

Artistic Swimming Leadership Group

18th November 2024 18:30 – 20:00, Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Maria Ramos (MR)	Chair
Hannah Secher (HS)	Workforce Lead
Sarah Clarke (SC)	Athlete Reward and Recognition Lead
Karen Thorpe (KT)	Artistic Swimming Manager
Louise Ross (LR)	Coaching Lead
Ian Atkinson (IA)	Competition Lead
Keith Munday (KM)	Sport Operations Committee Leadership Group Liaison
Ekaterina Boyd (EB)	Swim England Head of Events
Gareth Picken (GP)	Swim England Sport Development Administrator

Apologies:

Claire Coleman (CC)	Swim England Head of Development
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AGENDA	
Standing Items	
1.	Chairs welcome and Apologies
	MR opened the meeting. Apologies were received from CC.
2.	Action Log
	The action log was reviewed following the meeting with members contacting GP with updates to their action by 22 nd November. Action – Group member to provide GP with update to actions by the end of the week (22nd November).
3.	Updates from each of the Leads:
3.1	Grades
	SC updated the group on the changes which have recently be made to the AS grading document. Currently figure and routine grades are scored on 0.1's. SC suggested that routines should be graded in 0.25's in line with judging of competition routines, figures will remain in 0.1's points. The group agreed with the grading changes. After the meeting the final adjustments will be made and a final read-through, the booklets will be prepared for the website and ready for circulation. Action – SC to forward the booklet to KT. Action – KT to speak with the Swim England design team to push through the booklet for circulation promptly.

	<p>HS mentioned that there are discrepancies between the grade days in each region and whether figures and routine can be done on the same day. SC confirmed that regions can do both on the same day, however it is the decision of the host region.</p>
3.2	<p>Coaching</p> <p>Coaching courses are progressing well. MR asked LR if an end of year report with coaching course attendees throughout the year, could be written to see if there are any trends, especially with the success of the Olympic Games during the summer.</p> <p>LR highlighted that 25 have passed assistant coach this year. There is an additional 14 on a course run by LR currently so the hope is for 39 assistant coaches to be qualified by the end of 2024. 16 people have qualified as coaches this year.</p> <p>KM asked whether this could be broadened for an understanding of the number of coaches, team managers, and volunteers within the discipline.</p> <p>MR explained that this data could be used to shape the 2025 agenda for the group.</p>
3.3	<p>Officials</p> <p>A new cohort of Technical Controllers have just finished their training. Once they are fully qualified, there will be approximately 16-18 Technical Controllers throughout the country and across the regions.</p> <p>HS has just completed a J1 judges' course. HS leads one J1 and one J2 course per year.</p> <p>The chief recorders have an online course running in January 2025.</p> <p>MR explained that World Aquatics have restructured the officials' categories. There are four categories: Gold, Silver, Bronze and Development.</p> <p>MR suggested that HS review the judge process for those who have been included in the categories for an extended time but haven't progressed. Furthermore, the requirements for each category need to be established.</p>
3.4	<p>SOC Update</p> <p>KM raised that Swim Mark has now been stopped. Club affiliation will continue, and a new club development tool will be developed.</p> <p>There is a major change in the senior leadership team currently taking place which is signaling a change in direction for the organisation.</p> <p>The next SOC meeting is taking place next week.</p>
3.5	<p>Development Update (report attached)</p> <p>The Development report was circulated to the group ahead of the meeting. The report included updates from all teams within the Swim England Sport Development Directorate.</p>
4.	<p>National and International Official Appointments</p>

4.1	<p>National Age Groups, National Championships, Combo Cup, Masters Championships.</p> <p>MR and SC met ahead of the meeting to discuss the appointment of officials for the major national competitions taking place during 2025.</p> <p>The proposed officials were agreed to by the group.</p> <p>In addition, the proposed Chief Recorders for each competition were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Age Groups – Fiona, - National Championships – Adam - Combo Cup and Masters – Paul and Carolyn <p>Check with SC which officials will be at each competition.</p> <p>Action – MR to speak with the officials listed to confirm their attendance at each event.</p>
5.	<p>Debrief from European Clinic</p> <p>KT explained that the European Clinic went well but could have been structured better. There was greater awareness of British Artistic Swimming as a consequence of the success from the Paris Olympic Games.</p>
6.	<p>Progress of webinar and coach training planning</p> <p>KT updated the group that the Coach webinar took place. It was well attended.</p> <p>Action – KT to provide the data to GP to circulate to include the numbers signed up, the numbers of those who attended the webinar and who was missing from the meeting.</p> <p>The Coaches’ Day is scheduled take place on Saturday 23rd November. It was proposed by KT that this should take place a few times throughout 2025.</p>
7.	<p>Chief Recorders update:</p>
7.1	<p>Base mark scores for Combo Cup - to be formalised</p> <p>Base marks were discussed and agreed on by the group.</p>
8.	<p>Events Update</p> <p>EB explained that London Aquatics Centre has been confirmed for National Age Group Championships, National Championships will take place at Harvey Hadden, Nottingham and Combo Cup will be held at Ponds Forge, Sheffield.</p> <p>The official competition calendar will be published to the wider community on the 9th December.</p> <p>EB further notified Jade Smith has joined the National Events Team as an events officer. Jade’s background is as an Olympic Water Polo player and as events professional in cycling and rugby.</p>

8.	AOB
	<p>KM raised with the group whether a record of the Artistic Swimming community is taken, including the number of volunteers involved in each role. Additionally, whether there are any trends with regards to the coaching courses and their attendance numbers as this could provide valuable insight for future courses regarding where and when they are held.</p> <p>KM further asked whether this is, and if there isn't, could be a part of an Artistic Swimming Development Plan. KT explained that this is in hand and will be a part of the changes because of the new strategy.</p> <p>EB explained that there is good representation for Artistic Swimming at National Awards which are taking place on Saturday 30th November. Members of the Artistic Swimming community have been nominated in a number of categories.</p>
9.	Close of meeting
	<p>MR queried the 2025 proposed meeting dates. GP agreed to check the dates confirmed and contact MR.</p> <p>Action – GP to check 2025 meeting dates and confirm with MR.</p> <p>Date of next meeting is the 19th February 2025 TBC.</p>