

Artistic Swimming Leadership Group

18th September 20:00 – 21:30, Zoom

Maria Ramos (MR) – Chair (from item 2)
Sarah Clarke (SC) - Athlete Reward and Recognition Lead
Hannah Secher (HS) - Workforce Lead
Karen Thorpe (KT) - Artistic Swimming Manager
Helen Weeks (HW) – Governance Manager
Gareth Picken (GP) – Sport Development Administrator
Alice Fairhall (AF) - Club Development Project Officer (until item 3)

2nd October 18:30 – 20:00, Zoom

Maria Ramous (MR) – Chair
Sarah Clarke (SC) - Athlete Reward and Recognition Lead
Hannah Secher (HS) - Workforce Lead
Karen Thorpe (KT) - Artistic Swimming Manager
Keith Munday (KM) - Sport Operations Committee Leadership Group Liaison
Louise Ross (LR) - Coaching Lead
Gareth Picken (GP) – Sport Development Administrator
Becky Walker (BW) - Club Growth & Programmes Manager

Standing Items	
1.	Chairs welcome, Apologies and action log
	<p>HS began the meeting mentioned that MR would be joining the meeting later on. In MR's absence, the group elected HS as chair of the meeting.</p> <p>HS mentioned that apologies have been received by KM, IA and LR.</p> <p>HS progressed through the action log; Actions 2, 3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and 11 have been completed. Action 10 has been updated and is ready for GP to circulate to clubs.</p> <p>Action – GP to circulate the pool depth survey to Artistic Swimming clubs.</p>
2.	Development Update
	<p>HW began the update by introducing herself to the members of the group and explained that she would be covering the role held by Claire Coleman whilst she is on maternity leave. HW went on to explain the progress made regarding the Artistic Swimming Grades Project Report.</p> <p>The report was divided to four key areas, Grades, Coach Education, Judging and Competition.</p> <p>Within Grades; the grades video project has since been completed.</p> <p>As for Coach Education, the series of the online coach card webinars have taken place over the course of the first half of the year.</p>

	<p>In regards to Judging, three online up skill CPD opportunities have taken place for Judges, as well as, Technical controller training development. Also, three dates have been booked in at Sport Park for referee and J3 face to face training to take place in October, November and December. Accepted candidates for the Technical Controller roles have been contacted and HS has shared the progression plan with them.</p> <p>Within Competition, there have been no completed items however, organising synchronization and difficulty Technical Controllers; organising shadow panels with Chief scorers and a review of the shadow panels at NAGs are all items in progress.</p> <p>Action - GP to circulate to circulate the Artistic Swimming Grades Project Report to the group.</p> <p>MR joined the meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Club Health Tracker</p> <p>AF introduced herself to the group as the club development officer and presented the finding from the Club Health Tracker (CHT) across all disciplines and specifically from an Artistic Swimming perspective.</p> <p>AF explained that out the Artistic Swimming clubs which did respond to the CHT, the general results where similar to that of the other disciplines with the exception of Swimming.</p> <p>One of the key figures were the concern from clubs about their financial long term security.</p> <p>HW asked whether it was known if the results from one side of a club differs to the Artistic Swimming side if they are a multi discipline club.</p> <p>AF responded that currently this is not known, however these results could be looked into if it would benefit the club.</p> <p>AF further mentioned that within the CHT, there were a few 'red flag' questioned which were areas of concerns after which either the regional or national team worked with the club to rectify.</p> <p>HS highlighted that having a tangible item for completing the CHT was a great incentive for clubs to complete the survey.</p> <p>MR thanked AF for attending and presenting to the group</p> <p>Action – AF, via GP, to circulate the PDF to the group.</p> <p>AF left the meeting at 20:46.</p>
4.	<p>Events update & Trophy policy</p> <p>EB explained that SE have written a proposed policy in which replica trophies will be awarded to winning clubs (who can keep the trophy for a year) rather that the official trophies. This is because the trophies are historical artefacts which during the year that they are at a club, are often lost or damaged. This is a policy which has been enforced within Swimming events since 2017. EB asked whether the ASLG would be happy to adopt the same policy.</p> <p>MR mentioned that the Artistic Swimming trophies are considered symbolic and are of great importance for inspiration and legacy. MR advised there is a lot of history within the trophies and a sense of pride from the swimming. MR requested whether there could be a second</p>

