

**USA Swimming
Meeting of the Central Zone
Greensboro, NC
September 15-16, 2005**

**Forum Discussion
Tuesday, September 13, 2005**

All Central Zone LSCs were represented.

Task Force on Committees: Julie Bare spoke representing the Task Force and explained the background of the recommended changes. Volunteers are not being used wisely. It was recommended to keep Safety Education as a coordinator/committee even though safety has become part of our consciousness. Committee size will be defined for most committees and most will be taken out of the Rules and Regs and put in the Policy Manual in order to gain flexibility.

Facilities: Mick Nelson addressed the group regarding facilities development. There is \$550 million worth of new construction as well as 60 non-major projects. It takes approximately 22 months to do a project. They will be available at a booth for further consultation.

Katrina Task Force: Eric Nelson discussed the recommendations of the Katrina Task Force. The Board of Directors recommended \$275,000 from USA Swimming be given to the relief effort. It is being reconsidered. CZ voiced strong opinions that it is a mistake to open the door to such a donation. The purpose of the NGB is not to make donations but to make policy for swimming. It is also recommended that a waiver of the 120-day rule be granted for swimmers displaced by Katrina. Again the preponderance of voiced opinions was against such a proposal.

Zone Championships: The Zone championship meets were discussed. There were concerns over the length of the finals session. Everyone wants everything and no one is willing to give. It is the hope that the body comes up with suggestions.

CZ Seasonal Dues Task Force: George Bruce of MV discussed the impact of the dues increase on seasonal swimming. MV got hit hard. A recommendation was made to freeze seasonal membership at the 2005 level and also to allow application of the fees toward a year-round membership. The BOD did not agree with the recommendations.

Background Checks: Background checks were discussed. There are three potential providers at a cost of \$25-\$35. They may be done on an annual basis. The coach will have the results first before the club or the LSC. It could become operational as of January 2006. There were still many unanswered questions and the pilot project from last year in FL seemed to be a bust.

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Thursday, September 15

The meeting was called to order. Roll call indicated all LSCs were present.

Secretary: The minutes of the 2004 meeting were approved with the exception of the change to the section in the CZ manual regarding scratching from finals. It should read "LSCs whose swimmers in the Final or Consolation heats on Sunday evening fail to scratch and fail to swim shall be fined a \$100 penalty per missed swim."

Treasurer: Betty Kooy reported a balance of \$7807.40. All 2005 dues were paid. Expenses for one of the CZ observers had been paid. Expenses for the 2nd observer are still outstanding. Dues for 2006 have all been paid with two exceptions. Treasurer's report was approved.

Officers' Reports:

Zone Director: Eric Nelson reported on sites for 2006 for sectional meets: Region 8: Spring-Oklahoma City, OK; Summer-Columbia, MO; Section 1: Spring-Chicago, IL, Summer-Minneapolis, MN; Section 3: Spring-Canton, OH, Summer-Bloomington, IN.

Zone Director: Arlene McDonald reported on the General Chairs' conference calls and meetings as a means to share ideas and increase communication. The CZ Newsletter is also another vehicle for sharing. The Tuesday Board of Directors meeting had included a presentation from the city of Omaha. Almost 2000 volunteers have been solicited for the 2008 Trials already. Jack Jackson of MW indicated that there are 98 people serving on various task forces for the Trials.

Age Group Coordinators: Mike Lewellyn reported on the CZ meets. They were fun and successful but also had a few problems. The reports were circulated. Great awards were duly noted. One location had some negatives – which were totally out of the control of the host. Mark Davis had no report.

Age Group Planning: Kate Chronic of CZ serves as Chair of the committee. The goal has been to empower local LSC Age Group Chairs. A written report was submitted. The committee has taken on direction and accountability under Kate's leadership. Tony Young discussed AGP as a mechanism to share ideas.

Athlete Representative: Sarah Solfelt talked about the Athlete Executive Committee as being the athletes' voice to the Board. The athletes are trying to get a reporting structure from LSC to Zone rep to the AEC. Getting zone athletes together helps athletes know how to get involved. There will be recommendations from the athletes for the CZ meets.

Officials Chairs: Mike Tchoukaleff reported on the three major events that were staffed including the number of officials' applications received by the Officials' chairs. Applications will again be available on the CZ website for those wishing to work the Spring Sectionals, the Summer Sectionals, and the CZ Championships.

Zone Records: Betty Kooy reported that 12 new records were set at the summer Zone meets – 8 at Michigan and 4 at North Dakota. The new records have been posted to the CZ website.

Adapted Swimming: No report.

