed differently last year. (separate addition to the meeting – not related to the agenda item).</p>

5.	<b>Coach Education</b>
5.1	Coaching specifications for Coach Certificate
5.2	Tutor Training
	<p>Applications are open for people to apply for to become a tutor – this is open until the 29<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>MR asked the group to think about anyone who they believe should apply to become a tutor.</p>
6.	<b>Competition Focus</b>
6.1	Use of Goggles
	<p>SC – As a group we need a standard response which judges can use to respond to anyone requesting to wear goggles during competitions. Under the FINA rules, they are not permitted unless for medical reasons. The confusion is around what qualifies as a medical reason. The group decided that a medical letter from a medical professional stating that the athlete must wear goggles under the water is required.</p>
7.	<b>National Conference Planning</b>
7.1	<b>Date/ Venue</b>
7.2	<b>Agenda / Potential topics</b>
7.2.1	<b>FINA Changes – what it means for GB/England</b>
7.2.2	<b>2023 updates (competitions, qualifications, grade promotions)</b>
7.2.3	<b>Grade Updates</b>
7.2.4	<b>Setting selection criteria</b>
7.2.5	<b>Education on Hypoxia</b>
	<p>When? 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> December  Where? Midlands location due to transport links.  Agenda for the conference currently listed between 7.2.1 – 7.2.5  Additional points added from the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The possibility of a live stream at the event.</li> <li>- A topic around concussion and athlete welfare.</li> </ul>
8.	<b>AOB</b>
	<p>SC – promotions criteria has been sent to Scotland. English clubs can only get England grades at English National Age Group Championships and at selected international events.</p> <p>MR thanked those in the group who attended combo cup.</p> <p>LR asked the group for their nomination of her to enter the European Masters Swimming Championships (LEN Masters).</p> <p>KT – the group has seen the selection criteria for the youth champs and everyone is happy to proceed.</p> <p>IA – volunteer recruitment at competitions outside of judges – a new agenda item for a future meeting.</p>

	KM raised a question around whether the goggle rule by FINA contradicts the Disability Discrimination act. MR responded that this would be an issue for FINA and not the group.
9.	<b>DONM</b>
	<b>MR and GP to organise a date for the next meeting around the end of September/ October.</b>