

Acrobatic NPRG Meeting

Queen's Seminar 3, Lilleshall National Sports Centre

Sunday 18th September 2022

10:00 – 15:30hrs

Minutes and Actions Arising

Present:

ATC: Melanie Sanders (MS), Caroline Hodgson (CH), Debby Said (DS), Ian Said (IS)

BG: Alex McGregor

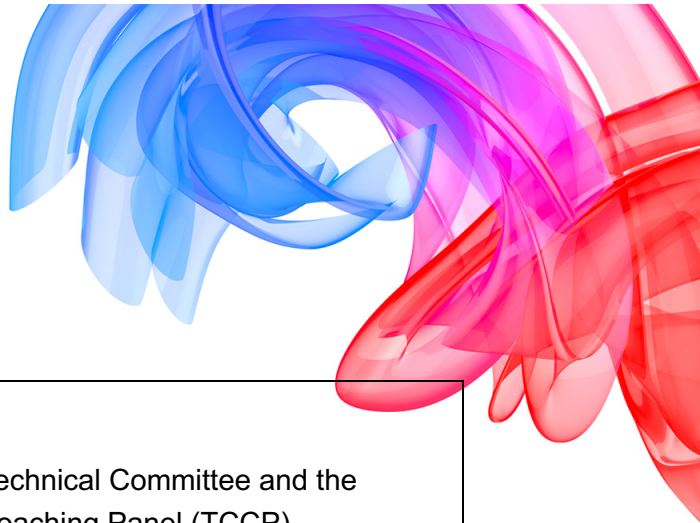
Regional Representatives:

- Caroline Hodgson (South)
- Tony Merrett, Julie Gibbons (South West)
- Andy McDuff (London)
- Judith Hines (Northern Ireland)
- Nicola Bradley, Jill Ashcroft (North West)
- Gemma Chilton, Lilly Gibbons (West Midlands)
- Sue Birchall, Hannah Byers (East)
- Time Wild, Alison Proctor (Yorkshire)

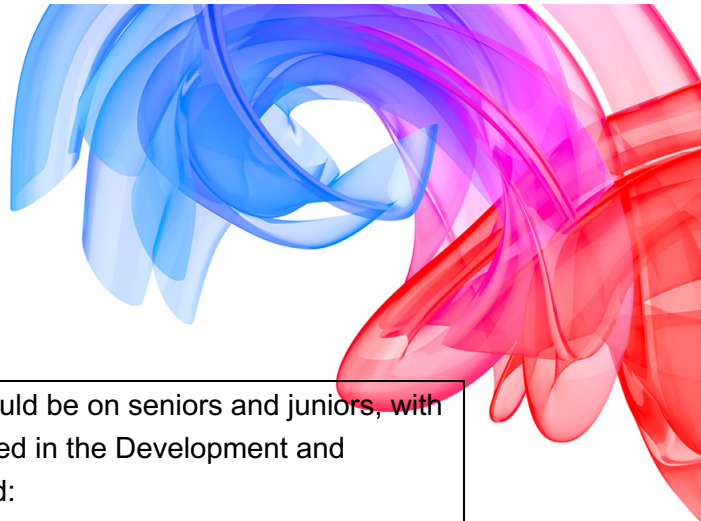
Apologies: North, Scotland, Wales, South East

NOTE: **Action points** arising from the meeting are highlighted in **red**.

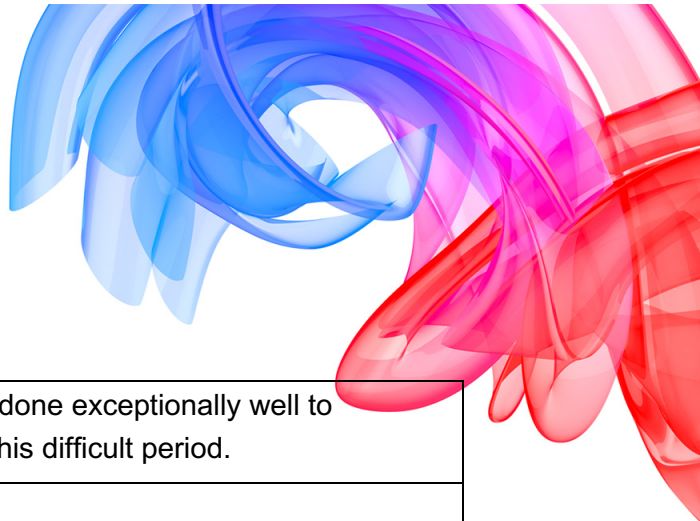
| No | Item |
|----|---|
| 1 | <u>Welcome</u> MS welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the slides would be placed on the BG within 2 weeks of the NPRG meeting. |
| 2 | <u>Overview of 2021/22 (MS)</u> MS presented a brief overview of the past two years. |