	<p>approach where by the original trophies are taken to the events and presented but then taken back for safe keeping and a replica is then taken by the club/swimmer.</p> <p>The ASLG did not support the policy in the first instance and agreed that this would need wider consultation with those who donated the trophies and the regional managers.</p> <p>Action – MR to ask about the proposed policy change at the ASLG regional managers meeting on the 4th October.</p> <p>Action – EB to make contact with the individuals who donated the trophies.</p> <p>Action – GP to circulate the Trophy Policy to all attendee of the ASLG regional managers meeting on the 4th October.</p>
5.	Online calendar
	<p>HS mentioned that there have been issues with the online calendar, however this is being managed by the website team at SE. The website team are happy for SC to upload the dates of the grade assessment days and for HS to upload the judge courses days.</p> <p>Action – all dates to be uploaded by SC and HS.</p>
6.	Update of Judge upskills and courses
	<p>HS shared two Judge upskill courses have already taken place with about 160 participants across the two days. A third day is booked to take place. One referee course has taken place. A synchronization controller session has taken place for the Level 3 judges with 40 people attending. A referee course is out for advert, taking place in November. Technical Controller course is currently in the process of taking place. The Level 1 course has been written, HS just needs to confirm the exam. The Level 2 course has been written but needs to be sent out to the regions for them to roll out and the Level 3 course will be taking place on the Sunday of the AS Conference.</p> <p>The Chief Recorders have a course taking place in the North coming up but this needs to be rolled out more across the country.</p>
7.	2024 Competitions(Dates, Structure, Rules, scoring) Artistic Swimming new rules
	<p>Artistic Swimming new rules - MR shared with the group a presentation on the proposed format of the competitions and events that are scheduled for 2024.</p> <p>The group agreed that there will be 4-10 for combo and stay at 8 for combo cup. All swimmers that have entered into a team event must have entered figures, however, the result from combo is 100% of the routine score.</p> <p>The adoption of the new rules will take place at National Age Groups but Combo Cup will stay with the current rules. It will be advised to the regions and a proposal for masters to be discussed.</p> <p>MR concluded that this is a conversation which would continue and progress over the coming months.</p> <p>2024 competition calendar – EB summarised the results of a survey which was sent out to all participant who attended the Master/ Combo Cup combined event.</p>

	<p>The general response was split between those who enjoyed the event and felt that it was a good atmosphere and those who didn't enjoy sharing the lime light.</p> <p>Action - MR to set up targeted session to agree the structure of Combo Cup and feedback at next ASLG.</p> <p>EB mentioned that currently National Age Groups, Combo Cup and Masters is scheduled to take place in Sheffield.</p> <p>MR raised the concern that this would be very north heavy for the southern clubs.</p> <p>EB replied that she would investigate the availability of K2 as an alternative venue for one of the competitions.</p> <p>KT left the meeting at 21:46</p>
10.	<p>Regional Managers Meeting – Agenda and attendees</p> <p>GP has contacted the Artistic Swimming regional representatives and have invited them to the next ASLG meeting which has now been confirmed for the 4th October 6:30-8:00pm.</p> <p>Action – MR and GP to set out the agenda.</p>
11.	<p>AOB</p> <p>MR asked GP to set up and circulate two doodle polls; one to organise an additional meeting specifically around the Artistic Swimming Conference, and a second poll to confirm the date of the final ASLG meeting of the year (within November).</p> <p>Action – GP to set up two doodle polls (AS conference meeting date/ ASLG November meeting date).</p>
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>4th October (with regional managers)</p> <p>Action – GP, when meeting dates are agreed, will send out diary holds and meeting links at the same time.</p>

