

Report – 2008 USA-Swimming Convention – Monique Grayson

Wednesday, September 24, 2008:

1: SWIMS Times Module Workshop.

Suzanne Heath (Committee Chairman), Larry Herr (USA Swimming Staff Liaison), Paul Bloom (Statera) and Wayne Shulby (NC) spoke at this meeting.

1. Handouts were available (Updated Records for 2007-08; Age Group Motivational Times for 2008-2012; Age Group Recognition Rationale; Minutes of the Times and Recognition Committee Meeting of September 2008; Spreadsheet of suggestions for SWIMS Enhancements; OME Summary; LSC Portal Information.
2. SWIMS: What's new, what's available? Paul Bloom and Larry Herr went over the report options and explained the auto sweep. They also went over the online meet entry (OME), gave info on the NCAA Database, and explained the projects for 2008-09 including Times Recon Phase 2. After the meeting, I had a long talk with Paul regarding times recon possibility for meets with upper and lower time standards (like our Silver Championships).
3. LSC Portal and LSC Records Functionality. Wayne went over some of the issues facing the portal administrator and how to use the public side of SWIMS to maintain the LSC records. The Metropolitan Swimming records will be uploaded within the next few weeks.
4. Times and Recognition Committee Status Report: Suzanne Heath. Scholastic All American numbers for 2007-2008; Age Group Recognition Program moving forward to 2nd year; NTV Process Review; Pending legislation for 2008-09 Rule Book; Committee members, Terms & Application for Appointment; Conference calls, Workshops, and Links on USA-S Web Site.

2: USAS Insurance Welcome Reception.

Bob Vializ, Mary Ann Senecal and I stopped at the Hasty Awards booth and had a long talk with Steve Hasty regarding the possibility of buying Metro Championships ribbons and medals in bulk. We went over different designs and sizes and will meet with Steve again later during the week.

3: USAS Insurance Welcome Reception.

Thursday, September 25, 2008:

1: Times and Recognition Committee – Business Meeting:

The Times and Recognition Committee is made up of over seven subcommittees that run specific USA-S "recognition" programs. These programs are performance-based, getting their information from the SWIMS database. The SWIMS database is working well and meeting everyone's needs. It now has over 30 million times from over 34,000 meets.

- Scholastic All America – reported a successful change to the program by implementing a time standard for the performance component of the program. As a result, participation was down by 25% with over 925 athletes qualifying. Over 140 swimmers qualified for their third straight year.
- NAG Records – a record total of 104 NAG records have been broken so far in 2008. These records have been updated on the USA-S Web Site and certificates are being sent out. The updated form will be posted on the Metro Website. Many LSC's don't upload relays unless it is from a Championship meet. There are too many errors with the lead-off splits at regular meets. Also, FINA does not recognize Mixed Relays.
- World, American, US Open Records – between the Olympic trials and the Olympic Games there were 20 World, 45 American, and 20 US Open records broken.
- Disability Recognition – The committee will continue to try to find ways to recognize the performance achievements by disabled athletes.
- Age Group Recognition "Top 10" – The preview lists for 2007-08 (9/1/2007 to 8/31/2008) have been sent to the tabulators. The lists will become official around the end of October and will be posted on the USA-S Web Site and published in Splash Magazine. The transition to using a single age recognition program has been well received. The committee will add 18 year-old athlete recognition for next year. Long discussion also regarding rules for pool measurement and NAG records.
- ConocoPhillips Reimbursement – at the OT 52 athletes received over \$59,000 from the program; at the 2008 US Open, 76 athletes received over \$16,000.
- SWIMS Enhancements – the T&R workshop reviewed the year's enhancements, focusing on four areas: reports, time sweep, OME and the NCAA.

2: Registration Workshop - SWIMS:

Hosted by Claude Rhen, Pam Lowenthal, Pam Cook, Jim Patterson, Paul Bloom and Cathy Durance.

