

December 20, 2006

## **PNS Senior Coaches' Committee Meeting Summary for December 19, 2006**

The following is the summary from the Senior Coaches' Committee meeting held in Bellevue at the Bellevue Club on Tuesday December 19, 2006.

### **People Present:**

Jack Ridley (Sr. Coaches' Committee Chair) Andy Hathaway (General Chair) ,Sean Hutchison (KING), John Walker (KING), Jorge Fernandez (TSC), Doug Rusk (SBAY), Tom Pardee (CSC), Ken Spencer (KING), Klaas Schenk (BC), Troy Emmons (WEST), Lyle Campbell (SSCD), and Bruce Richards (Age Group Vice Chair). Bruce Richards served as recording secretary for the meeting.

### **Introduction:**

The meeting was facilitated by Jack Ridley (Senior Coaches' Committee Chair) and by Andy Hathaway (General Chair) starting at 11:00 am. The purpose of the meeting was to address two items on the agenda: **(1)** PNS subsidies for national level swimmers and **(2)** Initial discussion regarding competition schedules for the next competitive year 2007-2008.

### **Discussion and Decisions:**

#### **Agenda Topic #1: PNS Subsidies for the National Level Swimmer:**

##### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

Discussion began with a review of the historical background for supporting National travel for our qualified swimmers. Historically the national competitive schedule was composed of two National meets, the Short Course National Championships, during March or early April, and the Long Course National Championships, during August.

At that time the meet schedule was relatively simple with only these two National Championship competitions. As the sport grew, further National level competitions, such as Junior National Championships and bigger Regional and Sectional level meets were added to the calendar. Layered on top of this is a more recent movement to see our better competitors swim more internationally. With this in mind a series of meets such as FINA cups, with resultant World Championships (both short and long course) have been added to our schedule. These international meets will continue to grow in influence within our sport and there is a movement afoot by FINA to force USA swimming to select the United States Olympic Team through participation in World Championships instead of our traditional Olympic Trials.

As an example this is already happening, Open Water Swimming, which is an Olympic Sport for the first time in 2008, is selecting its team through the Open Water World Championships. Whatever your opinion – there are more avenues to successful national and international level competition than ever before. No longer is it possible to mandate one path.

The original intent of our national travel policy was to help provide PNW athletes and coaches desiring to compete at the national level an opportunity to do so. It was a relatively simple program that offered financial assistance to the club that had a swimmer compete in a national championship. There were only two championships to be concerned about. With the addition of multiple layers of competitions at the national and international levels it has become more complex.

There was some discussion as to whether there was a consensus about defining the pinnacle of our sport for an individual athlete or coach or member club. The consensus emerged and was broadly defined as having an athlete and coach from the PNW participate and compete in the Olympic Games. The underlying reason that this was valuable went beyond the individual recognition given the Olympic swimmer but had to do with the affect on the rest of our PNW competitive swimming community. The filter down effect was felt to be very important in the promotion of our sport. Having individual swimmers such as these would help the sport grow.

Further discussion developed the thought process that each program should be allowed freedom to pursue their own philosophical approach in the development of their elite swimmers. With the addition of many top level competitions it was no longer clear that there was only one path that would help develop our elite swimmers to the Olympic level.

The question of how to recognize which programs would receive financial assistance was broadly thought to be the performance level of their swimmers. For example – if a swimmer were to be World Ranked it would indicate that the training program of that swimmer would be one that had achieved a certain level of competence and hence worthy of financial support.

As such, a financial stipend would be given to that program for having athletes who attained this performance level. This stipend would not be tied to competing at a certain competition but would be given as a result of having attained a performance level within a given time frame. Payment would occur for performance over the calendar year. The details of this concept will be worked out over time but could result in only one payment per year to clubs for performances during the previous year.

The total amount spend during the last swim year is listed below with the amounts budgeted and spent in each line item. Last year \$58,250 was in the budget for subsidizing travel of national level swimmers for specific meets. Approximately 75% of that amount was distributed.

Budget vs. Actual - 9/1/05 thru 8/31/06

Total Budget for Sr. Programs - 9/1/05 - 8/31/06		\$ 58,250.00	
<u>Breakdown</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Delta</u>
Srs.	\$29,250.00	\$ 24,600.00	4,650.00
Jrs.	\$12,000.00	\$ 8,400.00	3,600.00
ND	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,600.00	3,400.00
Other	\$12,000.00	\$ 7,631.38	4,368.62
	\$58,250.00	\$ 42,231.38	16,018.62

The concept as discussed does not entail a significant increase to the actual historical amount distributed as a percentage of the total LSC budget. It should be noted that the above figures show that only 72.5% of our travel funds were used last year. It is unclear what caused this but it is our mission to support all our programs fully and it was felt that we should spend all allocated monies in any given year.

**ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AS THE CONCEPT IS DEVELOPED:**

- (1) Definition of the performance levels needed to generate a stipend.
- (2) How would relays be treated?
- (3) Defining support levels.
- (4) How to define proper payment recipients where the swimmer moves clubs.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- (1) Post the meeting summary on the PNS website under the Senior Coaches area.
- (2) Assign a person or small group (2-3 people) to more fully develop the proposal.
- (3) Schedule the next meeting to review the completed proposal at a future Senior Coaches' Committee meeting.
- (4) Get closure by the March 2007 Senior Sectional Meeting
- (5) Present formal proposal to the PNS BOD.