

GENERAL SYNOPSIS (The Big Picture in 3-4 sentences):

Disability Committee had several objectives they have been working on for officials, athletes, coaches and teams.

Officials - They created a Article 105 Pocket Guide as a quick reference for officials for swimmers with disabilities. It is not intended to be a complete document of the rules and regulations governing USA Swimmers with disabilities.

Coaches/Teams - They are working on a flowchart on assisting disabled athletes when a club gets contacted as to how best service them.

Athletes/Coaches - Through several years of study and discussion, they developed USA Swimming Para Motivational Standards. A structured tier of progressive para time standards to be used for personal goals as they advance towards national and international para-swimming opportunities. Grouping athletes into 3 classifications (P1 - non-ambulatory, P2 - dwarfism, multiple limb deficiency, ambulatory with assistance, P3 - single limb deficiency, visual impairment, intellectual impairments and ambulatory without significant assistance.

Guest spoke on major advancement in participation in swimming by Downs Syndrome Athletes.

POSSIBLE MAIN POINTS OR TAKEAWAYS FOR...

<p>LSC Board/Committee Members</p> <p>Review and consider implementing, as an LSC, the para motivational standards as a fair representation of the performance level of para-athletes worthy to compete in championship meets.</p> <p>Create a division at these meets for para-athletes giving them the opportunity to compete in finals, score team points and receive awards.</p> <p>Review the results and make adjustments as needed to the standards.</p>	<p>Teams in Wisconsin</p> <p>Encouraged to review and support the new para-swimming motivational time standards</p>
<p>Coaches</p> <p>This will enable coaches to guide swimmers through the motivational standards and support them in championship meets that in the past they could have been denied access to.</p>	<p>Officials</p> <p>Creation of Article 105 Pocket Guide - Great quick reference guide for all officials to better serve our disabled athletes.</p> <p>Char Sorenson (Colorado Swimming Rep & Zone) encouraged officials to reach out to her for further questions and stressed she is always available to any team at any time of the season.</p>
<p>Athletes</p> <p>This is an important direction for para-swimming athletes for personal goal setting as they advance towards swimming opportunities. It opens the door for competition at championship meets, score points and receive awards.</p>	<p>LSC Others</p> <p>Provides greater awareness of the achievements of para-swimmers participation in swimming.</p>