

2009 CONVENTION REPORT

United States Aquatic Sports
Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, IL
September 14-20, 2009

Submitted by: Jeanne Drzewiecki, Administrative Chair

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Attended the initial meeting of the Rules and Regulation Committee. Bruce Stratton emphasized to his Committee and also attendees of the meeting that any changes by LSCs to Part I of the USA Swimming Rule Book is strictly prohibited unless okayed by the Rules and Regulation Committee. If any team violates these rules then it would be brought up against National Board of Review.

LSCs that currently have rules in place within their Bylaws/Rules should file a waiver to the Rules and Regulation Committee.

There was much discussion to Rule 205.10 and the interpretation of swimwear acceptable for religious beliefs or due to medical conditions. Exceptions would be granted to a swimmer on a case by case basis.

There was also discussion regarding adoption of FINA Swimwear Rules – these rules were changes to comply with recent FINA changes. Most notably was 102.9.1A which simply states: Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap and goggles. Armbands or leg bands shall not be regarded as parts of a swimsuit and are not allowed. There was much discussion regarding noseclips and if they would be allowed during competition. Bruce Stratton did mention that noseclips would be allowable.

Also regarding suits there was much discussion regarding the term "textile" which was the word of the week! During the House meeting at the end of the week – the one rule that caused the most discussion was Rule 103.2 regarding Water Depth. There was a feeling that in teaching dives during practice according to USA Swimming's guidelines of 6' to 16' does not allow the coach or swimmer the ability to work on racing starts during practice in depths less than 6' – that the first time some of these swimmers would be performing an actual start between the depths of 4-5' would be during competition. Concessions were then added that once the coach feels comfortable with the swimmer's ability to perform a racing start in depths less than 6' that this would be allowed.

SPORTS MEDICINE/SCIENCE WORKSHOP

Initial meeting was simply a World Championship recap. Information regarding Internship positions.

The Second meeting was given by Russell Marks and his work on the butterfly. His powerpoint presentation can be obtained by emailing him at rmarks@usaswimming.org To recap his feeling was that the butterfly was a body driven stroke with pressing the chin and chest forward with each stroke. That the kick in the fly was not the double kick of small kick and then larger kick after the recovery of the stroke but two equal kicks.

Unfortunately the video of the athletes cannot be added to the presentation because of privacy rights.

The most interesting view was watching examples of our most recent world class athletes of the last decade but then he reviewed video of Mary T. Meagher and Susie O'Neill and their strokes were actually very similar to today's top athletes.

BOARD OF REVIEW WORKSHOP

Attended this meeting as a refresher of due process and what should happen at the LSC level to any violations to LSC Rules/Bylaws. LSC Board of Review Committees do not need to be by unanimous decisions. Make sure that after the statement of facts have been recorded by both parties it was important to make sure that all parties felt that they were treated fairly and had a chance to voice their opinions, concerns, etc.

A great sample of what a typical Board of Review guideline should follow can be obtained by contacting Jim Devine at <http://law.missouri.edu/devine/usas.htm> - go to sample template.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Committee went over their Business Meeting agenda. Much emphasis was regarding the Diversity Summit which is scheduled to take place November 12-November 14th in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It was important that each LSC send their General Chair or their LSC's Diversity Chair or a designated person.

Kudos were given to Cullen Jones' work on HBO. Pat Hogan also talked that over the last three years that job of the Diversity liaison in USA Swimming had been so successful that USA Swimming was expanding their staff. They were actively looking for someone to add to this staff.

There was discussion regarding HyTek and Team Unified and local LSCs not properly identifying the ethnicity of their athletes to give USA Swimming a true picture of the diversity of athletes across the nation. This also led to discussion regarding if the Diversity Select Camp was actually fair and included a true picture of USA Swimming's top Diverse athletes.

CHAMPIONSHIP EVALUATION COMMITTEE

This was simply a meeting to go over Evaluation forms that the Committee was trying to develop in order to get a true picture of National level meets. Members of the Committee would poll various people at the meets – including the Local Organizing Committee, Officials, Spectators, Meet Referee, Team Lead Chief Judge, Coach and Athlete. This poll would aid when selecting which venues and local organizing committees run the best meets and would aid in awarding LSC's and teams USA Swimming's top meets.

WORKSHOP – COMMUNICATING IN A CRISIS: DOES YOUR LSC HAVE A PLAN?

Questions to ask each LSC: Do you have a chain of command? Do you have a mechanism to communicate with your swimmers? Their parents? The media?

