



September 14, 2022

Jackie Buckingham to retire at end of 2022 from Canada Artistic Swimming

After eight years at the helm of Canada Artistic Swimming, it is with mixed emotions we announce that our CEO, Jackie Buckingham, plans to retire later this year in December.

Since joining the organization in 2014, Jackie has led the artistic swimming community with vision, passion and dedication. She began her tenure as CEO as our sport was going through a challenging cycle, and she is leaving it as a thriving, growing member of Canada's sporting community.

Jackie's influence on the sport will be felt for many years to come. At the national level, she saw an eight-year strategy mapped out that focused on a high performance plan for the Olympic Summer Games in Tokyo, Japan and the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France. Revamping the selection and training environment for the national team has led to strong competitive results for Canada, including winning 2019 Pan Am gold, qualifying for the Games in Tokyo and finishing in the top 5 in both Duet and Team.

Also on the national scene, Jackie led the complete rebrand as the name changed from Synchro Canada to Canada Artistic Swimming. After a consultative process, the sport's key attributes : powerful; creative; dynamic; inclusive; and collaborative; framed the identity of an aligned and focused organization moving forward into a new era. And during her tenure, AquaGO! was introduced, creating a nation-wide grassroots program for artistic swimming in Canada.

Jackie also began the process to see a timely change in the culture of our sport. Although it is still ongoing and evolving, Jackie's leadership in this area over the past few years has been instrumental in ensuring that our sport is a welcoming, inclusive, supportive and safe environment for participants, volunteers, officials and coaches.

On the international scene, Jackie was instrumental, along with many others, in preparing the groundwork for the FINA Artistic Swimming World Series. This brought a more structured approach to events around the world and opened up competitive opportunities for more countries to participate. Her experience and expertise with judging systems from other sports were an essential background as she worked to see a new judging developed for artistic swimming. We are very close to seeing this become a reality and opening up a realm of possibilities for the sport to grow and advance.



While I could continue with many other examples of Jackie's steadfast leadership, especially during extremely challenging times, I do want to thank her, and our staff, for their dedication through the past two years particularly. The holding of virtual competitions actually opened up new possibilities and ways of engaging athletes, but we are excited and grateful to have recently hosted the FINA Junior World Artistic Swimming Championships in person in Quebec City. Once again, Jackie led the team in a masterful event, with every detail looked after to ensure competitors, coaches, officials and spectators had an outstanding experience.

On behalf of the board of Canada Artistic Swimming, we want to thank Jackie once again for her time with us, and to wish her the very best in her retirement.

À bientôt Jackie.

Florence Klein

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Klein', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Présidente
Natation Artistique Canada Artistic Swimming