

2007 US Aquatic Sports Convention
September 25-30, 2007
Garden Grove, CA

Senior Development Committee (9/26/07)

1. National Meets

Consider eliminating relay only swimmers or tightening the time standards to eliminate relay only swimmers. Possible proposal for next year's convention.

Rationale:

- a. meets are overcrowded
- b. warm down lanes are overcrowded
- c. "Do they have a right to be there?"
- d. expensive for teams and parents
- e. almost impossible to score with relay only swimmers
- f. Meet Management is stressed
- g. facilities are stresses- pools, locker rooms, safety issues
- h. air quality issues
- i. limited facilities to accommodate meets

2. US Open 5 day National Format: Indianapolis

- a. keep Olympic events at beginning of the meet
- b. target: 1000 athletes
- c. relays at night

3. Air Quality

- a. flush facility week before a large meet
- b. mandated chlorine levels are now 3x higher than they used to be
- c. most facilities have inadequate air exchange systems, to save money
- d. becoming more of an issue at national venues

4. Junior Nationals

- a. bonus swims- one per qualifying time
- b. relay only swimmers allowed to time trial
- c. time standards 2 tenths less per 50

5. Olympic Trials

- a. 985 athletes so far, about 300 more than last trials
- b. 50/50, men and women
- c. All nights televised on NBC or USA channels

6. National Team: top 6 per event

7. Obstacles/Opportunities Subcommittee
 - a. increase international opportunities
 - b. increase international opportunities for high school students
 - c. Professional athletes: increase number of areas where athletes can train and communities will provide jobs.

8. Review Organization of Meets
 - a. Zones---Sectionals---Grand Prix---Junior Nationals---Seniors
 - b. are they all relevant, particularly Zones and Sectionals?
 - c. Some sectionals are open, some closed. Some teams are going to outside open sectionals. Reduces quality of closed sectionals
 - d. Entry times- rules changes
 - must enter at fastest time for National Meets
 - rulebook will be silent for meets below Junior Nationals. In LSC and Zones, slower time may be entered.

9. USAS is in the process of creating a National Championship Policy manual for the website. There already exists a National Meet Book.

10. IMX Extreme Games Championships
 - a. 12-16 years old
 - b. Developmental Age Group Championship
 - c. Annually in November or December
 - d. Proposed four zones, with integration of results to determine one champion
 - e. Project 1000 athletes, 2-3 day meet, to start in 2009
 - f. Concern: there are too many upper level meets, is this needed?
 - g. Concern: conflict for high school swimmers

11. Awards Ceremonies
 - a. too many athletes do not show for awards, particularly upper level meets
 - b. coaches must encourage athletes to show for awards
 - c. detracts from the awards experience when some athletes show, some do not
 - d. Consensus
 1. athletes must show for awards ceremony
 2. must be in their dress warm-ups, or meet should provide warm-ups
 - e. One comment: "awards ceremonies do not matter to athletes and spectators, so why not drop them?"

Rules and Regulations/Interpretations (9/26/07 and 9/27/07)

1. Two sessions, total of 6.5 hours. Changes to numerous to list here. The 28 page document is located on the USAS website. Check under Rules and Regulations on

the Officials page. The link:

<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/Rainbow/Documents/caa67136-9fc6-48e28a60a901f346b4ad/HOD%202007%20CONV%20LEGISLATION%20FINAL.pdf>.

2. Effective immediately, Meet Marshals are no longer required to be non-athlete members of USAS. They will still be covered under USAS insurance, as timers are. Rule 202.3.3
3. Board of review: 20% of the committee membership must be comprised of athletes. No age restrictions. This is to comply with the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act. Rule 610.2.3
4. Additional items required for sanction: may be established by the LSC as long as approved by majority vote of LSC House of Delegates. Interpretation is located on the USAS website.
5. Relay cards no longer must list the swimmer's age or first and last name (rule now states Name). Rule 102.4
6. Entry Times:
 - a. USAS Championships- must submit best times. Rule 207.10.4
 - b. Meets below Junior Nationals- may submit a slower time. Eliminates requirement that the fastest time of competitor be used for entry into the event. Rule 102.5.1 and 102.5.4
 - c. If you want best time requirement at LSC meets, this must be specified in the meet information.
7. By-laws
 - a. Should be filed with USAS
 - b. Should be reviewed by local counsel due to individual state corporation laws.
 - c. Give as much latitude to LSCs as possible.
 - d. Template on USAS website.
8. Breaststroke Rule Change
 - a. Remove the word "downward". Will state "a single butterfly kick..."
9. Butterfly Over Water Recovery
 - a. Arm is defined as segment from shoulder to the wrist.
 - b. Arm recovers over the "calm surface of the water".
10. False Start
 - a. Stationary, not motionless, at the start

- b. Flag pole and Washington monument analogies- both are stationary, but not motionless.
11. Numerous shaded areas in the document corresponding to sections 206 and 207 in the rulebook. These sections will be removed from the rulebook and placed in the National Championship Policy Manual, currently under construction.
12. Numerous changes to language dealing with open water events. Rule 701 to 704.
13. Rule proposal giving the Board of Directors rather than the House of Delegates sole authority for budget approval – Defeated.

Officials Committee Meeting/Workshop (9/27/07)

1. Lengthy presentation/reports from all the subcommittees of the Officials Committee.
2. New consolidated Starter and Referee recertification tests. (100 questions each)
3. Working on new, combined officials certification test for Stroke/Turn and Timer, and Starter and Referee.
4. Discussed new USAS focus on open water swimming.
5. Reviewed revised proposed rules and regulations changes.
6. Discussed new Officials Tracking System, which is on-line.