Championship Meets Reports: Kate Chronic submitted a written report which included looking at recommendations for start times for prelims. Mike Lewellyn had written reports and a compilation of the evaluation comments from both sites. Suggestions abounded for changes. The committee will include Mike Lewellyn, Mark Davis, past meet directors, athletes Kate Kucac, Andy Wolfe, and Sarah Solfelt along with one representative from each LSC. Meeting time will be arranged.

CZ Meet Site Bid Presentations: Oklahoma City, OK, made a presentation for August 3-6, 2006. Indianapolis, IN, made a presentation for August 10-13, 2006. After LSCs indicated date preference, the site selection committee of Kate Chronic, Bob Merchant, Jack Jackson and an athlete were given the task of distributing the LSCs to each site for 2006. The 2007 site presentations (Lake Erie – Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH, and Missouri Valley – Topeka, KS) were not given because of lack of time.

Nominations of Officers: Nominations were moved to the Friday agenda because of lack of time.

Katrina Task Force Update: Jeff Gudman gave an update on the support for a general contribution and change to the 120-day rule. Resolutions will go before the House of Delegates.

Meeting was adjourned.

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Friday, September 16

Roll call indicated all LSCs were present.

SWIMS Education: Tom Avisicious informed CZ of the IMX program, the Virtual Club championships, and the My USA Swimming Page. With information gathered through SWIMS, all of these programs are possible.

Proposal to CZ from Mike Lewellyn: Proposal was made for the creation of Championship Coordinators to serve in an equal role in overseeing the successful preparation and operation of the zone meets. The Championship Coordinators would be appointed by the Zone directors to serve a two year staggered term. The two coordinators will conduct a site visit to meet with the hosts to assist in directing a meet that reaches the Central Zone's goals and expectations and also attend the zone meets acting in an advisory capacity. **Motion** was made to accept the proposal. **Seconded. Passed.** The CZ manual will be changed to reflect these changes.

Elections: Zone Director – Coach : Eric Nelson. There were no other nominations. It was moved to elect Eric by acclamation. **Seconded. Passed.**

Age Group Planning – Coach: Nominations included Lisa Ellis, MW, Dave Joensen, IA, Brad Smith, IN, and Julie Youngquist, MI. Julie Youngquist of MI was elected to a 2-yr term which will carry over to the new committee structure.

Pat Hogan announced that the Board of Directors was going to recommend the use of Swim-A-Thon money for the Katrina Relief.

Site Selection: Report was given by Kate Chronic (IL) for committee of Kate, Bob Merchant (MI) and Jack Jackson (MW). **Motion** was made to approve. **Seconded. Amendment** was requested that MV be left in IN as requested. **Seconded. Passed.** It was recommended that figures of attendance be available from recent years for site selection for next year as their numbers were sketchy. **Motion** was made to move IN to early date and change OZ to late date for 2007. **Motion** was made to split the award and LSC team assignment. **Seconded. Approved.** **Motion** was made to **table** site assignment for 2007 for further investigation by the committee. **Motion** was made to accept Missouri Valley and Lake Erie as sites for 2007. **Seconded. Approved.** Kate was directed to go back to the LSCs for further information and send the site recommendations to the CZ secretary as soon as possible. (Sites are as follows: 2006: Oklahoma City – Aug. 3-5, 2006: AR, IL, MW, MV, ND, OH, OK, OZ, SD; Indianapolis – Aug. 10-13, 2006: IN, IA, LE, MI, MN, WI. 2007: Lake Erie – Aug. 2-5, 2007: AR, IL, MW, OH, OK, LE, ND, IN; Missouri Valley – Aug. 9-12, 2007: IA, MI, MN, MV, WI, OZ, SD)

Zone Camps: Randy Julian reported on the Zone Select Camps May 19-21 in Bloomington. IMX scores will be used. Dan McCarthy and Bailey Weathers are sports performance consultants.

Meet Evaluation Committee: Proposed changes were **recommended by acclamation** except recommendations for relays. Discussion on relays was held. None will be eliminated. Regarding other suggestions from the meet evaluation committee, it was given as a duty to the Championship Coordinators to implement the recommendations listed in points 1-6 from the committee report:

1. Maximize the logistical set up of the facility to allow for the awards to be done as efficiently as possible and reduce wasted time. This should be done during the initial site inspection.
2. Mandate “fly-over” starts where ever possible during the 13 & older prelims and the 12 & under timed finals.
3. Leave time for the fastest heat of each of the 12 & under events to have swimmers names read while on the blocks.
4. Have the championship coordinator review and alter, if needed, the warm up schedule prior to the warm ups being published to the teams.
5. Establish a Zone warm up procedure that will supersede the LSC warm up procedure for the Zone meet only, allowing for the assigned team to control the type of warm up activity that will be done.
6. Have the championship coordinator create a procedure for the awards ceremony during finals, including scripting for the announcer.