| | |
|---|--|
| 3 | <p><u>Technical Committee (MS, IS)</u></p> <p>MS explained the structure of the new Technical Committee and the recently created Technical Committee Coaching Panel (TCCP) subcommittee.</p> <p>TCCP</p> <p>IS, Chair of the TCCP and co-opted member of the TC, explained the responsibilities and the work of the TCCP, including a mention of the NDP Audit that the subcommittee conducted. This audit included a review against international development plans and consideration of gender-specific individual skills.</p> <p>IS is the point of contact for coaching queries and these queries should come through the regional chairs.</p> |
| 4 | <p><u>Performance Pathway (AMG)</u></p> <p>AM explained the recent changes at British Gymnastics and provided details about the Performance Pathway.</p> <p>Changes at British Gymnastics</p> <p>The Performance Manager responsible for Acrobatic Gymnastics was lost 18 months ago as a part of a cost cutting exercise.</p> <p>There is an advert out for a new Performance Manager to cover non-Olympic disciplines.</p> <p>The Performance Director left in March of this year. The role has been split into a Performance Director for Olympic Disciplines and a Performance Director for Strategy and Culture; the latter will have a responsibility for Acrobatic Gymnastics. The Performance Services Officer has recently become vacant and will be replaced, shortly.</p> <p>There will be a new National Coach for Acrobatic Gymnastics; this will initially be a part time role and the advert will come out soon. Following the Whyte Review there are discipline-specific actions that must be taken that the National Coach will be responsible for. The new position will not be an exact replacement for the role held by the previous National Coach.</p> <p>Performance Pathway Details</p> <p>AM explained the purpose of the Performance Pathway and highlighted the tiers within the Development Model. As a rough guide regarding</p> |



| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>levels, focus for the Performance tier would be on seniors and juniors, with other age groups/grades being considered in the Development and Foundation tiers. Other points mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnasts who are selected would be expected to sign an Athlete Agreement. Selection is likely to be on an annual basis. • A Pastoral Care Officer would be present at all squad training camps. • The National Welfare Officer would be the point of contact for all welfare issues • The Curriculum (live, train, compete) supports the preparation of squad members both as elite gymnasts and for their life outside of gymnastics. <p>Policies</p> <p>Some new policies created by the Performance department have been published recently (guidance on flexibility training, hydration, pain & injury management etc) but not widely communicated.</p> <p>[TC] to include links to these policies in the next TC Update (and to continue to do this in future updates).</p> <p>Points raised from the regional representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People thought it would be very useful for a chart of the BG structure to be available. Alex confirmed this should be available as soon as the current phase of restructuring is complete. • All to be aware when contacting staff at BG that this is a difficult and emotional time for them because of the current restructuring. • The Whyte Review, Covid and the war in Ukraine are all factors behind the current changes; the restructure is not driven by a desire to punish individuals for the Whyte Review. |
| 5 | <p><u>International Competition Results (MS)</u></p> <p>MS covered the results of international events since the last NPRG and mentioned some of the difficulties experienced getting back into International Competition while:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid was still a significant challenge • No National Coach was in place • The invasion in Ukraine began |



| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>The coaches, gymnasts and clubs have done exceptionally well to accomplish the results achieved during this difficult period.</p> |
| 6 | <p><u>Coach & Judge Education (MS)</u></p> <p>Coach Education</p> <p>MS covered the status of coaching courses for Acrobatic Gymnastics for the current financial year.</p> <p>Points raised from the regional representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was highlighted that the timing of the sessions has been difficult for some candidates to attend, especially when they are during school, or normal working, hours. • For the higher levels, the geographic distribution of the courses has been challenging (this has been an issue for a long time). • Clubs asked how they could offer their venue for coaching courses. <p>[TC] to include information on how clubs can offer their venue to BG for coaching courses and publish in the next TC Update.</p> <p>Judge Education</p> <p>We now have the most judges re-validated this cycle out of all the disciplines.</p> <p>The Acrobatic revalidation was the first online judging course and the intent is to continue to keep Acro judging courses online.</p> |
| 7 | <p><u>Acrobatic Judging Update (CH)</u></p> <p>CH covered the points included in the recently published judging update, Cycle 15 Judging Clarifications - No 1 - September 2022</p> <p>It was emphasised that penalties should only be applied for rules that have been written down, and, where there is uncertainty, the benefit should be given to the gymnasts.</p> |
| 8 | <p><u>Handbook and Calendar (DS)</u></p> <p>Competition Handbook</p> <p>DS covered the changes to the 2023 Competition Handbook.</p> <p>[Regional representatives] to make sure their regions are aware of the Handbook changes.</p> |



[Regional Representatives] to make sure their regions are aware that crops tops are not allowed for training at a competition.

Points raised from the regional representatives:

- Could BG welfare officer help with issues in the field of play? DS confirmed that issues arising in the field of play are usually dealt with by the BG Events team.
- The BG Welfare Officer does attend the coaches' meeting.
- It is important that notification of any withdrawals go to the Acrobatic Competitions email.
- Seating was an issue at National Finals as gymnasts were sitting in the spectator seating

[TC] to consider asking regions to bring chaperones to look after the gymnasts from their region.

Competition Calendar

DS presented the competition calendar for 2023

Points mentioned:

- The English Championships includes Youth, IDP and FIG
- The date has not yet been confirmed for the British Championships so two dates are currently included in the list in the PowerPoint
- The British Championships must be by the international rules, so out of age is not allowed.

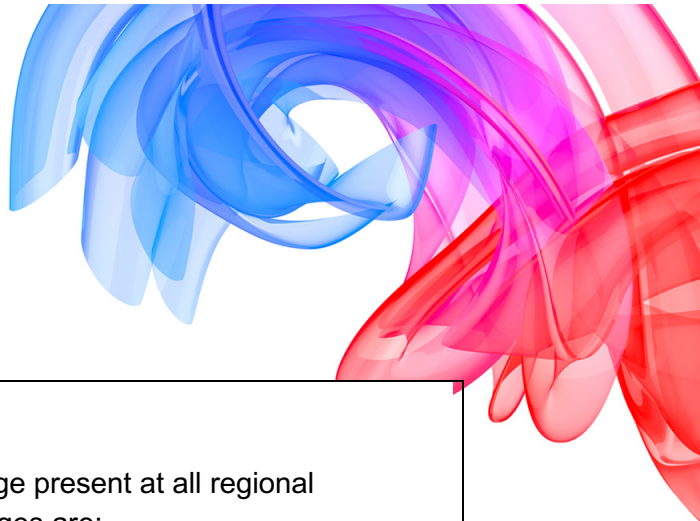
[Regional Representatives] to provide the dates of regional qualifiers to DS.

[Regional Representatives] to provide score sheets with finals' entries

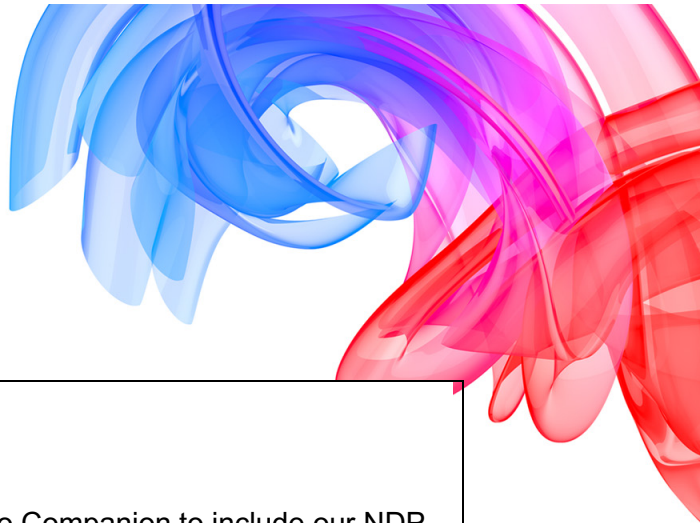
Points raised from the regional representatives:

- Comments have been made about the lack of podium at National Finals.
DS confirmed that there is no podium because:
 - The pop-up banner is used for all other disciplines at National Finals
 - Some gymnasts with disabilities are unable to go on the podium

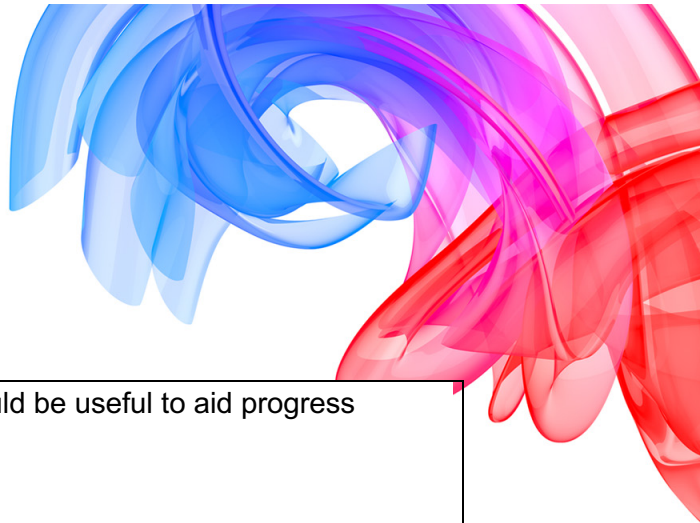
[DS] to check whether a podium was used for Men's Artistic Elite grades



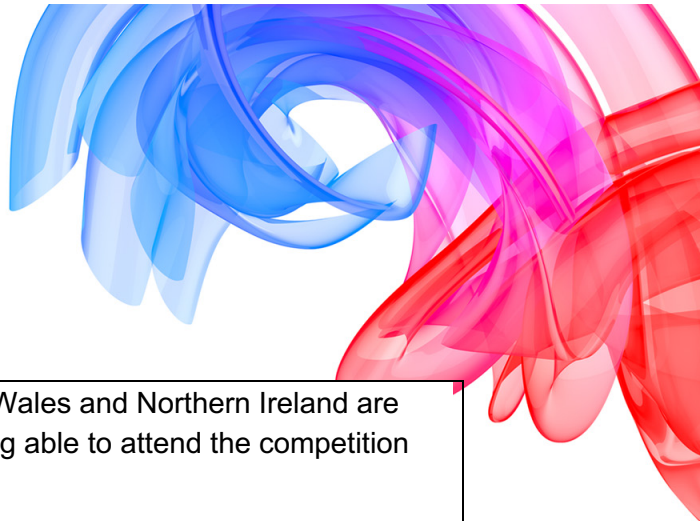
| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>Brevet Judges</p> <p>It is recommended to have a Brevet Judge present at all regional qualifiers. The current British Brevet Judges are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam Wixey 2. Adam Wong 3. Andy Farley 4. Caroline Hodgson 5. Dawn Mitchell 6. Debby Said 7. Katie Lawton 8. Melanie Sanders 9. Shaun Malone 10. Tracey Findlay 11. Victoria Pattison |
| 9 | <p><u>National Development Plan (MS)</u></p> <p>MS covered the changes to the general rules for NDP10 and the changes to NDP10 itself, these are the changes that were included when version 1.2 was published.</p> <p>[TC] to consider whether there should be a minimum difficulty for IDP 2.</p> <p>Points raised from the regional representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Youth harder for Men's Pairs and Mixed Pairs compared to Women's Pairs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We use the international rules for Youth, so gymnasts can compete this level in international competition. ○ In Men's Pairs and Mixed Pairs, a key difference is that a top must do handstands earlier. <p>[IS] to consider whether there should there be specific coach education to help bridge the gap for Men's Pairs and Mixed Pairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some regions are running regional squads, some are running regional sessions targeted at coach education, some are not running any regional sessions. Regions could come to the TC with an expression of interest and the TC could look to provide help such as identifying coaches to run them. <p>[Regional Representatives] to identify whether budget can be accessed to run regional squad/session</p> |



| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Acro Companion</p> <p>A contract has just been signed with Acro Companion to include our NDP. For British Championships, National Finals and the Pat Wade Classic, the Tariff Sheets will be provided through BG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDP 1 and 2 and Grades 1-5 will all be included. • Email addresses will be needed for all clubs to access Acro Companion, DS will contact the regions shortly to request this. • Acro Companion will be available for other national level competitions at a discounted rate. • For Youth we need to move to full international rules, so a bespoke version is not possible in Acro Companion. The changes for Youth are included in the NPRG Slides. The changes will be in force as soon as Acro Companion is available, so they need to be communicated now but should not be applied (penalised) this year. • The outcome of the NDP audit will be included as soon as Acro Companion is available. • The target is for Acro Companion to be available by January 2023. <p>[TC] to investigate an online training tutorial for using Acro Companion</p> |
| | <p><u>Regional Matters</u></p> <p>Out of Age - there was a discussion about whether regions made provision for out of age gymnasts to compete in regions. Some regions allow for them to compete against in-age gymnasts, some allow them to compete in a separate category and some regions make no allowance for this at all.</p> <p>Grade 5 – there was a question about where Grade 5 fits in relation to other grades. It is aligned to 11-16, it is seen as a level that serves a useful progressive purpose.</p> <p>General points raised by the regional representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can be difficult to get funding for Acro from the regional TC or from other funding bodies where the set up in the region is more complicated. • It can be a struggle to improve coaching and judging, which is making it difficult to be competitive at bigger competitions. |



| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help on selection for squads would be useful to aid progress towards reaching higher levels. <p>[IS] to share what is done in Scotland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help on identifying who should be on the superior Jury at Regional events <p>[TC] to consider providing guidance about who should be the Superior Jury at regional events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on the Regional Entry System would be useful. Feedback from those using it is that it is very good. • Regional competition entry in one region is very small. Some clubs are not participating because it is hard to be competitive. • Some regions have identified methods to address this type of issue, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Separating the grades into “Regional” and “National” so gymnasts training less hours compete against each other in a separate category. ○ Introducing a development competition which allows for gymnasts to compete without music. • There was a question about the role of English Gymnastics. • There is a desire within English Gymnastics to support Acro and they started to put some plans in place just before the pandemic, they will shortly restart the conversation about this. • There was a question about the role of the National Coach and whether they would have more of a relationship with the regions. <p>The National Coach should help define the tiers to understand the scope of the pathway. Once the Performance tier is in place there would then be focus on the Development and Foundation tiers. The National Coach will have responsibility for the National Team and Elite level but will also have a close relationship with the pathway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a question about how talented partnerships are identified. <p>Partnerships must compete to be seen, such as attending pre-selection events. If the English Championships is a pre-selection</p> |
|--|---|



| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>event, gymnasts from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are informed about partnerships being able to attend the competition as guests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a suggestion about creating a What's App group to aid communication between the Regional TC Chairs. |
| | <p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>The regional representatives confirmed that they are the right people for the TC to communicate with.</p> <p>There was a discussion about changes to Acro clubs in the regions since returning to normal training post-Covid and the challenges in keeping gymnasts motivated, especially when facing disappointment in competition. Generally, regions have lost 2-3 Acro clubs since the pandemic, although some regions have not lost any and actually gained new clubs as a result.</p> <p>There was a reminder about the importance of sending the scores in from the regional qualifiers, so that it is possible to consider adding entries for categories with lower numbers of qualifiers.</p> <p>The next cycle begins in 2025 after the Olympics. How quickly the NDP updates come out before being included in competition depends on when the International changes are made. The TC aims for communication to go to everyone at the same time.</p> |
| | <p><u>Meeting Close and Departure</u></p> |

Next meeting – The next NPRG meeting will be in September 2023, date to be confirmed.