- Athlete's membership Cards: the picture of Tracy Caulkins is on the 2009 card. Question was asked to see how many athletes actually get their cards (most of the time, the cards are safe in the pool office!) Claude Rhen went over an idea to have a better card (with bag tag) that would be sent directly to the athletes address by USA-Swimming
- How to use the LSC Custom Fields? Pam Lowenthal explained how the officials' field can be filled out and how to utilize those fields and how to set them up.
- LSC Portal should be done.
- Officials Tracking – use the non-athletes custom fields to track the officials, meet marshals, etc. A field can be added for the Foundation of Coaching date of test
- Meet recon: pre-meet recon must be done. The goal is to get SWIMS and Team & Meet databases synchronized. For pre-meet, you can export the USA-S Registration file; for post-meet recon, you need to use the export of meet results file.
- Athletes address on cards can be set up to print or not to print
- New Features for Club Search – Paul Bloom went over club affiliation (YMCA, JCC, Park & Recs, etc) and spoke about privacy issues.
- Coach Background Screens – Cathy Durance reminded coaches that the first 2 years of the program are expiring and that coaches need to renew their background checks.

3: USA Swimming Foundation – One Good Turn:

- Fundraising Basics: Donors don't give to institutions. They invest in ideas and people in whom they believe. Fundraising is a process with 4 elements: Case (20%), Prospects (20%), leadership (40%) and plan (20%). Leadership traits: advocate, invested, lead by example. Keys to success: ability, affinity and access.
- USA-S Foundation: What do we do? It was formed in 2004. It has a 5-year vision plan promoting water safety and for learn-to-swim programs for America. The Foundation is the principal support for USA Swimming in its pursuit of Olympic Gold. The goals are:
 - Teach every kid to swim and be water safe
 - Get 500 Make A Splash local partners up and running by 2012
 - Ensure USA Swimming becomes a financially independent organization in its pursuit of Olympic Gold.
- Foundation Fundraising Initiatives:
 - Capital Campaign to raise funds for make A Splash programs and to ensure it's longevity
 - Annual Fund Campaign to provide ongoing support for USA Swimming and Foundation programs, services, and pursuit of Gold.
- The Future of Competitive Swimming in the USA:
 - Getting the best athletes in the pool
 - There is no doubt that athletes come from a variety of places with varied backgrounds
 - We need to be sure that athletes, regardless of where they live, have access to pools and swimming lessons and are exposed to the sport. That is the future of Swimming in the USA.
 - Two annual membership clubs: Champions Club (\$1,000) and Friends of Swimming Club (\$30).
 - Each LSC should promote the Make-A-Splash programs.

4: Eastern Zone Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. It was followed with the approval of the Agenda and approval of the Minutes of May 2008.

Financial report: Boots Hall gave her report.

National Candidates Introduction and Presentation of Disability legislation: Only coaches will be allowed to approach the meet referee to ask for special requests. All decisions would apply to that meet only.

Report of Officers:

New senior meet at the beginning of August for 15 & over swimmers – 3 day format for 2009. Bids to host the meet are due by December 1, 2008. This would be a closed meet for members of the each Zone.

Technical Planning Committee Report:

New order of events for short course Zones was presented and approved.

Discussion for minimum time standards for Bonus Events at Sectional meets: recommendation is that when bonus events are offered at any LC/SC sectional meet, that a minimum qualifying time applies to be determined by each region.

Discussion for adding 1 boy and 1 girl to each event for short course Zones beginning in 2010 along with

removing the 17-18 year-old age group. Most of the LSC voted no on this last subject.

Discussion on the senior meet in August.

Introduction of the Eastern Zone candidates and closing of nominations:

Zone Director Coach: Marci Callan, Ward Foley, Mike Goldbraight

Secretary: Boots Hall

Age Group Development Committee: non coach

Report of Eastern Zone Sport Development Consultant: Peter Clark

The new Eastern Zone website will be online by the end of the month.

Other website: <http://www.swimnetwork.com>

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm

Friday, September 26, 2008

1: Using your website and Protecting your Privacy:

Clark Hammond covered the USA Swimming Privacy Policy as well as COPPA (Child Online Privacy Protection Act) information. This may not necessary apply to non-profit websites but it does apply to commercial websites directed to children.

Topics included: photos, team rosters, meet rosters, pool locations and practice groups. Questions asked at this year's workshop will be the basis for next year's sequel.

