

# Artistic Swimming Leadership Group

25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Robinswood Hill, Gloucester

Attendee:

1. Maria Ramous – Chair
2. Sarah Clarke - Athlete Reward and Recognition Lead
3. Hannah Secher - Workforce Lead
4. Louise Ross - Coaching Lead
5. Keith Munday - Sport Operations Committee Leadership Group Liaison
6. Ian Atkinson - Competition lead
7. Karen Thorpe - Artistic Swimming Manager
8. Claire Coleman – Head of Development
9. Gareth Picken – Sport Development Administrator

Standing Items	
1.	<b>Chairs welcome and Action Log</b>
	<p>MR welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting of the year.</p> <p>All actions were either completed, on the agenda or an update was provided.</p> <p>Action 1 (update) – CC updated the group that SE are going live with the supervision ratios imminently. They will be published as a news article and then onto the club newsletter before going to the Comms team. CC verbally updated the new supervision ratios from memory as a refresh for the group and agreed to circulate the final proposals.</p> <p>The group requested that sport specific TM courses be set up to facilitate introduction of the reviewed ratios.</p> <p><b>Action – Volunteering Team via CC to set up specific sessions for TM delivery.</b></p> <p>Action 4 - CC is working with the head of membership and head of services to work out which are specific emails that need to be sent out.</p> <p>Action 6 – update to be provided at the next meeting.</p>
2.	<b>National Champs (Coaching Cards and organisations) Combo Cup (application of penalties from score for ties) and Masters Planning</b>
	<p>National Championships – HS began by explaining that every club who competed at the National Age Group's (NAG's) this weekend, completed a coaching card. For National Championships the next step will be reviewing and utilising them within the competition. HS highlighted need to decide so that Nina Coverley (Event Lead) can print them ready for champs so that it is clear for the judges. HS explained that a range of individuals needed access to the Coach Card.</p>

IA mentioned that currently we have an admin heavy process, with different officials requiring different parts of the Coach Card.

KT showed the group the international coaching cards that are currently being used at competitions. The group felt that this was overcomplicated and it would be easier at competitions to create our own coaching card.

MR mentioned that we need to adapt the coaching card as soon as possible and settle on the appropriate format.

**Action –SC, Ali Pratt, Adam Knight-Markiegi, IA, NC and HS to meet and discuss the paperwork and the flow of information required for the national championships – 3rd April.**

MR thanked everyone for feedback into rules and regulations of Combo Cup. From the feedback, there was one recommendation that any penalties incurred by a team, should be taken from the overall score. A discussion into at what point penalties should be taken into consideration during a competition.

LR mentioned that it should be listed in the guidance that in the case of a draw, judges should look at the number of penalties awarded in the execution score. The group agreed.

Combo Cup - Any swimmer who is part of the national squad is not eligible for Combo Cup – junior, youth and senior nations teams at the closing date of entry. This was agreed by all members of the group.

Masters Championships Plan – LR and MR met prior to the meeting. Currently masters' competition would finish at 6:30pm. We are looking to cut some of the events. Start with solos and combo, technical teams, duets and free teams but not to include the technical duets. In addition, athletes will be allowed to either gel their hair or use a cap in technical routines.

**Action – Update to the competition format to be outlined to Ekaterina Boyd.**

### 3. Judge Upskill and Training Plans

HS outlined the plan is for three update sessions over the year for any current judges to upskill onto the new system. This will be mandatory for all qualified judges.

Training plan sessions will be at Loughborough on three different dates– TBD.

KM asked how many judges need upskilling. HS answered that there is around 200 judges, although the data needs reviewing for accuracy.

CC mentioned that we need to be clear with the regions at the sessions are mandatory. If judges do not attend the session, they will not be permitted to judge as of the 1st Jan 2024. The group agreed this.

MR concluded that we need a policy that say that as a level 1 judge, there are specific requirements and it is the same for the other levels increasing in requirements. There are consequences of not attending the course.

