



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Artistic Swimming Leadership Group Meeting
13th September 2025 at 10am, via Zoom

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| Present | Amy Davis (AD) | Swim England East Region Artistic Swimming Manager |
| | Sheila Mackenzie (SM) | Swim England East Region Director |
| | Karen Brennan (KB) | Aqualina |
| | Tom Brennan (TB) | Aqualina |
| | Amy Bryant (AB) | Hatfield |
| | Emma Chapman (EC) | Dacorum |
| | Kath Downes (KD) | Norwich |
| | Jane White (JW) | Potters Bar |
| | Laura Neary (LN) | Chelmsford |
| | Maddie Hammatt (MH) | Dacorum |
| | | |
| | Also present: Emma Winter (EW) | Regional Administrator |

25/23 **Welcome and apologies**

- 25/23.1 AD welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 25/23.2 Apologies received from Jayne Jarvis (JJ), Potters Bar, and Emily Gower (EG), Norwich.
- 25/23.3 EC left the meeting at 10.40am and MH attended for the rest of the meeting on behalf of EC.

25/24 **Declarations of conflict of interest**

- 25/24.1 There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

25/25 **Previous minutes**

- 25/25.1 The minutes from the previous meeting had been circulated.
- 25/25.2 25/14.2 The date of the competition is 18th October. The minutes will be amended.

- 25/25.3 The minutes were agreed with the above change.

25/26 Plan and Budget

- 25/26.1 AD reported that the budget is on target. The budget and plan will be reviewed at the next meeting, with a look at the budget for 2026.
- 25/26.2 AD reported that a good number of swimmers are attending the Regional Games training. This is good in respect of the development within the discipline.

25/27 Grading days 2025

- 25/27.1 AD advised that the next grading day is a Swim England Hertfordshire county grading day which TB is organising.
- 25/27.1.1 TB reported that the planning is going well. The closing date for entries is 20th September 2025.
- 25/27.2 AD reported that the next regional grading day is being held on 9th November 2025 at Hemel Hempstead. Three hours of pool time is available.
- 25/27.2.1 A discussion took place around the content of this day – figures or routine grades.
- 25/27.2.2 There was discussion about when retakes could be arranged for any failures on 9th November. There is a possibility of having a grading day in December, and there will definitely be one in January.
- 25/27.3 EC asked if the dates had been released for next year's competitions. AD confirmed that the National Age-Groups (NAGs) are on 14th and 15th March 2026, and the Championships are on 25th and 26th April. Combo and Masters are on 4th and 5th July.

25/28 Competitions for 2025

- 25/28.1 EC asked if coach cards are required for the October competition. AD confirmed that are needed for the solos and duets.
- 25/28.2 EC also asked if the swimmers need to include a connection within a hybrid in duets.
- 25/28.2.1 A discussion took place around hybrids and connections, and KB suggested double-checking the rules as if it is just a connection then it is on the surface, but if it is a hybrid connection then it will be a connection upside down.
- 25/28.2.2 AD advised that the rules for the October competition do not state that there has to be a connection within a hybrid.



- 25/28.2.3 AD advised that if a swimmer does not have a grade, they can enter as a grade 1. They can also swim up a grade if they feel ready.
- 25/28.3 AD reported that the 2026 competitions will be worked around the National competition dates. Dates will be looked at after the October competition.

25/29 Officials' courses

- 25/29.1 AD apologised for not getting an officials' course organised for 2025 but will look at getting a level 1 judges' course booked in for 2026.
- 25/29.2 AD reported that she will try to attend the Swim England South East Region's chief recorders' course and see to how they present it. Then she will get a chief recorders' course booked in for 2026.
- 25/29.3 AB reported that eight people have signed up for the assistant coach course. The closing date for sign-on is 28th September.

25/30 Regional Games

- 25/30.1 TB reported that, this year, the number of swimmers who have signed up for the Regional Games training sessions is the highest yet, with 40 swimmers.
- 25/30.2 TB reported that there are swimmers from almost every club in the Region. It great to have a that level of take-up and representation across the Region.
- 25/30.3 TB asked AD to find out the date of the Regional Games' competition as it has not been formally announced.

Action: AD to find out and confirm the date of the Regional Games competition.

25/31 Any other business

- 25/31.1 LN asked if there is going to be a Swim England Artistic Swimming Conference this year.
AD reported that she has not heard/seen anything about a conference this year.

Action: AD to find out if there is a conference this year.

- 25/31.2 LN asked if there is any information on referee or technical control upskills.

Action: AD to find out about any upskills for referee and technical control.

- 25/31.3 KD reported that the link for expressing an interest for the level 1 judges' course does not seem to be working.

Action: AD to contact Andrea Startin regarding the link for level 1 judges' course.

25/31.4 KD asked if AD would like to run a grading day in Norwich.

Action: AD to contact KD and EG regarding dates for a grading day in Norwich.

25/31.5 TB reported that after a long, hard-fought campaign, Aqualina have been unsuccessful in overturning Stevenage Borough's proposal to build a pool with a depth of only 1.8 metres.

25/31.5.1 A discussion took place around different venues for the regional competitions as Stevenage pool will not be deep enough. Some suggestions were made - Luton, Kings Lynn and Robinson pool, Bedford.

25/31.5.2 EW suggested that AD sends her exactly what is required at a venue with regard to pool depth, length and width. EW will then look into venues within and just outside the Region, and produce a list.

25/32 Confidential items

25/32.1 There were none.

25/33 Meeting dates

25/33.1 Date of the next meeting: 8th November 2025