Best is not to collect anything from parents and swimmers online as it can be intercepted.

Always remember that somebody else is looking at all there is on a website...

2: Observations of Breaststroke Technique:

Russell Mark – Performance support director

Different Strokes for Different Folks!

Doping Control update – January 1, 2009 – check the USA-S website

Breaststroke: Russell went over all parts of the stroke and showed the differences and similarities between different athletes:

Maintain forward velocity at the peak of the stroke

Maximize forward velocity at extension

Pullouts

All this was accompanied by videos of Olympians swimming the breaststroke.

3: Eastern Zone Meeting:

Athlete Representatives Report: Hayley Smith gave her report and asked athletes to be more involved! She and other athletes went to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Atlanta to teach kids how to swim. Hayley said that she would run again as athlete's Rep.

Technical Planning: a motion to add 1 swimmer per event for the 12 and under events at Zones, not to be removed for 2 years, was made and seconded. A friendly amendment was made: this would begin in 2010 and would not be modified for 2 years. This motion passed.

Bids: South Sectionals

LC Zone Meet: August 12-15, 2009

2010 meets: bids must be in before the May meeting. STAR is a potential host for 2010

Senior meet: August 2009 – NO – August 2010 – YES

LC Super Sectionals: 1st weekend of August ??

Elections: Eastern Zone Director Coach: Marci Callan, NI; Secretary/Treasurer: Boots Hall; Age Group

Development: Paris Jacobs

Reports from National Committees:

Board of Review – LSC Bylaws has been revised

Membership Registration Committee: Tracy Caulkins on 2009 card. Hoping to have a new type of membership card issued directly by USA Swimming. There will be a Times and Registration workshop next spring.

Diversity: increase it at LSC level. New position of Diversity Liaison

Officials Committee: more training and recruitment; Open water officials; improve evaluators.

Governance Committee: Boundaries dispute issues (PV and VA). Also capability for LSC to provide additional requirement for membership.

Safety: feet first entry. Make sure that the rule is followed. Have guidelines for marshals.

Greg Eggert and Bea Hartigan also gave their reports.

New Business:

Meeting dates for the May meeting in Fort Lauderdale will be set soon. Probably 2nd weekend of May.

Background Check: due again for all coaches that did it in 2006

Sectional manual still under development

Mission statement for Eastern Zone

Bob Vializ made a motion not to bring back the issue of the 15-18 swimming at the Zone Meet for 2 years.

Motion was seconded and approved by all.

Conference calls between LSC General Chairs: 1 before May and 1 between May and September.

Thanks to Ed Dellert for his help and devotion during all his years as EZ Director-Coach: History is created by those who make the wave...

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm

Saturday, September 27, 2008:

House of Delegates

Call to Order

Memorial Presentation

Presidents Report (Jim Wood) – <http://www.swimnetwork.com>

Presentation to Life Members

Presentation to Past Board Members

Awards (Glenn S. Hummer Award; Open Water Swimmers of the Year Award; Adolf Keifer Safety Commendation Award; Disability Swimming Service Award; Disability Swimmer of the Year Award; Diversity Inclusion Award; Ken Pettigrew Award; ASCA Coach Award; Developmental Coach Award; Athletes' Appreciation Award; ConocoPhillips Performance of the Year Award (Michael Phelps).

State of the Sport Report (Chuck Wielgus)

Membership Report

Credentials / Elections Report

Elections: Jim Wood (President); Tom Hans (Treasurer)

United States Sports Insurance Company

2009 Budget (Peter Carney)

Rules and Regulations (Bruce Stratton)

Vice Presidents Reports Requiring Action

Old Business

New Business

Junior National times standards: 2009 LC – women 100 fly SCY 55.59; also Bonus standard for US Open: 55.59

Adjournment: 12:36pm

Afternoon:

I spent a leisurely afternoon walking to, and visiting, the Atlanta Aquarium and the Coca Cola Bottling Factory with Mary Fleckenstein. Both sites were really enjoyable

Aquatic Awards Banquet

Monique Grayson

October 10, 2008 (on my son Kevin's 30th birthday!)