



**Swim England East Region**  
**Minutes of the Artistic Swimming Leadership Group Meeting**  
**24<sup>th</sup> July 2022 @ 10am**

|                |                            |                                       |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Present</b> | Amy Davis (AD)             | East Region Artistic Swimming Manager |
|                | Amy Bryant (AB)            | Hatfield                              |
|                | Tom Brennan (TB)           | Aqualina                              |
|                | Karen Brennan (KB1)        | Aqualina                              |
|                | Kerri Brennan (KB2)        | Aqualina                              |
|                | Emma Chapman (EC)          | Dacorum                               |
|                | Emily Gower (EG)           | Norwich                               |
|                | Jayne Jarvis (JJ)          | Cheshunt                              |
|                | Helen Poletti-Taylor (HPT) | Potters Bar                           |

Also present Emma Winter, Regional Administrator (EW)

**22/01 Apologies**

- 22/01.1 AD welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all who had attended.
- 22/01.2 Apologies were received from Sheila Mackenzie (SM) ROC Representative.

**22/02 Declarations of conflict of interest**

- 22/02.1 There were none.

**22/03 FINA Changes**

- 22/03.1 AD informed the Group that FINA are making some changes to rules and Judging but not had any update yet. Swim England are working to make sure that any changes are in line with FINA.
- 22/03.2 At the beginning of July announced the changes for the rules for 2022 to 2025.
- 22/03.3 There are three phases planned. Phase one is to assess and implement the changes to time limits, types of routines and age groups, this should be complete by the end of July 2022.
- 22/03.4 Phase two is for working Groups to report back to the Leadership Group on Coach, Grades, Judge and scoring changes this will be the beginning of September 2022.

- 22/03.5 Phase three is educating and rolling out the plans, this is planned for October until December.
- 22/03.6 Swim England are expecting FINA to provide more support in training which will be done once approved in October. They have confirmed that there will be no change to the figure or routine grades in 2022, the earliest changes to those will be input in 2023.
- 22/03.7 Swim England have up an update on the website that they have announced that there will be changes to entry requirements for Swim England National competitions for 2023 which will affect national Junior and Senior Championships and national age groups and the combo cup. Their plan is to raise standards back to pre-pandemic level follow lowering requirements for the 2022 session.
- 22/03.8 AD informed the Group of the changes that Swim England will be implementing to go inside with FINA changes. AD shared her screen with the proposed changes and informed the Group that she will circulate that documents with the Group after the meeting.
- 22/03.9 The National conference is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December and Swim England would like as many people to attend as possible, more details to follow.
- 22/03.10 A discussion took place regarding the changes that will be taking place.

## **22/04**

### **Grading Day Update**

- 22/04.1 AD informed the Group that Sarah Clarke sent round an email stating to make sure to cater for your own clubs within your Region, and to ensure that the Judges and senior judges are not overloaded. She did confirm that the Regions can now open up their grading days to other Regions but it is not compulsory.
- 22/04.2 In the Region there is now 4 Level 3 Judges, so there is the potential to arrange more grading days.
- 22/04.3 For the routine grading days Swim England have said that we need to encourage the clubs to use their own pool and organise club base grading days, but they need to have at least 3 clubs taking part and have an approved senior judge and a spread of judges assessing each grade.
- 22/04.4 AD confirmed that swimmers can start at the figure grade they are at, they don't need to start from the bottom.
- 22/04.5 KB2 informed the Group that swimmers who went to Nationals and NAGs, some were awarded routine grade.
- 22/04.6 AD asked that if there were swimmers within the Region that were awarded routine grades could the Group let her know.

## **22/05**

### **Date for Grading day October/November**

- 22/05.1 AD asked the Group their thoughts on grading days, what they would like and when.
- 22/05.2 KB2 asked if there would be the possibility of doing them once a month.



- 22/05.3 JJ would like both figures and routine.
- 22/05.4 A discussion took place around doing them once a month and possible holding them January and March. Maybe during the time of September until December look at doing figures and routine grades then from February work on routines.
- 22/05.5 AD looking at September possible 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> or the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>.
- 22/05.6 KB2 go with the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> then possible do one every one after alternating with figure then routine. If held on the 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> will be unable to hold one in December.
- 22/05.6 AD if people are happy to use their own pool then doing more grading days may work. AD allies everyone after the meeting to arrange dates and sort out a schedule.
- 22/05.7 Plan is to do September, October, November and December for grading days.
- 22/05.8 AB can we avoid October half term and with last weekend in September can it be on a Sunday as trying to fit in a assistant coach course for the Saturday.

