

Artistic Swimming Leadership Group

19th February 2024 18:30 – 20:00, Zoom

Attendees:

Maria Ramos (MR) Chair
Louise Ross (LR) Coaching Lead
Hannah Secher (HS) Workforce Lead
Ian Atkinson (IA) Competition Lead
Sarah Clarke (SC) Athlete Reward and Recognition Lead
Ally White (AW) Swim England Sport Development Director
Claire Coleman (CC) Swim England Head of Development
Gareth Picken (GP) Swim England Sport Development Administrator

Additional:

Becky Walker (BW) Club Growth & Programmes Manager (during items 1 and 2)

Apologies received:

Karen Thorpe (KT) Artistic Swimming Manager
Keith Munday (KM) Sport Operations Committee Leadership Group Liaison
Ekaterina Boyd (EB) Swim England Head of Events

Standing Items	
1.	Chairs welcome and Apologies
	MR opened the meeting. ASLG member introduced themselves to AW, AW gave a short introduction to him. Apologies received KM, KT and EB.
2.	Action Log
	All actions were reviewed; included in the agenda, updated on or completed.
3.	Growth Update
	<p>BW started by mentioning that her team are working on a project aimed at understanding the barriers to participation and potential opportunities for growth.</p> <p>The group provided initial ideas as follows:</p> <p>HS: swimming teachers believe that the discipline is too difficult to teach and a misconception that depth of water required to learn the discipline can take place (Swim England Policy document).</p> <p>LR: Believes there is an assumption that a swimmer has to be a certain level of competency to consider the sport, but showed that many of the elements can be incorporated in the 'Learn to Swim' levels.</p> <p>MR: With the Master community growing, there is an opportunity to build communication plans that AS is for everyone regardless of age or ability and is a good way to move the body. AS doesn't just have to be for young people</p>

	<p>IA: explained that there needs to be consideration of routes to get more parents involved earlier and for longer in a range of roles, but primarily judging and scoring.</p> <p>BW thanked the group for their comments. BW left the meeting at 19:00.</p>
4.	Updates from each of the Leads:
4.1	Grades
	<p>4.1 Grades - SC explained that the work on grades is going well. The group discussed a reply to an email received by the South West region around the number of poolside helpers. CC highlighted the SE Team Manager, Chaperone policy which all clubs should be adhering to.</p> <p>Action – CC to discuss the FAQ and poolside passes with Helen Weeks in reply to the email received by SC. HS to join in where appropriate.</p> <p>Action – GP to add this topic to the agenda for the 19th March.</p>
4.2	Coaching Programme
	<p>4.2 Coaching - LR has been in touch with Alice Fairhall to provide contact details for coaches as part of the consultation programme. LR updated the group on those selected which covered a range of regions and size of clubs.</p> <p>LR has also been updating the AS calendar with the current coaching courses that GP publishes out every Monday.</p> <p>It was requested again that this could be included on the web calendar.</p>
4.3	Officials
	<p>4.3 HS updated the group that the first cohort of Technical Controllers training has been completed; four attendees dropped out from the course, however there is now 11 Controllers who are trained. A second cohort are due to start on Sunday, with representatives from all regions.</p> <p>HS raised concerns about the impact on the workload the new changes has made on Chief Recorders following their feedback. In particular, concerns about the way Regions are setting up their competitions which are now becoming too complicated.</p> <p>It was agreed that Competition Structure should be added to the upcoming RM Meeting.</p> <p>Action – GP to add competition structure to the agenda of the Regional Manager.</p> <p>Action – MR will liaise with the Chief Recorders Group with the recommendation to review and update the job description of Chief Recorders.</p> <p>HS is in contact with Andrea Statin (SE Volunteering and Development coordinator) to develop the online judging course.</p>

	<p>MR advised that World Aquatics are changing the criteria for remaining on the international judging list. This change will review how long judges have been on the list and the number of competitions they have judges at.</p> <p>AW asked what the decision making process is to nominating judges to the international judges list.</p> <p>HS explained that once the applications have been received, they are matched against a criteria and submitted to ASLG for decisions. It is an open and transparent policy. ASLG takes on this task as there is currently no equivalent group in British Swimming, but does include applications from all home countries. .</p>
4.4	<p>Development</p> <p>4.4 Development – The development team paper was circulated ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>CC highlighted some key pieces of work currently taking place;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A guide for coaches and committees is being developed by the Club and Operator Relationship team. - The Club Health Tracker will be closed on the 28th February. CC appealed to the group to push out awareness. <p>Action – CC to circulate the latest statistics from the Club Health Tracker to the group. Alice Fairhall to provide a breakdown.</p> <p>Action – ASLG to push the Club Health Tracker amongst AS clubs ahead of the deadline.</p> <p>CC informed the group that Craig McCullough has been appointed SE head of coaching.</p>
5.	<p>AS Conference feedback</p> <p>MR updated the group that the feedback was very positive with thanks to everyone who was involved in event (pre and during the weekend).</p> <p>The most noticeable feedback was around the date of the conference. Attendees thought that the conference took place too late in year. The group agrees with proposal to bring the conference earlier in the year.</p> <p>Action – MR and KT to identify a suitable date for late October/November.</p>
6.	<p>Neurodivergent Athletes - accessibility - grade days</p> <p>An email from a club Welfare Officer was circulated to the group about adaptations that may be required for neurodivergent swimmers</p> <p>The group agreed that the guidance could be made clearer about what adaptations should be made.</p> <p>This included the need for coaches/team managers to request support ahead of the competition. This could include early access to the pool, quiet spaces, or any other support.</p>

	<p>Action – SC review the senior judges guidance to support the inclusion of neurodivergent swimmers.</p> <p>Action – MR to request EB looks at the entry systems to identify an additional requirements.</p>
7.	<p>NAGS Planning</p> <p>IA visited K2 in Crawley. Water depth was raised as a potential issue and this was being dealt with separately with the Events Team. IA talked through the flows and space allocations. IA explained that the venue was very welcoming and accommodating to the needs of the competition.</p> <p>LR mentioned that the glare from one side of the pool has made reviewing footage difficult and needs to be addressed ahead of NAGS.</p> <p>The group agreed that the timetable may need reviewing so as to avoid when the glare is at its worse.</p> <p>AW left the meeting at 20:18</p>
8.	<p>Champs Conditions/Timetable: Approval</p> <p>MR circulated the conditions to the group ahead of the meeting and the group approved them.</p> <p>The new system is likely to have an impact on the overall timetable.</p> <p>The group agreed the proposed structure for the timetable and order of swim.</p>
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>There were no additional AOB's from the group.</p>
10.	<p>Close of meeting/ Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>MR closed the meeting at 20:37 with thanks to all participants/ 19th March with Regional Managers.</p>