Burning Issues for Officials (9/27/07)

1. Discussed rule changes.
2. Discussed situations and resolutions submitted by the audience.
3. Discussed successful trial of underwater cameras at Indianapolis this past summer. Trial considered successful. Second trial will occur at a yet to be determined meet this winter.
 - a. Used to review calls, not make initial calls.
 - b. There was extensive corrosion of the equipment after one week in the water.
4. Declared False start has no penalty attached.

5. USAS certification of YMCA Officials discussed. LSC Officials Chair to decide on case by case basis.
6. National Championship Rules, especially the scratch rule, apply only if specifically stated in the Meet Information.

National Board of Review Certification (9/27/07)

1. Extensive review of National and LSC Board of Review process.
2. No new changes to policies/procedures.
3. 20% of the members of the Review Board must be comprised of athletes (Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act).
4. No age restrictions.

Central Zone Meeting

1. 2009 Central Zone bids reviewed. Two sites required, and two bids received: Red River Valley YMCA, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND and Noblesville Swim Club, Noblesville, IN (an outdoor venue).
2. Concerned expressed that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain bid proposals.
3. Reports from the August 2007 Zones in Cleveland and Topeka reviewed. There were apparently gunshots fired outside the Dormitory in Cleveland. There was concern that the Topeka report did not adequately reflect issues that arose at that meet. These issues were not elaborated upon.
4. In 2007, there were two Wisconsin officials present at the Zone meet and two at each of the Speedo meets. We should encourage Wisconsin officials attending these meets to participate on deck.
5. Changes to the original Megazone Bid for this summer:
 - a. Scoring relays to 24 places
 - b. An All-Time Central Zone team will be recognized on the last night of the meet. Unsure how that will be determined as records from all the Zones ever held may not be available.
 - c. Some changes in order of events and timelines – check on the Zone website
 - d. Chase starts for all prelims and 12 and Under sessions

- e. 12 and Under start time changed to 2 PM to accommodate morning relays
 - f. Sunday finals moved to 5:15 PM start time
 - g. Starting November 1, hotel reservations available through ICVA Passkey system, information will be mailed to the General Chairs.
6. See Central Zone website for 2007 Legislation.
 7. Central Zone Board of Directors report reviewed. Located on Zone website.
 - a. Task force formed to study sectional stipends.
 - b. Committee recommends the following statement be included in the meet information: “No recording devices, including cell phones, can be used in the locker rooms at the site of a swim practice or meet. Marshals need to insure that locker rooms are monitored as often as possible by all meet personnel.”

LSC Leadership Workshop (9/28/07)

1. Excellent presentation by Sue Anderson. A 66 page document reviewed. If you would like a copy, I can forward an email to you from Sue Anderson that contains the document. I do not have a link for this document.
2. Keys to success:
 - a. Create a mission statement – vision is critical.
 - b. Oversight and governance
 - c. Know your bylaws.
3. New Financial Reporting guidelines
 - a. Located on USAS website
 - b. Dual signatures on all checks over \$5,000.
 - c. Check issuer should not be the same person who balances the monthly statements.
 - d. Audit committee reviews books semi-annually
 - e. All LSC General Chairs had to sign off on new LSC financial reporting .
4. Consider consent agendas at your LSC meetings
 - a. Send out agenda prior to meeting
 - b. Send policies or documents prior to meeting, committee members to review prior to the meeting.
 - c. Consent agenda items are approved without discussion.
 - d. Develop job descriptions for officers.
 - e. Consider having multiple LSCs share personnel for administrative services
 - f. Consider LSC surcharges to raise money to support LSC development and the LSC mission.

5. Develop a “Statement of Principles on Ethical Behavior and Conflict of Interest:” for board members to sign. (sample policy reviewed).
6. Sample document reviewed: “Document Destruction Policy”
7. Meeting mechanics discussed.

USA Swimming Facilities Development Services (9/28/07)

1. “Green Technology and Building” discussed.
2. Facilities Development working with 17 “major” projects totaling 600 million dollars in new facilities for USA Swim Clubs.
3. In April 2008, will hold the fourth annual “Build-a-Pool” conference. Attendance at last conference 150.
4. Can help with new pool projects, renovations, and facilities studies.
5. Working on air quality issues. Many venues with air quality issues because insufficient air handling units installed in order to reduce costs.
6. Monolithic Dome construction provides the most energy efficient pool.
7. Select architects carefully. Many do not understand pool construction and build an office building to contain a pool.
8. New concrete panel construction technology is stronger than steel. Can build a 50m pool shell for about \$700,000.
9. Major point: consult USAS Facilities Development before proceeding with your pool construction.

LSC General Chair’s Meeting (9/28/07)

1. Conflict resolution:
 - a. Face the issue
 - b. Change behavior
 - c. Start positively
 - d. Choose your battles
 - e. Delegate
 - f. It is not about you, but about the idea.

2. Meetings
 - a. Simple agendas
 - b. Prepare material for distribution prior to the meeting
 - c. Give timeframe on agenda (minutes per item) and spokesperson
 - d. Positive mental attitude
 - e. Roberts Rules of Order
 - i. Motion
 - ii. Second
 - iii. Discussion
 - iv. Amendments
 - v. Call vote
 - f. Summarize what transpired.
 - g. Schedule future meetings
 - h. Supply beverages
 - i. Token gifts.

Central Zones Meeting (9/28/07)

1. Both Zone bids accepted.
2. Both Zones 8/7-9/2009, ours will be in North Dakota.
3. Bill Schalz elected Zone Chair
4. Check Zone website for details.

House of Delegates Meetings (9/28/07 and 9/29/07)

1. Awards announced.
2. Rules changes approved.
3. Budget reviewed. Budget approval will remain with House of Delegates
4. Make a Splash program reviewed.
5. Proceedings largely ceremonial.

Respectfully submitted,

George Geanon
Chair, Officials Committee