

Artistic Swimming Leadership Group

14th October 2024 18:30 – 20:00, Zoom

Attendees:

Louise Ross (LR)	Coaching Lead
Hannah Secher (HS)	Workforce Lead
Sarah Clarke (SC)	Athlete Reward and Recognition Lead
Karen Thorpe (KT)	Artistic Swimming Manager
Claire Coleman (CC)	Swim England Head of Development
Ekaterina Boyd (EB)	Swim England Head of Events
Gareth Picken (GP)	Swim England Sport Development Administrator

Apologies:

Maria Ramos (MR)	Chair
Ian Atkinson (IA)	Competition Lead
Keith Munday (KM)	Sport Operations Committee Leadership Group Liaison

AGENDA	
Standing Items	
1.	Chairs welcome and Apologies
	SC opened and chaired the meeting on behalf of MR who is traveling. Apologies were received by MR, IA, KM.
2.	Action Log
	SC listed the actions in the action log. The group provided updates on the actions. Actions were either complete or ongoing.
3.	Updates from each of the Leads:
3.1	Grades
	SC thanked KT and HS for contacting the regional managers that had not replied with correctly completed forms. KT asked whether there was a simpler way for information to be shared with the regions. EB mentioned that Office 365 does have the capability for what is required but training is still being rolled out through SE. CC recommended the use of a box file for communications between the regional managers and the ASLG as Office 365 capabilities has not yet been incorporated.

	<p>SC further explained that the new grades will be rolled out in the new year. CC listed that the changes can be shared with the regional officers via the regional emailer.</p> <p>Action – SC to use a Box file to share current documents with the regional managers.</p>
3.2	Coaching
	<p>LR asked whether the group is happy with the changes made to the Artistic Swimming Coach Specifications document. The group agreed with the changes.</p>
3.3	Officials
	<p>HS updated the group that technical controller courses and judge 1 courses are currently taking place. Scorers training is going through a refresh of the content as the change from scorer Definitely one person is attending the European technical controller course with a potential second person attending as well. HS also mentioned that they would be attending the LEN conference.</p> <p>SC asked whether the level 1 online course is filling up. HS explained that the course is over-subscribed even with the South East region and North East region running their own courses.</p>
3.4	SOC Update (minutes to follow)
	<p>CC explained that the SOC has recently met with the main items of discussion being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The updating of the regional agreements which has now been streamlined to a one-page document. - The attendance of Andrew Power, who is the SE lead for the Health and Wellbeing agenda. - An update on the Swim Mark review and the future of Swim Mark. - Update on the Learn to Swim to Club Links review. <p>The next SOC meeting is taking place tomorrow.</p> <p>Action – GP to circulate the SOC minutes.</p>
3.5	Development Update (report attached)
	<p>CC raised with the group that the Development Update document, which was circulated ahead of the meeting, now includes updates from the development, coaching, talent and events team. The primary items included in the update were the Working Together Coach and Committee review, the Swim Mark Review and the Swim England National Awards which are taking place at the end of November.</p>

	Craig McCulloch is still reviewing the coaching strategy but will then be working with the IOS.
4.	Strategy Update
4.1	What would you like to see in 12 months? What would you like to see in 5 years?
	<p>CC began by presenting to the group the background to the strategy refresh, including the results of the national roadshows which took place earlier in the year. Following the presentation, CC asked the group for their comments on the two headline questions.</p> <p>HS mentioned that regional staff need to have greater awareness of the discipline. Regions need to understand and value the discipline more than they are.</p> <p>KT asked whether some regions are better than others at communicating with the group. SC answered that yes, some regional staff are more proactive and consistent. KT suggested that a review into what the regional managers should be doing for the discipline.</p> <p>LR raised that the number of communications being sent out to the community from SE is too great and much is not relevant to the discipline. There is also a 'post-code lottery' between the regions as to what communications is being sent out to the community.</p> <p>LR further raised that the discipline needs to attract younger participants to develop the sport and increase the 'talent pool'.</p> <p>CC suggested that the group should have a discussion around the evaluation of the grading system. The group agreed.</p> <p>CC mentioned that to continue the discussion outside of the meeting, the themes will be listed in an email and circulated to the group for further feedback.</p> <p>Action – CC to email the ASLG with the strategy review themes for members to reply with additional comments.</p>
5.	AS Webinar
5.1	Date
	<p>KT raised that the dates have been confirmed for the webinar day and the coaching day as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Webinar – 8th November - Coaching day – 23rd November.
5.2	Planning process
	KT mentioned that the signing up process needs creating.

	<p>Action – KT, GP and Andrea Startin to meet and create the webinar/coaching day sign-up forms. Included in the training newsletter and circulated to the community.</p> <p>Coaching day – Hengrove have double booked the pool in the morning. Change day or have a smaller pool. SC mentioned that the change of date would be more of an inconvenience.</p>
6.	<p>Competitions</p> <p>EB updated the group that the National Age Groups are provisionally booked for the 15th and 16th March at the London Aquatics Centre with all other major artistic swimming national swimming competitions as they were for 2024. These dates will be officially published in December.</p> <p>EB asked the group about the coach card changes and whether there would be any impact on the events team. SC mentioned that everything is going to be announced to the community through the upcoming webinar but asked whether there were any additional communication channels that should be utilised. CC suggested that the webinar should be recorded and circulated to ensure that the whole community is aware of the changes.</p>
7.	<p>Depths Survey</p> <p>EB updated the group that the analysis has been completed and is now with Richard Lamburn to ensure that the results are being reported correctly. The report will be shared with the group at the next meeting.</p>
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>There were no other points of business.</p>
9.	<p>Close of meeting</p> <p>18th November 2024.</p>