Report – 2007 USA-Swimming Convention – Monique Grayson

Wednesday, September 26, 2007:

1: New SWIMS Projects (Times & Recognition Committee).

NCAA Project: There is a new NCAA Database for Division 1 schools within SWIMS and there is information posted on the web link (NCAA on the left column under Times/Time Standards).
Check http://www.usaswimming.org/ncaa
* The D1 schools send meet results to this email address within 48 hours of any competition where a D1 school is competing (ncaa@usaswimming.org).
* The database will provide the list for invitations to the D1 Championships and POP forms will not be utilized.
* OME will be used by the schools to enter their swimmers.

2: Top 16 and National Times Verification Workshop

A. 2006-07 Review:
   a) With the development of the NCAA Database, other Times projects have been on hold. In current development is the Export of SDIF from SWIMS feature. The next one to be developed is the LSC Records component. Statistics can be found at http://www.usaswimming.org/stats and http://www.usaswimming.org/times
   b) Web X Training for Enhancements: USA Swimming has been utilizing an innovative way to do training. A lecture, power point, video component will be available on the web for NTV officers. This will hopefully provide those of us in the field an opportunity to understand and use new enhancements more quickly and effectively.
B. The Times and Recognition Committee has a plan to implement a new recognition system which will receive final review this month and be publicized as soon as it is finalized. The plan is to recognize the top ten swimmers in a single age group for individual events (10)-11-12-13-14-15-16-(17-18). With a single age group of top ten times 180 of each age group would be recognized. The committee feels that this will provide inclusion and motivation for the younger age and make recognition more competitive at the top age while providing more recognition overall for our athletes. Note that relays will continue to be recognized in the current manner. NAG Records and age group motivational times (B, A, AA, etc.) would not be affected and the motivational times will continue to be published and updated every four years. The term NRT will disappear (all times are now reportable) and a Top Ten Time will be implemented to continue the motivational factor.
C. High School Times Data Entry: **All high school times for the 2007-08 year will be loaded into SWIMS as LSC UN.** The Club Development group has decided that, at this time, this is the fairest way to load high school times as not all states allow athletes to be attached to their club when they swim high school. Therefore, the high school times will not count for Virtual Club Championship or club recognition programs this year. This may change after May 2008 (we need 75% agreement from high school associations).
D. Scholastic All America Report: Change is anticipated in the selection criteria for swimming for the 2007-08 year. When the old Junior Championships went away in 2000, the selection criteria for making SAA were changed to placing in a sectional championship. It has become obvious that not all sectional qualifying times are equal (as the old junior standards were) and not all athletes go to sectionals as they were motivated to do for juniors. The SAA sub-committee is considering changing the criteria to a qualifying time (the old 2000 junior standard which is now the bonus time standard for the current junior championship or possibly an average of the sectional qualifying times).
E. Top 16 & National Age Group Records: A task force looking at USA Swimming Records applications is developing an interactive application form that can be accessed on the USA-S web site. Look for this to be in place by January 1st. Special note: The Rules and Regulations Committee has specified that any NAG Record set in a pool with a moveable bulkhead in place will require a measurement for the record to be accepted. This has not been the practice in the past. Since many NAG Records are set in LSC pools, you should urge your LSC and your teams to have a plan in place for this measurement should a record be set. Options might include going to a local engineering firm and asking them to donate a measurement should a record be set or working with a local college or university to have this measurement be done by students overseen by qualified staff. Laser measurement is permissible ("other acceptable measuring device"). Please review

104.2 C, specifically 104.2 C (4) (c) in the Rules and Regulations for guidance. The new record applications will reflect this additional requirement for NAG Records.

3: USAS Insurance Welcome Reception.

Thursday, September 27, 2007:

1: LSC Board of Review Workshop:
John Morse went over the "Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act – 1998: Section 220522-A-8": *Provides an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur athletic competition, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin, and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring the individual ineligible to participate*.
He went over the Protest, Notice of Hearing, Respondent's answer, alternative dispute resolution, preparation and distribution of hearing agenda, stay orders, etc. Reminder: membership in USA-Swimming is a privilege, not a right!
The LSC Board of Review has administrative powers and rule making powers. Each BOR panel needs to have 20% athlete representation. We were reminded to select mature athletes.
There will be a Board of Review Workshop at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine, Texas on October 26-28, 2007
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2: Sports Medicine/Science Workshop:
Hosted by George T. Edelman, a Physical Therapist in Delaware. Shoulder Stretching for Competitive Swimmers: Could inappropriate stretching during the career of a competitive swimmer be one of the contributing factors leading to instability and shoulder pain? The workshop was based on the physiological and neurological mechanisms associated with stretching and the identification of appropriate stretches to minimize unnecessary insult to the shoulder joint capsule. Athletes often stretch in an attempt to improve muscle flexibility, reduce the risk of skeletal muscle injury, and improve performance. Most athletes use incorrect stretches and should be discourage of doing so. Athletes should always warm-up before stretching and strengthening. Click here for more info:
http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=451&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en

3: Disability Swimming Workshop:
Swimmers Erin Popovich and Jarrett Perry were the athletes' members on the panel of the Disability Swimming Workshop. Some of the topics included:
- How to coach athletes with a disability?
- Common sense and deck expectations for officials.
- Practice and meet participation suggestions for parents of children with disabilities. How hard it is for parents to "let go"
- Difference between Special Olympics and Paralympic program.
- Explanation of the ranking system for paralympians.

