

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

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 18 th 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