



Coaches Representative Report BOD January 11, 2017

Coaches Committee members: Chair, Nancy Reese (COHO), Glenn Brown (ACAD), Rob Emary (BSC), Jen Godlewski (BNSC), Tom Rieman (HWSA), Athlete Member, TBD

The Membership Task Force met on December 12th and January 9th. There were not as many responses to the follow up survey as we had hoped for, so MTF members are going to reach out to the clubs who provided contact information on the first survey, but did not respond to the second survey, to try and obtain a better sampling of information. The MTF will meet again the first week of February to go over the responses from both surveys, and begin work on developing some best practices for clubs to follow with regards to retention of athletes. There was also discussion on creating some programming ideas and model plans for clubs from the information gathered. We are on track to have information out by HOD this spring.

The Coaches Committee met on December 12th and January 9th. We have discussed the issue of HOD attendance at great length during both meetings. Based on the sign-in sheets from the 2016 HOD meetings, 43% of clubs did not send a representative to either meeting, 30% sent a representative to one meeting, and 27% of clubs sent a representative to both meetings.

General suggestions for improving attendance included:

- Adding programming to increase the perceived value, such as a clinic, guest speaker, coaches meeting, or round table discussion.
- Hold just one HOD meeting in the fall, and in the spring, offer a day or weekend of educational opportunities and informal meetings. If we went to this format, then the feeling was that we should advertise the fall meeting as “mandatory”. Consensus was to not have a non-attendance consequence at first, and see if turnout is affected, then consider instituting consequences.
- Change the fall meeting to the last weekend in September. The first weekend in October is not only a holiday weekend, but several meets are scheduled. Sometimes this may conflict with USAS, but the feeling was we should make this change in 2017 and see what happens.

There are other aspects to consider, such as:

- What happens to the election system with only a fall HOD?
- Do we consider moving the Banquet to the spring?
- How do we handle awarding Championship meet bids?

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If there are questions or ideas from the Board to take back to the committee we are happy to explore this further and bring forth more specific suggestions. For now, we have just been brainstorming general ideas to bring to the Board for consideration.

A carryover subject from the Membership Task Force to the Coaches Committee involved the idea of offering education/training like a "Coach School" for new coaches. Some thoughts included tying in to an official's clinic to off-set facility rental costs and share resources. We could include coaching certification classes that would be open to both new coaches and current coaches who need to renew. The Coaches Committee will continue to explore this idea.

We are currently developing criteria for some additional coach and swimmer awards to be given out at the Banquet in the areas of Disability, Open Water, and Developmental (coach only).

The committee is also working with Tony on creating an Illinois Swimming Hall of Fame. We would like to start with all Olympians as we continue to work on the criteria.

We had a discussion with Pam regarding the coach sign-in sheet system at meets. We agreed that people are still getting used to this, and most of us have already been on both sides, having hosted meets and attended meets as a visiting club. We discussed several options on where to have the sheets, or the easiest ways to get everyone to sign-in. We acknowledged that the biggest question has been the need to sign-in every session, which will continue to be required. Pam also noted the issues of coaches signing their name instead of printing it, (making some names difficult to read), and that many meet hosts are waiting until they send in financials to submit the sign-in sheets. In the interest of being able to inform coaches who are not registered properly in a timely manner, Pam would like to get the sheets immediately after the meet at the same time as the back-up.

We also discussed the on-line non-athlete registration system with Pam. The on-line convenience is mainly for the user and not the office, as they still must transfer the information manually into the National database. Pam is exploring possible options of streamlining the processing in the office so we can let coaches know when they can expect their registration to be updated on Deck Pass.

We will work with Pam to get information to coaches about both the sign-in sheets and on-line registration processing.

The ASCA World Clinic DVD's for all Illinois Swimming clubs have arrived. This expenditure was approved as part of the budget in the fall. We are exploring ideas on the best way to distribute them, and then plan to follow up with clubs on their usefulness with a short survey in the spring or summer. PLEASE TAKE YOUR CLUB'S DVD TONIGHT! ☺

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Reese
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