

## **2014 USA Swimming Convention – Jacksonville, FL September 16 through September 20, 2014**

Denise Byrne - Administrative Vice Chair

### **Wednesday, 9/17/14 – Disability - Facilitating Greater Inclusion**

- ❖ This was an open discussion workshop.
- ❖ Swimmers are allowed to swim in different age groups. First the coach must contact the Meet Director and Meet Referee.
- ❖ Personal Assistants: If a personal assistant is required to be on deck with the swimmer, they must be USA Registered.
- ❖ Procedures for Competition: Pre-meet communication with meet administrator.
- ❖ Need for proper documentation (if required)
- ❖ Coach/Official “open” communication during competition
- ❖ Service animals on deck – this must be communicated before competition
- ❖ Use Article 105 as a resource
- ❖ Recommend LSC’s use a form for inclusion at Zones, Sectionals and other National Meets and create funding.

### **Wednesday, 9/17/14 - Eastern Zone Technical Planning Meeting**

- ❖ Discussions about EZ Winter Sectional Meets. Motion to make the “C” Final 18 and under only final. Motion passed. Motion to place Winter LC Meet in late March. **Motion Passed.**
- ❖ For 2015 Summer Super Sectional, motion to make the C Final and 18 and under only final. If the athlete count at the meet exceeds 600 athletes, then the D Final would become an 18 &U Only file. **Motion Passed**
- ❖ Motion for 2016 for two LC meets (North and South) and one SCY Super Sectional Meet. **Motion Passed**
- ❖ Planning of EZ Championship Meets was discussed and dates are to be proposed at the EZ HOD meeting.

### **Thursday, 9/18/14 – Officials Committee Workshop**

- ❖ This workshop focused on some Q&A’s on items such as Deck Changing, using cell phones as timing devices, the use of Kinesio tape, swimmers with disabilities and swimmers that are in the process of a gender change.
- ❖ Deck Changing was voted to be prohibited at the USA Swimming HOD and is now a by-law for all LSC’s and will be updated accordingly. It is suggested that common sense be used and for the Officials Committee to come up with a P&P that is followed by all LSC Meet Referees.
- ❖ Cell Phones as timing devices: The suggestion is that they not be used unless it is an emergency and no watches are available. It also falls under safe sport where no cameras can be used behind the blocks. This rule applies to timers, coaches and parents.
- ❖ Kinesio Tape – This tape has buoyancy and that would make it illegal. It has no medical value according to the USA Swimming researchers. Again, this should be discussed and a P&P set by the Officials Committee for the LSC to follow. Taping of 2 fingers, a cast or a splint is allowed.
- ❖ Cross Genders – this topic is being evaluated by USA Swimming and it is requested that the Meet Referee uses his/her best judgment in these cases. Coaches should notify the Meet Referee and Meet Director ahead of time.
- ❖ Stroke Briefings: During the stroke briefing, you should go over what you should see (positive) and not what might happen. Look for the correct stroke.
- ❖ New DQ Slips will be available. These slips will match the MM program.
- ❖ Age Group meets can be used for N2 only training and evaluations.

### **Thursday, 9/18/14 – Safe Sport Workshop**

- ❖ This workshop was presented as being a proactive coach. Educating your parents and swimmers by utilizing the USA Swimming Safe Sport video's for Parents and swimmers. Setting a positive culture, having a parents pledge, respect for the sport, publicize workshop. Setting the team goals as the Single Goal Leader, i.e., your goals – Sample (This is the way we do it here culture is powerful). Teach life lessons. Focus on the idea of what you did better today than yesterday and set the tone to not give opportunity to those that do not follow the rules. Safe Sport feels that if you set the tone of coach to athlete and not friend to athlete it will create a safe environment.

### **Thursday, 9/18/14 – Meet Management: The Players, Roles & Responsibilities**

- ❖ Meet Director Presentation – Handouts were given and will be on the USA Swimming website.
- ❖ Main focus was on the responsibilities of the Facility, Head Meet Official, Meet Director
- ❖ The following items that fall under safe sport as well as running the meet are recommended. Officials, coaches and timers, meet staff should not use the same locker/ restrooms as the swimmers.
- ❖ We should identify emergency service responsibilities. Meet Directors should check the banned list. Should participate in the briefing and get to know the local laws. Marshals should also be part of briefing
- ❖ Recon should be run two weeks out, and the Meet Information packet should state if the host is using flyover starts or chase starts.
- ❖ All Clubs will now follow the new USA Swimming By-Law that deck changing is prohibited.

### **Thursday, 9/18/14 – Eastern Zone Delegate Meeting**

- ❖ Motions that were presented at the Technical Planning Meeting were presented to the EZ HOD for voting.
- ❖ EZ Coach Chair election – Ed Dellert was elected to second term.
- ❖ New EZ Athlete Rep: Ty from Connecticut LSC is the EZ Rep
- ❖ Championship Meet Schedules are as follows for 2015:
  - 7/16 – 7/19 – Super Sectionals – Ithaca
  - 7/30 – 8/3 – USA Swimming Legends Meet – Greensboro, SC
  - 7/30 – 8/3 – USA Swimming Junior Nationals – California
  - 8/6 – 8/9 – EZ Senior Meet
  - 8/6 – 8/10 – USA Swimming Nationals Championships – California
  - 8/5 – 8/8 – EZ North Age Group Championships - Virginia

### **Friday, 9/19/14 – Burning Issues for Officials**

- ❖ This was a Q&A workshop basically going over situations that can or have happened on deck.
- ❖ The one recommendation that did come out of this workshop is for host clubs to find a way to identify the personnel on deck. (Timers, marshals, volunteers, desk). It is suggested to try and have ID Badges. Some clubs in Metro have already implemented this policy.
- ❖ Reminding coaches again to keep their ID out in plain sight.
- ❖ Running more N2 and N3 training and evaluation meets.

### **Friday, 9/19/14 – Zone Board of Review Workshop**

- ❖ Effective January 1, 2015 – All cases will be presented to EZ BOR.
- ❖ There will be a EZ BOR Chair and Vice Chair
- ❖ EZ will determine the fee to file a complaint.
- ❖ If a case goes to USA Swimming BOR, they also have a fee.
- ❖ Each LSC will appoint a Coach, Athlete and non-coach to the EZ BOR.
- ❖ All cases will follow a procedure and each LSC must have a procedure in place.

### **Friday, 9/19/14 – Safe Sport Workshop**

- ❖ This workshop focused on Risk Management
- ❖ Every Club should follow the risk management safety hiring guidelines (if you cannot prove that you did, your insurance is null and void).
- ❖ References are important.
- ❖ USA Swimming is introducing **Swim Staff Select**: This is an online cloud application that will: Streamline and easily track pre-employment screening for swim clubs; effectively manage the risk of retaining poorly qualified, ill-suited or dishonest applicants for coaching and other staff positions within a swim club; comply and easily demonstrate compliance with the pre-employment screening requirements of USA Swimming. This is a free tool for all USA Swim Clubs.

### **Saturday, 9/20/14 – House of Delegates Meeting**

- ❖ Several Rules and Regulations were amended. (Please refer to the USA Swimming website for these changes.
- ❖ Particular Changes and Amendments are:
  - R-9 – Deck Changing is Prohibited
  - R-1 - Comply with FINA's required use of the backstroke ledge
- ❖ USA Swimming Elections: New President is Jim Sheehan from New Jersey LSC