**Action – CC to connect to Sarah Barrow on the progress of Upskilling Judges.**

	<b>Action - SB to advertise for technical controllers for competitions once a role descriptor has been agreed by the Group. A clear training plan was also required. HS and AP to support.</b>
4.	<b>2024 competitions in relation to new rules, coach card, difficulty and scoring systems</b>
	<p>MR mentioned that Sarah Barrow has been working to create communication channels for clubs to use during the rollout.</p> <p>It was agreed by ASLG that full implementation is expected for 2024.</p>
5.	<b>Guidance for Competitions</b>
	<p>MR received a complaint from a group of anonymous parents about a competition. There were concerns around how the competition should take place.</p> <p>CC updated the group how the complaint is processed through the SE processes. Josh Devine, East Region manager has been engaged on the basis the competition was in the East Region. CC provided the group with the details from correspondence with JD. SE will feedback to Safeguarding. A response cannot be sent to the complainants as this was anonymous.</p> <p>There was a group discussion on what guidance is provided for the management of grading days and competitions. It was noted that the website contained documents which need updating.</p> <p>KM asked whether there should be a welfare officer attending the national events.</p> <p>The group believed that at national competitions, there usually is a welfare officer on hand. CC updated that Ekaterina Boyd is currently working on how the welfare constitution is implemented at national competitions.</p> <p><b>Action – Sarah Barrow to check the website regarding the AS grade conditions – updated version is published.</b></p> <p><b>Action – SC to support with document creation.</b></p> <p>There was concern by the group that one of the comments were that the was around the they felt that there was no one that they could speak to about their concerns throughout the competition.</p> <p>MR concluded that whilst a response cannot be provided due to it being anonymous, a review into the competition guidelines should take place to identify any areas of improvement.</p>
6.	<b>2023 Conference</b>
	<p>KT highlighted that we need to book a date in the diary. Then the group can start planning the meeting. CC outlined the need to engage Lindsay Trimmings, Head of Coaching.</p> <p><b>Action: KT to discuss the conference with LT.</b></p>
7.	<b>Depth of water project (Allocate roles and responsibilities)</b>
	<p>MR noted we need to establish what level of pool, clubs are training in. This would impact the outcome.</p>

	<p>IA mentioned that if depth safety is a priority for the discipline, then there needs to be a compromise with spectator seating due to the few venues which can accommodate both the required pool depth and number of spectator seats.</p> <p><b>Action: MR to work on draft survey questions for clubs for group agreement.</b></p> <p><b>Action: GP to build and publish survey to Artistic Swimming clubs.</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Development update – definition of low level competition</b></p> <p>The group confirmed the current definition met the needs of the sport.</p>
9.	<p><b>Update from SOC</b></p> <p>KM updated the group of the items discussed at the last Sports Operation Committee (SOC) meeting. KM explained that the Teaching/coaching register is now mandatory across the nation as is the enhanced DBS with barred list checks. Swim England Safeguarding will become mandatory for everyone involved in the sport as of January 2024.</p> <p>Policy areas which have changed include the requirement that at national competitions, all clubs will be required to have a minimum of a level 2 coach attending rather than just a level 1 assistant coach. The group expressed surprise that this is not the case across all sports – it is the acceptable standard in Artistic Swimming. However, clarity was required about whether Level 1 Coaches would still be allowed accreditation on poolside at events.</p> <p>KM concluded the update by mentioning that the SE strategy is scheduled to be released in May 2024.</p>
10.	<p><b>AOB and DONM</b></p> <p>MR raised the subject of the Mary Black Trophy for services to Artistic Swimming. Three nominations were received and a decision was made by the group.</p> <p>KT updated the group that work is ongoing to the conditions for regional games and the selection policy for the European Championships and the Olympic Games.</p> <p>HS mentioned that in regards to log books, there needs to be continuity throughout all regions for country, regional and national competitions. The group agreed that there should be a national audit to establish which regions have clubs which use log books for competitions.</p> <p><b>Action: GP to approach all regional managers to establish use of log books for discussion at a future meeting</b></p> <p>The group was made aware of a potential safeguarding issue and CC agreed to introduce MR to the necessary people.</p> <p>DONM - Saturday 22nd April</p>