Officials Legislation: Mike Tchoukaleff presented the changes to the officials’ section of the CZ manual. **Motion** was made to accept as written. **Seconded.** Discussion included that each section choose own officials. Motion was made to postpone until the next meeting of the CZ. Motion was defeated. Original motion was **Passed.** (See addendum.) Changes will be made to the CZ manual.

More discussion of moving LSCs to different Zone sites.

CZ still recommends against USA Swimming money for the Katrina Task Force.

Change to CZ Meet Template: **Motion** was made that all zone athletes be eligible to swim Open Water. **Seconded. Passed.**

Motion was made to add “Junior National” wording to Appendix p. 12 eligibility provisions. Swimmers qualifying for a national or junior championship after the entry deadline for the zone meet may swim the event in the preliminaries as exhibition only and may not score points or receive awards. (See addendum 2) **Seconded. Passed.**

Motion to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kooy, CZ Secretary

Addendum:

1. APPOINTED COORDINATORS:

A. ZONE OFFICIALS CHAIR:

- a. Shall serve a two-year term.
- b. Shall serve concurrently with the Non-Coach Director Position.
- c. Shall serve on the Central Zone Meet Evaluation Committee.
- d. Shall adhere to minimum standards for officials for the Central Zone Age Group Championships and Speedo Champions Series Meets. Minimum standards include the following:
 - (1) Referee requirements for Zone Age Group Championships and Speedo Champions Series meets:
 - (a) N2 Referee certification
 - (b) Demonstrated success at higher level meets
 - (c) Recommendations from the Meet Director and the Host LSC Officials Chair
 - (2) Deck Officials
 - (a) N1, N2, or N3 certification
 - (b) In good standing with own LSC
 - (3) Meet requirements for obtaining Qualified/Observed Meet status
 - (a) N2 Referee certification with N3 Mentor/observer
or
 - (b) N3 Referee certification
- e. Shall maintain an attendance record and performance evaluation for all officials working Central Zone and Sectional Championships for use in future assignments.
- f. Shall develop and distribute timely applications to officiate at Zone and Sectional Championships. Applications are to be distributed within 30 days after the end of the USAS annual Convention.
- g. Shall assist in the collaborative effort of the Assistant Zone Officials Chair, the Zone Championship Meet Director, and the LSC Officials Chair for that site, to select and appoint Zone Championship Meet Referees.
- h. Shall assist in the collaborative effort of the Assistant Zone Officials Chair, The Speedo Champions Series Meet Director, and the LSC Officials Chair for that site, to select and appoint Speedo Champions Series Meet Referees.
- i. Shall coordinate with the Zone and Sectional Championship Meet Referees and the Host LSC Officials Chairs in selection of assigned meet officials, utilizing

attendance and evaluation records (as indicated in e.) (Administrative Referees, Deck Referees, Starters, and Chief Judges).

- j. Shall coordinate with the Assistant Zone Officials Chair to ensure that a Zone Officials Chair or designee attends and participates as an official at each Central Zone Championship and Zone Sectional Championship meet.
- k. Shall summarize a report document for all Officials working the competitions based upon the reports and observations submitted by the respective Meet Referees, Mentors/Observers to the Zone Officials Chair. Evaluation Summary records shall be kept by the Zone Officials Chair and shall be distributed to the respective LSC Officials Chairs.

B. ASSISTANT ZONE OFFICIALS CHAIR:

- a. Shall coordinate with the Zone Officials Chair in the fulfillment of responsibilities listed in I.2A(c-1).
- b. Shall serve a two-year term prior to assuming Zone Officials Chair responsibilities.

Addendum 2:

Appendix Page 11 – Eligibility:

B. All swimmers entered in a pool event at the Zone Championship Meet, whether in an individual or relay event, including alternates, may participate in the Open Water event without regard to a qualifying time standard. (Passed)

Appendix Page 12 – Additional Eligibility Provisions:

D. Swimmers who achieve or exceed an individual event cut for the USA Swimming National Championships or **Junior National** Championships prior to the National Championship or **Junior National** Championship entry deadline may not enter or participate in that event or swim that stroke **at that distance** in a relay at the Zone Championship Meet. This applies to times achieved during the Zone Championship Meet qualification time period. Entries for swimmers who achieved a National Championship or **Junior National Championship** qualifying time **AFTER** the entry deadline for that meet must include the date the National Championship or **Junior National Championship** qualifying time was achieved. **Swimmers in this category may elect to swim this event in preliminary events as exhibition only swimmers and may not score points or receive awards. (Passed)**