

USAS 2006 Convention Report  
Drew Walden  
General Chair

The 2006 convention was dominated by elections rather than by legislation. There were three men running for USA Swimming President, with each person having a distinct vision on how they would lead us during the next quadrennial. Since the President appoints most of the standing USA committees positions, they have a great impact on who and how those committees would develop and how our sport will be shaped in the next four years. The candidates were, Jim Wood a swim coach, who has been on many of the “swimming side” committees and task forces, Jeff Goodman general chair of Oregon, who had been the USA treasurer and has been on many of the club development task forces., and Mike Saltzstein, an official who has been on many of the political committees that work with the relations with FINA. Jim Wood was elected our next President.

**Zone C:** Zones in 2008 will be a Mega Zone (all the Central Zone LSC’s together at one site) held at Indianapolis Indiana on August 6-10. Open water will start the meet on Wednesday morning August 6<sup>th</sup>. Then there are some proposed options on how the meet would be run, with one being the 400 Relays being held Wednesday night and then four full days for the rest of the events. There will be a task force created with all the LSC’s to have a representative to help hammer out the details.

**Disability Swimming:** Please check out the information that we have posted on the WI web about the Disability Incentive Programs for Inclusion of Swimmers with Disabilities within our competitions. \$50,000 split over two years has been earmarked for these programs.

**Education Committee:** Held a workshop on “College Swimming: How To” and to receive that information please e-mail [kholmes@usaswimming.org](mailto:kholmes@usaswimming.org), or check the WI web.

**Time Standards:** Please look at the new standards for that we have posted on the WI web for Junior and Senior Nationals-they are also on the USA website. New Speedo Sectional Standards will be posted on the Central Zone website, they have dramatically dropped many of the event’s qualifying times, both individual and relay for the next short and long course meets.

**Senior Swimming committee:**

National Championships (Summer 07): 5-day full format with the Olympic distance event 1<sup>st</sup> day and non- Olympic distance the last day. All relays at night. See posted time standards on WI/USA websites.

Junior Championships: NO 200 Relays. Bonus event formula stays the same. Individual time standards stay the same with relay standards moving to the 32<sup>nd</sup> entered time to generate the qualifying standards. See standards on the WI/USA websites.

A 2007 **Short Course** Nationals will be held November 29-December 1 in Atlanta GA in a 3 day college conference format. There will be a one day Long Course meet held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for those swimmers that were competing in the Short Course meet. With this change to a Short course meet in December, there will be no US Open meet, but there will be a Grand Prix Meet held in Minneapolis two weeks earlier. There also will be no spring Nationals in 2008, but there will be a series of Grand Prix meets. The rationale was to have a much longer Long Course season. Now teams that would start in December training for either the Olympic Trials June 29-July 6, or Nationals/Juniors in August. In 2008 the Long Course Nationals will be held at the

University of Minnesota July 29-August 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Junior Championships will be there on August 4-8.

**Club Development:** The latest program that is being unveiled this fall is the Club Recognition Program. The program's goals are to identify and recognize club programs that demonstrate a commitment to long term club growth and development. Markers measuring athlete development and performance, services provided by the club, and organizational/business success and stability must be demonstrated. While participation in this program is purely optional, the program will benefit all clubs by setting standards and metrics for club achievement. Recognition will be given based on criteria deemed necessary for the development of quality club programs.

The USA Swimming Club Development Committee looked at many different factors that helped create "great" clubs. The committee grouped all of the factors into four major component areas:

1. Business & Organizational Success
2. Parent & Volunteer Development
3. Coach Development & Education
4. Athlete Development & Performance

These component areas, along with the markers in each area, were further subdivided into four different levels of achievement from Level 1 to Level 4 (Level 4 being the highest): (sic)

See the whole program description and method of applying on the USA website in the club section.

**Diversity Recruitment:** USA Swimming Executive Director, Chuck Wielgus, has made it a priority to recruit a broader base of swimmers into USA Swimming, and in keeping with that goal USA Swimming has hired a Diversity Specialist, John Cruzat. Diversity recruitment is something I would like our LSC to begin to explore and will ask the Technical Planning committee to look into this in the coming year.

**Coaches Background Screening:** This proposal/program has finally passed and will start up this fall and winter. In the next few months 5 previously selected LSC's will start the program with the rest of the LSC's starting next year in a roll out format per month. As of this time we do not yet know when Wisconsin will need to have our coaches apply for their electronic screening. See the attached information on how the program will work, or on the WI website.

**Legislation:** In the coming weeks the legislation that was passed will be posted on the USA website and I strongly recommend that all clubs read over and familiarize themselves with the changes that will be adopted in our 2008 rule books. Much of the other legislation was aimed at the above programs to help mold and shape either their creation or development.

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