1.	<p>Artistic Swimming Conference - 2nd and 3rd December (took place on the 2nd October)</p> <p>MR thanked everyone for attending the second part of the ASLG meeting.</p> <p>BW updated the group that there are two venues as options; Eastwood Hall and Jury Inn, Nottingham. There were concerns from the group with regards to the distance between Nottingham train station and Eastwood Hall. MR asked GP to find out from Claire Coleman (SE Head of Development) why Eastwood Hall was suggested as a venue and whether there was a special deal in place.</p> <p>HS mentioned that there is a Technical Controllers course, a Level 2 Judge course, Level 3 Judge course taking place on Sunday. On the Saturday, HS advised that it should be a more generic education day.</p> <p>BW suggested that on the agenda, a period of time was blocked out for question/ answer period. Questions can be asked on the day, but questions requiring a more detailed answer need to be submitted a fortnight ahead of the conference.</p>
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KM explained that some people feel very uncomfortable to ask questions within a large forum and whether it would be feasible to have an online question portal for participants.

MR answered that there will be a 'question in a hat' system for questions to be submitted anonymously.

BW asked how long the courses are likely to take on the Sunday.

HS mentioned that the coach card course would take place between 9am – 4pm, with the Level 2 and 3 courses taking place between 9am and 5pm.

KM asked whether there should be a presentation around coach/athlete welfare

MR agreed with the suggestion and mentioned that she would contact Kevin Suckling (SE Head of Safeguarding).

Saturday – 10am – 6pm

Sunday – 9am – 4pm/5pm (subject to the course they are completing).

MR suggested that a small fee should be charged to attendees to cover tea/coffee and lunch.

BW concluded the group is happy with a nominal fee of £15 is charged to attendees per day, however if a club is financially struggling, then this can be reviewed on a case by case basis.

BW asked how many people would be roughly attending each course.

LR mentioned that on the Sunday, the Technical Controllers course there would be a maximum of 10 participants plus the host. The Level 3 and Level 2 course would be capped at 16 participants each. For the Coach Card course, it is predicted that between 50 – 80 participants would attend.

BW asked about whether the weekend will be recorded or live streamed and sent out to those who can't the weekend?

MR answered that the Saturday should be recorded as there is a concern that all clubs need to be aware of the information being shared at the conference and it is appreciated that for some clubs, it would not be a financially viable option to travel long distances, then need to find accommodation in order to attend the event.

MR replied that this is a process that has been used in the past and that generally, clubs have found it beneficial to attend in person if they are able to.

In regards to a promotional information which will be sent out to clubs to promote the event, MR mentioned that she would like to pass the agenda by the regional managers at the ASLG + Regional Managers meeting on Wednesday 4th October before the information is created.

KM asked whether Mike Hawkes (SE Equality, Diversity and Inclusion lead) has been invited to the conference as he could support clubs and coaches to develop.

MR agreed that this would be a great opportunity and she would look into this if Safeguarding could not attend and the agenda could accommodate both topics

Action – GP to find out if a quote was obtained from Jury's Inn, and if not find out if they can accommodate the conference (dates, suitable rooms for numbers), and if so get a quote to compare by the 6th October.

	<p>Action – MR to pull together draft agenda and send to GP by the 6th October.</p> <p>Action – MR to pull together marketing info for conference after speaking with the regional managers and send to GP/ HW by 23rd October.</p> <p>Action – MR to contact Kevin Suckling regarding a Safeguarding and Welfare team representative to speak at the conference by the end of October.</p> <p>Action – MR to contact Mike Hawkes to speak at the conference.</p> <p>Action – HS to send a message out in the coach’s Whatsapp group to ask for topics/questions to be covered during the conference by the 6th October.</p>
	<p>AOB</p>
	<p>LR highlighted that LEN have released their new rules, World Aquatics has yet to publish which set of rules they are adopting.</p> <p>HS answered that she will ask other what set of rules other countries are going to be using.</p> <p>MR asked LR to put together a couple of proposals for Combo Cup and Regional Championships which can be taken to the Masters community.</p> <p>MR confirmed that National Age Groups for 2024 are going to be on the 9th /10th March at K2, Crawley with National Champions at Harvey Haden, Nottingham and Masters Championships taking place at Ponds Forge, Sheffield.</p>