

Convention Report 2009
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General Chair

Most conventions have at least one issue that becomes the burning topic. Last year it was the tech suits and this year the suit issue remained alive with 6 rules coming forward to restrict tech, coverage and add age restrictions. They all were withdrawn due to FINA's actions to reign in technology. We have posted on the Wisconsin web the current rules and interpretations of those rules. As of this time there is NO list of what suits are legal, just what constitutes a legal suit. USA Swimming is working toward creating a list, but nothing of an official nature has been presented. So, as of now it appears that the suit issue will continue to be a confusing situation (spelling pun intended)

Highlights:

- An historic 11.2% membership increase- accounting for an influx of 30,000 new athletes into USA Swimming clubs. There are now 286,097 registered athletes. 12-Unders are 56.7%, 43.3% are 13-Over. Plus a retention rate of 73% and there is a shrinking gap between the number of males and females in the sport. 56.9% are registered female athletes compared to 62.6% in 2000. An interesting aspect to these numbers is there are 37,688 8-under's, which makes them the largest age group of swimmers, however, they are not a recognized age group in USA Swimming. Also, when you put all the 10-Under swimmers numbers together, it comprise 34% of the total USA Swimmer athlete numbers, but they do not

get any national recognition for top times. It also might explain why national is resistant to having a sliding fee scale for the different age groups.

- **USA Swimming Adopts October 1 Ban on Full-Body Suits** ----See the documents posted on the WI Website and USA Swimming website.
- USA Swimming is directing funds and efforts into the digital space. By reducing production costs of its magazine, Splash, the organization will shift significant funds toward its digital strategy. Central to this strategy, are USA Swimming two wholly owned websites, **Swimnetwork.com** and **USA Swimming.org**.

FROM THE SENIOR COMMITTEE MEETING

- 2012 Olympic Team Trials will return to Omaha, Nebraska. **June 25-July 2. The venue will be a 10 Lane Murtha pool, which will mean 20 swimming in semis and 10 swimming in finals. Time Standards will be presented in the fall of 2010. Hotel information will be out later this fall.**
- The Summer National and Junior meets will have the same time standards as this past summer Open and Junior cuts. There will be 18-Under bonus cuts cut Nationals. Time Trials at Junior's will be limited to an hour long. The qualifying period will be the usual beginning date of July of 2009 for the 2010 meets.
- 2010 Short Course Nationals will be held at Ohio State and SC Juniors will be at Georgia Tech.
- 2011 Long Course Nationals and Junior's might be at Stanford. Details are still being worked out.
- 2011 Short Course Nationals at Georgia Tech and Short Course Junior Nationals TBA.

- The first Senior Zone meets held in two of the Zones had a total of 100 swimmers compete. Funding will still be available for 2010.
- In its effort to be successful against other swimming nations, USA Swimming looks to its “High Performance Plan” in cooperation with the U.S. Olympic Committee, which funds approximately 50% of the USA Swimming National Team program. This plan has now included adding two new “Center of Excellence” sites. The new sites are now at North Baltimore a Level 1 and Gold Medal club and Fullerton CA and Level 1 and Bronze Medal club.
- On the lower end of the scale, USA Swimming is increasing its investment in the National Youth Team program. The purpose of this program is to provide more athletes with international and National Team experience at a younger age. USA Swimming is asking the National Junior team members to pay \$750 for their trip next May. The National Youth team will be outfitted in LZR’s but may compete in any suit they wish at their meets in November held in Sweden and Germany.
- Coach Troy spoke about where he felt we are failing as a swimming community. He spoke about the number of athlete’s he recruited who did not attend morning practice. He characterized this as a failure to prepare for the rigors of collegiate swimming - not just in his rigorous program, but also in many programs in the United States. He also spoke of what he felt was a problem within the mind of many incoming college freshmen from the United States. In a broad Statement, he felt that (and this is a direct quote):

Foreign athletes come into my office and ask if what they are doing in the pool is enough to achieve their goals. American athletes more and more ask how much they **have to do.**”

FROM CENTRAL ZONE MEETINGS

- 2010 Speedo SC and LC meets will have the same time standards as 2009. SC meet will have bonus swims. Make 1 cut get two more swims, make 2 cuts get 1 more swim. LC meets no bonus swims.
- 2010 14-under Zone meet will be hosted by BST at their new RecPlex on August 6-8 Senior Zone meet will be on held on the same week-end held in Bismarck ND.

In my General Chair meetings this year and last there was an emphasis and push to be more organized and proactive within each LSC to help recruit and retain swimmers. We are being tasked to provide more opportunities and support for both athletes and volunteers in our LSC's, by National. In the coming year we will be looking into how to make our LSC more efficient and hopefully better for all our members.