## **22/06**

### **2022 Events - Feedback**

- 22/06.1 First competition in February was a bit quiet as it was Division 2 and the March competition was Division 1, for next year we don't need to do it that way. AD asked the Group for their feedback on the events this year.
- 22/06.2 JJ it was very good and lots of people there, the only suggestion is instead of doing combo teams twice, would it be possible to do a figures, then solo and duets competition then teams as a competition. That will fit in with the grading days.
- 22/06.3 KB could we leave masters until later in the year as their National event is not until November.
- 22/06.4 AD we want to make sure that we have masters in our events, having all of the events at the beginning of the year doesn't make sense for the masters if their National event is towards the end of the year.
- 22/06.5 With the June competition it was nice that it was just routines, with Masters would it be better to include them in the June competition.
- 22/06.6 KB2 all of the competitions should be angled towards the National event that is happening later that month or the next month.
- 22/06.7 February aiming towards NAGs doing figures possible solo, duets for the younger swimmers under 18, March aiming towards Champs and any of the other swimmers solo and duets and June be all combo's ready for the combo cup.

- 22/06..8 AB in June is it possible to do some ungraded for the new swimmers so they get the experience. Went to the London competition and they just added a masters' category to each grade level.
- 22/06.9 KB asked would there be the possibility to do an ungraded competition out of session. AD to ask to question and will let the Group know.

## 22/07

### Regional Plan for 2023

- 22/07.1 **Development Squad** – AB informed the Group that the guidance has come down that the Region should have an 11-14 squad at grade 3 or above, and a county level squad aged 11 under at grade 1 or above. There were 5 who signed up for the under 11's and 9 signed up for the 11-14, not all grade 3. Going forward for next year only 3 out of the 9 fit in to the age group and grade level. To make this sustainable, one of the 11 and under who is a 9-year-old. Keep the 9 swimmers and add the 9 year old.
- 22/07.2 Instead of having trials using the figure grading days as swimmers develop get them to attend the next available training session and try it out and provide feedback. Having it rolling instead of having trial days may work out better.
- 22/07.3 Possible hold some 12 and under trial days to help develop the younger swimmers.
- 22/07.4 A discussion took place regarding the development squad days and the feedback from the swimmers. It was suggested at maybe doing a County level and a Regional level at the same time so that there is the pathway from County, Regional then National.
- 22/07.5 Going to carry on with the current squad and keep the rolling trials going then AB to have a chat with Karen to see where to go. AD and AB to pick this up.
- 22/07.6 JJ suggests that the Regional Squad that the training sessions move around the Region so that each club host the session but liaise with AB on what the squad needs to work on in each session.
- 22/07.7 AB to confirm dates for the Level 1 Coaching courses.
- 22/07.8 **Competitions**
- 22/07.9 Potential dates for a competition in February are, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 22/07.10 A discussion took place on what the Group thought about having at the February competition. All figures including masters, age group solo and duets 12 and under and 13 to 15 years.
- 22/07.10 March competition prepare for Champs. A discussion took place about what to hold at the March competition. 15 to 18 years free and technical and 18 over free and technical solo and duets. Lower top ten from February competition solo/duets, combos and masters teams.
- 22/07.11 June competition – All combos, ungraded figures for new swimmers and Masters.



22/07.12 Grading days to see how things go with alternating the sessions and discuss at the next meeting.

22/07.13 Officials training – AB asked to run another Level 1 officials course.

**22/08 Any other business**

22/08.1 AB will the FINA updates be online and can we ask for the dates to be released as soon as possible.

22/08.2 AD will inform the Group once the date has been confirmed for conference.

22/08.3 KB2 when awarding land grades do we need to inform AD to have these recorded. AD will find out and will inform the Group.

22/08.4 KB when communication comes out from East Region can it be sent to all the Head Coaches as well as the competition secretaries.

22/08.5 AD asked the Group if they can all send her the email address of the people who would like the communication that comes from East Region so that she has the correct information.

**22/09 Confidential items**

22/09.1 There were none.

**22/10 Next meeting**

22/10.1 EW informed the Group that the Regional Chairman would like all Leaderships Groups to have 12 month worth of meetings booked in.

22/10.2 Minutes also need to be written and set to EW within 4 weeks of the meeting so they can be sent onto the ROC.

22/10.1 The next four meeting's will take place on:

- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 to be held after the conference face to face.
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 to be held after the Grading day face to face.
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023