It is important that each LSC and even each club have a plan to handle a potential crisis. What happened? When and where did it happen? Who was affected? Why did it happen? What caused it? What was/is the reaction? What are the repercussions?

Assigning a Communication Officer and a primary Communication Team – basically setting up a phone tree.

The Process when learning of a crisis should be as follows:

- Immediately inform the Information Officer
- Information Officer will gather and confirm all the information
- Information Officer will Alert Crisis Committee Team
- Team will gather and formulate a response.
- Team will establish a plan, message and timetable.
- Team will loop in appropriate stakeholders
- Communicate to external audience
- Information officer will continuously assess situation. In the case of further action/reaction is required – repeat the above steps.

WORKSHOP – LAW ISSUES AND LEGAL RISKS

Presented by Illinois' Deputy Chief Michael Sullivan and his talk on online predators and the "grooming procedures" that predators use to ensnare our youth. He talked about alerting parents/guardians about understanding the questions behind the questions that predators use.

Deputy Chief Sullivan went over flag questions (some of them quite graphic) that predators use when chatting online posing as a peer/friend, etc.

He talked about information that your children should not include on social networking sites (facebook, twitter, my space, etc) – such as nicknames, ZIP Code, images of themselves, don't post identifying schools, hometowns. They should make sure their profile is private – parents should make an agreement with their children as to who to allow into their profiles.

There is software available to parents to battle against online predators in which when certain words or phrases are used that the computer shuts down. Items that should be blocked from the general public would be: Name, Date of Birth, Address, ZIP Code, School, Park/Playground, Mall names and credit card numbers.

Michael Sullivan's book: Online Predators: A Parents Guide For The Virtual Playground is available thru amazon.com.

Wisconsin's Liaison is: Director Craig Klyve, klyvecs@doj.state.wi.us 608-267-1314

**This was a shockingly eye opening workshop that everyone should be aware of!!

CENTRAL ZONES

The meeting mainly centered around Site Selection bids for the 2010 Championship Meet for the Age Group Zone and Senior Championship. For 2010 the Senior Championship will be August 6-8, 2010 in Bismarck, North Dakota. The Age Group Zones will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska and Kenosha, Wisconsin (RecPlex Center) the weekend of August 6-8, 2010.

The 2011 Championship Meets are still up in the air with no bids for the Senior Championships. The Age Group Championships will be held in Topeka, Kansas and Indianapolis, Indiana the weekend of August 5-7, 2011.

2009-2012 PROPOSED CHAMPIONSHIP SITES:

2009

- December 3-5, 2009 USA Swimming Short Course Nationals – Federal Way, WA
- December 6th, 2009 Long Course Invitational – Federal Way, WA
- December 10-12, 2009 Speedo Short Course Junior Championships – Columbus, OH
- December 13, 2009 Long Course Invitational – Columbus, OH

2010

- May 28-20, 2010 5K & 10K Open Water Championships – Long Beach, CA
- August 3-7, 2010 ConocoPhillips National Championships – Irvine, CA
- August 9-13, 2010 Speedo Junior Championships – Irvine, CA
- December 2-4, 2010 USA Swimming Short Course Nationals – Columbus, OH
- December 5, 2010 Long Course Invitational – Columbus, OH
- December 9-11, 2010 Speedo Short Course Junior Championships – Atlanta, GA
- December 12, 2010 Long Course Invitational – Atlanta, GA

2011

- May – 5K & 10K Open Water Championships – TBA
- August 2-6, 2011 ConocoPhillips National Championships – Stanford, CA
- August 8-13, 2011 Speedo Junior Championships – Stanford, CA
- December 1-3, 2011 USA Swimming Short Course Nationals – Atlanta, GA
- December 4, 2011 Long Course Invitational – Atlanta, GA
- December 8-10, 2011 Speedo Short Course Junior Championships – TBD (Minneapolis, MN proposed site in review)
- December 11, 2011 Long Course Invitational – TBD (Minneapolis, MN proposed site in review)

2012

- May 5K & 10K Open Water Championships – TBD
- June 25-July 5, 2012 US Olympic Team Trials – Omaha, NE
- August 6-10, 2012 US Open - TBD
- August 12-16, 2012 Speedo Junior Championships – TBD
- November 29-December 1, 2012 USA Swimming Short Course Nationals – TBD
- December 2, 2012 Long Course Time Final Invitational – TBD
- December 6-8, 2012 Speedo Short Course Junior Championships – TBD
- December 9, 2012 Long Course Time Final - TBD