

To: MSI House of Delegates

From: Patrick Hunter, Jr. Athlete Representative

Date: April 17, 2014

Re: Annual Report to House of Delegates

It is amazing what can change in a year.

I remember sitting in the assembly at the House of Delegates, new to the scene, and uncertain of what the experience would bring, but excited for whatever would come ahead. Now, I'm on two national committees at USA Swimming.

I remember from the conversation at the May 5 Strategic Planning Meeting, the question "What will we do when we reach 10,000 athletes someday?" Now, we have well over 10,000 athletes, having crossed the 10,000 mark near the end of June 2013.

I remember discussing at Technical Planning meetings over the summer, "What will happen when not all of our teams can fit into zoned meets? Will there be a day when we need entry *start* dates?" Now, that has become a reality, and is a situation that we are working to address.

Growth is great. As an athlete, I see it wonderful that more athletes are becoming interested in the great lifelong sport of swimming. Yet, growth also has its challenges, and we have begun to experience those challenges firsthand during the past year. Teams can no longer count on having their entries accepted into a zoned weekend, Champ times are faster, and, for a brief period of time, the cuts for the Summer MRCs were going to be made faster (Fortunately, the "B" standard will still be used for qualification; no changes were made). Technical Planning is aware of all of these issues, and we have a number of proposed ideas in the works to help maintain the level of excellence we strive for, despite our exceptional growth.

I have been involved in a number of MSI-related activities over the past year, including, but not limited to:

- Served on Strategic Planning Committee to help revise organization's strategic plan
- Served on Technical Planning Committee
- Provided input to Meet Scheduling Committee in regards to meet schedule
- Provided slate of athlete candidates to Nominating Committee for nomination for House of Delegates
- Provided input to various MSI Committees and board members concerning various issues

- Attended USA Swimming National Convention in Garden Grove, California
- Began training process to become administrative official
- Appointed to USA Swimming National Rules and Regulations Committee
- Appointed to USA Swimming National Board of Review; served on one hearing panel
- Other various tasks associated with Minnesota Swimming

I would like to thank the MSI community for sending me to the USA Swimming National Convention in Garden Grove, California. This provided me the opportunity to network with athletes from all over the country, and realize how many more opportunities exist in the swimming world. I really appreciate this opportunity.

I have been appointed to the National Rules and Regulations Committee. I will be attending the Rules and Regulations Committee in Boston June 6-7. MSI members Paul Lundsten, Van Donkersgoed, and Matt Chida also serve on this committee.

I have also been appointed to the National Board of Review. I heard one case, during the month of March. MSI members Van Donkersgoed, Ceallach Gibbons, and Gail Ann Witzel also serve on this committee.

In order to increase athlete participation at the LSC level, I have proposed an amendment to the MSI bylaws. This will add athlete participation to the Officials Committee and the Personnel Committee, and safeguard 20% athlete representation on other LSC committees. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On a personal note, Mach 3 Flyers has dissolved. I am now a member of Hopkins Swim Club.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire MSI community for providing me with this amazing experience, and allowing me to serve you. I have sincerely enjoyed every moment, and look forward to the year ahead. Please, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, contact me. Much of the work of committees that I serve on directly affects athletes; please share your input—I would love to hear from you.

Respectfully submitted,

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