

United States Aquatic Sports Convention

September 12-16, 2017, Dallas Texas

Mary Ruddell

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Our Kids Initiative

Committee was headed by Jay Thomas and representatives from the following organizations: FINA, USA Swimming, National Federation (High School), NCAA, College Coach Association, US Masters, YMCA and Paralympics attended the committee meeting. The committee's goals were to make sure athletes did not get disqualified in one organization's meet and not the other. A majority of the technical rules are now the same. They are updating the table that shows differences. Each representative summarized then frequency of their organization's review process, any issues that they were dealing with and any changes that had been made.

NFHS: The National's Federation conducted a study of the use of backstroke ledges and pool depth. There is an increased risk of injury when unskilled athletes use the backstroke ledge in a shallow pool. Note: a manufacturer (unnamed) was doing false advertisement regarding the use of some equipment an athlete wears when swimming. The manufacturer falsely stated the use was approved by various entities. In NFHS the technical rules allow: 1) In Breaststroke and Butterfly the hands may be stacked at the turn and finish. 2) During Butterfly the **hands** must be on the same horizontal plane.

USAS: USA Swimming discussed the upcoming clarification to the wording regarding the use of ledges in relay exchanges, the use of grips, and the body position during the freestyle portion of the Individual Medley and Medley Relay.

Masters: Dual Sanctions meets between USA Swimming and Masters are being looked at carefully to make sure that the different organization's sanction requirements are being met.

ParaOlympic: iParalympics is dealing with the issue of disqualifications for body art that is not applied the same from meet to meet.

YMCA: The YMCA is conducting a survey of its athletes and parents to determine the positive effect swimming has on athletes, families and life in general.

NCAA/ College Coaches Association:

Crossing lanes during relays is still not allowed.

First Rodeo? Convention Ed First Timers Corral:

Fun! Learned how to use sched.com to schedule what to attend during convention. Met individual from other LSCs. Played get to know you games. Table 8 (the table where I sat) tied for second place in the trivia game.

Rules and Regulations:

Proposed legislation for the HOD was discussed. The most significant legislation was the proposal by the USAS Board to implement the findings of the Governance Study. The proposal would change the make-up of the board and its functions. The Flex and Junior Coach membership proposals were discussed as well as two disaster relief resolutions.

The Flex membership was presented as an idea but had no actual implementation tools.

This membership type comes with an estimated 10% decrease in annual and seasonal membership.

Junior Coach membership was something that allows 16 and 17 year old coaches assist certified coaches as long as they are under their supervision.

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Officials Committee

FINA: On the FINA.org website you can find the clarification changes of the technical made at the

Open Forum on Technical Suits in AG Swimming

(I was only able to attend a ½ hour of this talk prior to heading to the LSC. Finances workshop)
USA Age Group Development has hired an independent consultant to collect and analyze the data surrounding this topic. The estimated timeline for completion of this project in February 2018.
One of the questions that was asked was “At what age and competitive level do you encourage your swimmers or believe that tech suits should be used.” The answers ranged from:

- no use until 13 and older,
- used when the first sectional cut is made,
- use is banned for 10 unders by clubs and/or LSCs.

Some concerns that was expressed was that families may leave the team because of a no tech club/coaching philosophy

Officials Committee – Part 1 (Burning Issues is part2)

Omega/Swiss Timing – offered a special to convention attendees. Pacific swimming took advantage of the deal and ordered two starting systems.

Zaleski: Reviewed FINA’s clarifications to the rules. At the Tokyo Olympics there will be three new medal events for swimming: Men’s 800 Freestyle, Women’s 1500 Freestyle, Mixed Free and Medley relays.

Holcomb: Shared the dates and locations of upcoming meets. All of the meets have been posted on Pacific Swimming’s website.

Drake: Open Water Nationals will be held in Tempe Arizona – May 11-13. On May 10th there will be an officials clinic.

Jay Thomas: revisited the clarifications in the rules.

Bill Rose: Then referee. Test has more questions because it encompasses questions from all the tests. The NCAA test has some errors – they are being addressed.

Hellervick-Bing : We are Mentors workshop to be held the first or second weekend in June. Everyone is evaluated at Juniors and Nationals. At Pro Series and Futures meets evaluations are optional.

Patrick Hunter: S&T and Starter tracing is on the website. The Situations and resolutions are being updated. The officials newsletter will be published every 2 months.

LSC Finances: Understanding the Leap Requirements

Financial requirements for LEAP levels 1, 2 and 3 were discussed. The revised requirements for LEAP 1 will be available November 1, 2017. LEAP 2 and 3 will be relaunched soon. Pacific Swimming is positioned very well to financially. We can meet the requirements for all three LEAP levels. Pacific needs to develop a Quad Financial plan. Quad Financial plans are reviewed and adjusted every year.

