

2010 USA Swimming Convention Report Drew Walden General Chair

Athlete Protection:

A large part of my convention experience was involved in the new Athlete Protection policies and guidelines. To address these new code of conduct polices and the best practice guidelines that have come about we had scheduled and then discussed at our September 26th LSC meeting.

Please review the handouts that were given to us at convention.

The changes are far sweeping that affect not only coaches but also all non-athlete members and also now have new requirements for club operations. Updated information is now on the USA web under program services-athlete protection

In a side note, Jane Foley, Advocate in the Sensitive Crimes Victims Services Unit of the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, who has been working with our LSC to help us with these important and sensitive matters would like to make a correction to some information that she presented in September: If anyone wants to look at the statute that she was referring too, it is 948.095 (3) (a). It states that anyone 21 years of age or older who engages in an occupation or a volunteer position that requires interacting or working with children may not engage in sexual contact or intercourse with a child who has attained the age of 16 years. It is a class H felony, which is the same as the school personnel.

Jane has been a great help in showing us both the legal aspects to child protection, but even more importantly how devastating and life altering these situations can effect children and young adults. Thank you Jane.

Senior Committee:

- There will be a scheduled National Junior trip held every summer, but qualifying for the meet will now be limited to swims done at Senior Nationals. This summers JR Pan Pac team had over half of the swimmers compete in both Senior and Junior nationals. For best times, 44 % of the girls and 60 % of the boys swims were done at the JR Pan Pac meet.
- Bill rose spoke that he feels that distance swimming is becoming more "cool" due to open water swimming.
- The committee will be looking to present at next years convention a rule that would allow a group to receive a sanction to host a meet within an LSC that would supercede the LSC's sanction procedures. They feel that too many LSC's have rules and procedures that limit the opportunities for more elite level meets to happen.
- The committee is also looking into the mechanism to create self-governing "conferences" that would not need to follow an LSC's rules and procedures.
- A and B flighting policies will be in place for next year's national meets and the decision on if it needs to go in to effect will done when the first psych sheet is posted.

General Chair meetings:

- National Team Director Mark Schubert was going to present to the General Chair's ideas and request for how LSC's could help with the National teams in both funding and in support. However, at the beginning of the convention Mark temporarily stepped down from his position, as National Team Director and a new director had not yet been named. Subsequently, Jim Woods was named to the position.
- The meetings then had their focused changed to promoting the LEAP programs. (LSC's Evaluation and Achievement Program). Level one will be required and non-compliance will result in an LSC's swim meet times to not be recognized and loaded into the Swim Database. Level 2 and 3 are voluntary and those LSC's that successfully complete level 2 will get a 5-cent rebate back to the LSC for each registered full season member, and level 2 will be 10 cents back.
- Other ideas that were presented was to have a 4 year quad plan setting up the championship meets and also designating camp dates
- There will be a continued push to change the working dynamics of LSC's and how they are run and governed.