

Meeting minutes
Ozark Age Group Committee
28 September 2002

The Age Group Committee of the Ozark Swimming, Inc. LSC met on 28 September at the Parkway Instructional Center. The meeting was called to order at 11:15a. Committee members in attendance were Paul Murphy (RPLX), PJ Keller (PKWY), Jason Cravens (GATR), Mo Stewart (SCSC), and Bill Price (SALU), Chairman. Absent were Kay Lynne Firsching (SLSS) and Todd Gabel (RSCA). Also attending the meeting was Nick Rudich (PKWY).

Item 1: Review of 2002 Division 1 long course meet

The sense of the committee was that the meet ran well. Using the Ozark "Silver" time as the qualifying standard allowed for a meet with approximately 300 swimmers.

Concern was raised regarding the depth of the pool (Kennedy) at the shallow end during the 4 x 50 relays.

Item 2: 2003 Gold, Silver, Bronze times

2003 Ozark time standards were distributed and are also published on the Ozark website.

Item 3: Discussion of using the National Age Group Motivational Times for meet classification

The committee recommends that the National Age Group Motivational Times (NAG) be used for meet classification instead of the Ozark Gold, Silver, Bronze (GSB) times. The NAG times are published on a 4-year cycle by USA Swimming. This recommendation is being made for several reasons:

1. By using *nationally calculated times* we establish a single standard of comparison for our Ozark athletes with each other and with every other USA Swimming athlete. The GSB times vary wildly in quality and, as such, are inappropriate for motivational use. As anyone who has worked with the GSBs for any length of time knows, not all gold swimmers are created equal.
2. The portability of the NAG times provides a common language for teams outside our LSC. Teams attending a classified meet within Ozark presently don't know anything about GSBs and when Ozark teams travel to a classified meet in another LSC the NAG times are used. This leaves the GSBs with limited use and, in the committee's opinion, no functionality.
3. The use of time standards as motivational markers is frequently brought up in discussion of various developmental topics. The NAG standards provide these markers for any athlete wishing to challenge them. The limited scope of the GSBs provide motivation only to swimmers at the lower end of the development ladder. The committee argues that the GSBs were never intended for motivational use although that is how they are being used in a practical sense.

Further discussion led to questions regarding the purpose of the Gold, Silver, Bronze times and how the committee intends to use them in future. For 2003 the GSBs have already been published and times for 2004 will not be calculated until August 2003. With this in mind much of what was discussed may change before any new times are published (next August). Here is the committee's preliminary plan of how these times will be used:

1. The "Gold" time is presently the qualifying standard for the Ozark short course championship and the "Silver" time is the standard for the long course championship. These times will remain as the qualification standard for both Ozark championship meets but the designation "gold" and "silver" will be removed.
2. Beginning in 2004 only the qualifying standard will be calculated. No change to the formula approved by the House of Delegates in January 2002 is planned.

Item 4: Camps

Kay Lynne Firsching has volunteered to act as Camp Coordinator for Ozark. Present plans include possible camp weekends in Spring 2003.

Nick Rudich reported that he is planning a distance camp in December as a lead-in to Christmas training. Details will be available at a later date.

Item 5: The Division 2 meet

In the 2003 Division 2 meet the 8 & under championship part of the meet will be eliminated.

There will be no Division 2 meet in 2004. This will create opportunities for clubs to host "last chance" qualifier meets for swimmers to get their Ozark championship cut.

Item 6: Zones

P.J. Keller reported on plans for the upcoming "mega-meet" for the 2003 Central Zone championship in Indianapolis. Hotel rooms and bus transport are already reserved. The meet will be 4 full days of pool events next year and all Central Zone LSC's will be attending. Attendance is predicted in the 1500-2000 swimmer range depending on who you talk to.

Item 7: Midwest All Stars

Bill Price reported that the Lawrence Aquahawks will again be hosting the Midwest All Star meet on 18-19 January 2003. Transport has already been arranged. We are still working on hotels. The All Star information package will be available in mid-October.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45p