The USAS website has templates to use to achieve this goal. The external reviews and audits meet the Internal Audit requirement. An Internal Audit reviews that the agreed upon procedures are being followed. A CPA that does the review/audit of the financial statements can not be on the LSC BOD.

The following documents must be sent annually to USA Swimming:
Form 990
Annual Budget
Year End Financial Statements
External Financial Review/audit reports

Navigating the Coach Official Relationship

Questions were asked of a panel of 3 coaches and 3 officials about disqualifications, processes for both coach and official. Coaches seek clarification and want uncertainty and ambiguity resolved. They want to be listened to. Officials explained how they process DQs. Respect is important for both.

Friday, September 15, 2017

Burning Issues for Officials

The session started with myth busting and urban legends.

The official uniform for 3 star and above National Meets is black pants, black socks and black shoes. This does not change what is worn in the LSC level. He has someone looking into what the short option might be for summer meets. (Everyone cringed at the thought of wearing black shorts, socks and shoes)

Tie back suits can be worn during warm ups but not in competition.

Written errors on a DQ slip do not invalidate the disqualification.

For backstroke start, the backstroke grips or edge of the pool may be used, not the forward start grips.

For transgender athletes, it takes two days for the change to occur in SWIMS. All times that swimmer has achieved stay with the swimmer.

Alternating kick during the butterfly is described as the feet moving in the opposite direction. It is a legal butterfly kick if the legs/feet are moving in the same direction and the feet cross at the ankles or one foot moves faster than the other.

The clarification regarding the freestyle leg of the IM or Medley Relay goes into effect Thursday September 21, 2017. The DQ is still written as an "other". The swimmer swam then race more than ¼ of the race on the back.

Membership cards can be printed from Deck Pass.

The officials committee is going to make an effort to inform officials when the meet applications are posted.

Melissa Hellervick-Bing gave a great presentation about how to be an effective evaluator/mentor. Some of the tips she presented were: Introduce yourself, get to know the person you are evaluating. Contact prior to the meet and outline your expectations. Do your homework. Mentor along the way. Keep an ongoing dialog. Be supportive and encouraging. Point out three positive things and then the things to work on.

Give the official 3 skills to work on starting with an easy one to accomplish. (Which will build the officials confidence.)

Club and LSC Financial Management

Unfortunately this was a very dry and boring presentation. Information was presented about the 990 and the schedules to be filed. Pacific Swimming has the informational returns prepared by an accountant so knowledge of how to complete the 990 was not helpful to me.

The couple of items to review with the filing of the coming returns:

The BOD that are listed are members with a vote and the executive director are listed in the 990
Staff policies should include: Conflict of Interest, a written whistleblower policy, and a policy to determine compensation for key employees.

Laying Foundations & Building Bridges (LSC Development)

The key items from this presentation are that a strategic plan, communication, written procedures, a good working relationship between staff and BOD and members are key to developing a successful LSC.

Western Zones:

Meet Schedule and 2019 Meet Bid Awards:

August 8-11, 2018 WZ Age Group Meet in Roseville

2019 WZ Age Group Meet will be held at Mount Hood Aquatics (Unconfirmed Dates August 7-10, 2019)

Senior WZ Meet will be held in Clovis for 2018 and 2019.

2019 Open Water at Lake Castaic, CA

Athletes reported that there will be a camp in Texas. uSAS will fully fund an athlete and coach. If a second athlete goes to the camp the LSC is too pay for transportation.

Legislation will come into effect that states that WZ Age Group Meet shall be held no earlier than on the Wednesday before the last Saturday in July and no later than on the Wednesday before the 2nd Saturday in August.

Gate fees can be charged at both Age Group and Senior WZ Champs. Sounds like Age Group will charge gate fees to off set some of the expenses.

Age Group Meet will score to the 16 the place for both individual events and relays.

Elections were held: The new Zone Director is Dale Ammon Meet Director is Cathy Vaughn (from UTAH) and Debbie Baldwin was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

House of Delegates – Friday evening and Saturday morning

It is always sad to see how many members that USA Swimming has lost over the past year, especially the number of athletes. Pacific Swimming had lost three – George Cleveland, Peggy Ramirez and Joyce Lanphere. Congratulations to Veronica Hernandez who received a Life Membership from Pacific Swimming.

Tim Hinchly, the new CEO/President of USA Swimming, spoke. He shared his activities and his plans for the future. He originally came from Pacific Swimming and made mention of the great coaching and opportunities he received from San Ramon Livermore Aquatics.

On Saturday morning the House debated and voted on the issues that were presented to them It was interesting to watch the procedure and to here the passion with which delegates spoke to the issues.