



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Artistic Swimming Leadership Group Meeting
13th November 2021

Present	Amy Davis (AD)	East Region Artistic Swimming Manager
	Sheila Mackenzie (SM)	Swim England AS Representative
	Alison Bhamber (AB)	Bedford
	Tom Brennan (TB)	Aqualina
	Karen Brennan (KB1)	Aqualina
	Kerri Brennan (KB2)	Aqualina
	Amy Bryant (AB)	Hatfield
	Nick Donlevy (ND)	Norwich
	Emily Gower (EG)	Norwich
	Jayne Jarvis (JJ)	Cheshunt
	Laura Neary (LN)	Chelmsford
	Suzanne Rushe (SR)	Dacorum
	Emma Winter	Regional Administrator

21/11 **Apologies**

21/11.1 There were no apologies for absence, all that had responded had attended.

21/12 **Declarations of conflict of interest**

21/12.1 All confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest.

21/13 **Update from Regional Managers Meeting**

21/13.1 AD started the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and hoped that all were well.

21/13.2 AD confirmed that she had attended a Regional Managers meeting on 30th October 2021 and wanted to update clubs on what she had learned following that regarding, competition, grading days etc.

21/13.3 AD updated the group on the following:

Routine grades – they will be recognised as a qualification in 2023 so we need to start getting our clubs working on those and get some grading days in place. AD explained that these can be held in-house and would find out more about it. AD explained that from January 2021 swimmers should start at the grade level that they currently hold a figure grade for – i.e. can skip grades 1 and 2 if already hold a grade 3 figure certificate.

Grade changes – AD explained that we will probably see a change in the grading figures to be in line with what the update from FINA for age group figures etc. There was no firm date on the change by the Regional Managers had been told that they expect it to change in 2023 and that upskilling will need to be done for all judges and opportunities will be put in place for those and AD will update when we have some further information.

Development package – AD explained the package that was on offer to regions for coaches – there would be Zoom meetings on eggbeater, flexibility, support scull etc that would be provided by Paola, GB coach, so that it was consistent training across all regions. Paola would also hold a visit to come and do a session with coaches as well as swimmers which we all agreed would be an amazing opportunity for our swimmers. AD explained that to ensure that we were able to get funding for this package, we would need all clubs to get on board and all agreed that they would engage and get all coaches to participate.

21/14

National Competition Update for 2022

21/14.1 AD updated on the national calendar:

National Youth Age Groups	26/27 March (Venue TBC)
National Junior/Senior Champs	23/24 April (Harvey Hadden)
Combo Cup	w/e 1/2/3 July (London Aquatics)
Masters	TBC

AD confirmed the entry qualification requirements for 2022 will follow previous 2017-2021 as no update. (AD showed the slide from the RM meeting confirming the dates).

For NAGS – there are some slight changes especially regarding 12&U. AD showed the slide from the RM meeting confirming those changes.

21/15

Region Plan for 2022

21/15.1 **Development:** AB highlighted that we would be looking to put our development squad offering to 11-14 year olds – it would be as requested by the National Leads that we go back to basics and all clubs in our region need to work on those, even the clubs that are doing well at NAGs and have swimmers in the youth squad. AB would send round the trial information and requirements for the swimmers in the new year.

21/15.2 **Competitions:** The leadership group discussed dates and options for our competition calendar for the year – it was agreed AD would check pool availability and that we would aim for the following:



Saturday 26 Feb – AG figures, Masters figures, Division 2 and Masters Combos
Saturday 12 Mar – Novice figures, Division 1 Combination Teams
Saturday 11 June – AG solos, AG duets, Masters Tech & Free Solos and Duets and All Combination teams.

AD said she would update the LG when she had confirmed dates with the pool.

21/15.3 **Grading Days:** Aim to get grading days in January, May and October/November. AD would confirm what bookings she could get and confirm with clubs.

21/15.3 **Officials training:** We discussed what courses we would require in the region. AD said that a judges 2/3 would still be held virtually by the national leadership. We would hold an inhouse judge level 1 course – AD would speak with Steve Fuller and get dates circulated but asked clubs to encourage people to participate as we are needing judges from our smaller clubs.

A level 2 coaches course was noted as being in demand throughout the region – AB said she would be in touch with Jenny at the IoS and would let us know how she got on with that.

21/16 **Budget**

21/16.1 AD said that she would get a budget for all the competitions, courses and grading days prepared for the region to approve – including the Coach Development package from the National Leadership. AD explained it was an expensive package and that we as a region would not want all of it and would confirm with Karen Thorpe the total required and explain to the board how important the package is and that all clubs are on board for using it.

21/17 **Any other urgent business**

21/17.1 No other business was raised.

21/18 **Confidential items**

21/18.1 No confidential items were raised.

21/19 **Next meeting**

21/19.1 AD thanked everyone for their time and was pleased to hear all clubs are thriving and made it through the tough couple of years. AD said she would keep everyone updated with dates and any other information she obtained from the NLG and looked forward to seeing everyone soon. AD would circulate some dates for our next meeting.