

# Artistic Swimming Leadership Group and Regional Managers

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, Online

## Attendees:

Karen Thorpe	Artistic Swimming Manager
Hannah Secher	Workforce Lead
Claire Coleman	Head of Development
<b>Regional Managers:</b>	
Susan Foex	North West Regional Manager
Di Hughes	East Regional Manager
Tracy Wyke	North East Regional Manager
Amy Davis	East Regional Manager
Mary Hooper	South West Regional Manager
Daniel Vernis	London Regional Manager
Lisa Watkins	West Midland Regional Manager
Alison Ravenhall	East Midland Regional Manager

Standing Items	
1.	<b>Chairs welcome and Apologies</b>
	KT welcomed the group to the meeting. As MR is currently away, KT and HS have stepped in to chair the meeting.
2.	<b>Key Dates and Competition/Event Changes</b>
	<p>HS presented to the group an update on the competitions and events calendar for 2025 including competition specifications, venues (confirmed and to be confirmed) as well as the dates for each event.</p> <p>Currently competitions confirmed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- National Age Groups – 15/16th March – London Aquatic Centre (TBC)</li><li>- National Junior &amp; Senior Championships – 26/27th April – Harvey Hadden</li><li>- Combo Cup – 5th July – Sheffield</li><li>- Masters – 6th July – Sheffield</li></ul> <p>HS further explained the requirements of regional and local competitions.</p> <p><b>Action – GP to the circulate the competition and events presentation.</b></p>
3.	<b>National Update</b>
	KT began by reflecting on the success that the discipline has seen at international competitions by the national team throughout the year.

	<p>KT further detailed the mission for 2025, including specific focus points. The athlete journey for all disciplines within SE is currently being reviewed by the National Talent Team. The regional talent programme has not changed for the year ahead.</p> <p>Regional Games will take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> May at Hengrove Leisure Centre. The criteria has not changed for the games.</p> <p>The coaches webinar update will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 6pm – 8pm online.</p> <p>The coaching day will be taking place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10am-4pm at Hengrove Leisure Centre.</p>
4.	<p><b>Regional Development Programme</b></p>
	<p>KT proposed to the regional managers the ‘Olympic Athlete Master Class’, which would involve one of the Olympic Athletes going to each region to host a land/water-based clinic tailored to the specific region.</p> <p>KT ended the presentation by showing the Regional Feedback form which will be circulated to each of the regions. The form is split into three sections; 1) feedback on the 2024 season, 2) regional planning for 2025, 3) shaping the future. The feedback forms need to be returned to KT by the 25<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p>AD asked on behalf of their region whether there is a list of tutors for judging courses that can be used by the regions. HS replied that they would be able to support this.</p> <p>Additionally, AD asked whether there is any restriction on the depth of a pool during competitions. CC replied that earlier in the year SE released a survey for Artistic Swimming clubs to complete into the depths of the pools that they train and compete in. The response rate was 85% with the data currently being analysed by the insight team.</p> <p>HS left the meeting.</p>
5.	<p><b>Regional Update</b></p>
	<p>SF began by update the group that regional training starts with the first session scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> October and a grade day has recently taken place.</p> <p>SF highlighted that regional budgets are submitted at the end of September and therefore the updates provided earlier in the meeting, the region will struggle to respond to.</p> <p>AD highlighted that the region has a grade day and two figure days coming up. Regional championship coming up in a few weeks.</p> <p>DH mentioned that there two grade days scheduled to take place over the coming months; one in October and the other in December. 2025 grade days are booked until next September. Regional trials are taking place in December. DH believed that having a opportunity for swimmers to meet the Olympic athletes will be very beneficial.</p>

	<p>Tracy raised that the region has a grade day in November as well as a scorers and judges course which is open to other regions. Additionally, preparations are being made for the regional development squad. Regional competition is scheduled for next year. Tracy further raised that two new pools have been built in the region, however both depths are 1.8m.</p> <p>Alison explained that the Regional Age Group Championships are taking place in March, with National Championships and Masters Championships taking place in April.</p> <p>Mary updated the group that there is a grade day and figure competition approaching over the next few weeks. All competition dates have</p> <p>Daniel explained that there had been a rise in the number of coaches, so the region is in a strong position.</p> <p>KT thanked the regional managers for their updates and explained that they can contact KT at any point in the year if there is an issue or a concern.</p>
6.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>
	<p>CC asked that the regions to notify Sarah Clarke through an online form as to when each of the regions are planning on holding grading days. The distribution centre needs approximately 3 months' notice ahead of the grading days. This is so that the SE distribution centre can better understand the 'pinch points' during the year and ensure there is greater preparation for 2025.</p> <p><b>Actions – CC, with Sarah Clarke's support, to share the links to the online forms with the regional managers.</b></p> <p>DV raised that recently he ordered grading day certificates, but the stickers weren't included. He rang the distribution centre to clarify and was told that they are not included. CC agreed to look into this.</p> <p><b>Action: CC to raise issue of stickers with the Distribution centre</b></p> <p>There were no other items of business and therefore KT thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>