4: Eastern Zone Meeting:
The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm. It was followed with the approval of the Agenda and approval of the Minutes of May 2007 (not 2006).
Financial report: dues from every LSC's are due now.
Report of Officers: The new Eastern Zone website will be online in January.
Report of Zone Championship Coordinator: How to keep kids in the sport?
Technical Planning Committee Report:
- Zones will be April 3-5, 2008 in Buffalo
- LC Sectionals North: at Nassau Aquatic Center (Eisenhower Park) March 6-9, 2008
- LC Sectionals South: at the University of Maryland (College Park) March 13-16, 2008

Calendar for 2009:
- EZ Age Group Meet April 2-4, 2009 (SC) at Fairport Area (Webster, NY) and August 12-15, 2009 (LC)
- Sectionals North: March 12-15, 2009 and Sectionals South: March 26-29, 2009

Friday, September 28, 2007

1: LSC Leadership Workshop (Club Development):
This was one of the best workshops held at the convention. It was hosted by Sue Anderson.
Some of the important topics were: How to develop a mission statement? Why hold a Board retreat? Principles of Governance – key responsibilities. Legal responsibilities of a non profit board. How do we safeguard against conflict of interest? Whistleblower policy. Document destruction policy. Non Profit Financial Statements. Finances: LSC's must have reserve. Assessment and evaluation: mission statement, strategic plan, stated goals. Have written jobs description. Importance of Evaluation!

2: LSC General Chair Meeting:
Communication between USA Swimming and LSC's. David Jay Flood: "Conflict resolution" – if conflict, don't wait to resolve it. Be specific and focus on issue.

3: Eastern Zone Meeting:
Athlete Representatives Report: Hayley Smith gave her report and asked athletes to be more involved!
Unfinished Business:
- **Officials:** upgrade officials' status within the Eastern Zone. Reminder about scratch sheets and clarification on "Intent to Scratch". Zone meet is now a qualifying meet for officials.
- **Scholastic All-America**: EZ is doing very well. There were 342 applicants. The list, by LSC, is on the USAS website

Elections: Eastern Zone Director Non-Coach: Joanne Faucett, AD; Technical Planning: Pete Barry, AM; Age Group: Ward Foley, PV
Reports from National Committees:
- Age Group: IMX extreme game concept meets for 12-16, single age group. NAG Top 10 (either 11-16 or 10-16)
- Convention Education Committee: A survey will be available at HOD
- National Select camps: 30 girls and 30 boys (18 from EZ – 4 from Metro)
- NTV: Jim Bowen said that NCAA D1 times will go into SWIMS. They will not count as USAS times unless approved by LSC 10 days prior to competition.
- NAG: Terry Randolf: new type of age group recognition – Legislation R9 – this provides a name change for the TOP 16 recognition Program to National Age Group Recognition. Also, times from high school meets will go in the SWIMS database as UN-US
- Rules & Regulations: additional requirements/conditions for sanction or approval may be established by the LSC provided the requirements/conditions have been approved by a majority vote of the LSC House of Delegates.

New Business:
- Potomac Valley will be hosting the Eastern Zone meeting in May (first WE of May). Hyatt in Restin, VA
- Request that Zone banners be kept by the Zone during the year and given to EZ meet host for the duration of the meet.

4: House of Delegates
Call to Order
Presidents Report (Jim Wood)
Presentation to Life Members
Presentation to Past Board Members
Awards (Glenn S. Hummer Award; Open Water Swimmer of the Year Award (Chloe Sutton and Frank Crippen); Adolf Keifer Safety Commendation Award (Gary Hall Jr); Disability Swimming Service Award; Dissability Swimmer of the Tear Award (Jessica Long); Ken Pettigrew Award (Dan McGowan); ASCA Coach Award (Bob Bowman); Developmental Coach Award; Athletes' Appreciation Award (Jim Crampton); ConocoPhillips Performance of the Year Award (Michael Phelps).

Saturday, September 29, 2007:

House of Delegates:
Memorial Presentation
Diversity Inclusion Award (Jim Ellis)
Membership Report, Credentials/Elections Report, Elections, State of the Sport Report (Chuck Wielgus) +

Video, US Sports Insurance Company, 2008 Budget (Peter Carney), Rules and Regulations (Bruce Stratton), Vice Presidents' Report Requiring Action, Old Business, New Business, Adjournment.
In Rules and Regulations: **Article 202.3 Conditions of Sanction** - Removal of the requirement that marshals be members of USA Swimming effective immediately. "All meet directors, referees, starters, ~~marshals,~~ and stroke and turn judges, serving in an official capacity in a sanctioned event, must be members of USA Swimming, and all persons acting in any coaching capacity in a sanctioned event must be coach members of USA Swimming."
Adjournment at 1:30pm

Aquatic Awards Banquet

Monique Grayson
October 9, 2007