



Coaches Representative Report BOD April 5, 2017

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

Membership Task Force members: Chair, Dustin Thompson (PPD), Jen Godlewski (BNSC), Renee Kessinger (LIFE), Amy Oliphant (GA), Joey Waldorf (NTSC)

Thank you, Coaches Committee and Membership Task Force members for your time and efforts!

The Membership Task Force survey distributed at HOD and subsequently posted electronically proved very successful. We received 64 completed surveys, which included a lot of detail and important information. The Membership Task Force came up with 3 follow up questions in what they felt were significant areas. There were not many responses to the follow up survey, so Task Force members reached 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 Task Force has been working diligently on developing some best practices for clubs to follow with regards to retention of athletes. They will have a Power Point presentation during the April Coaches meeting prior to the HOD.

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. Most of the DVD's were distributed during Championship meets, but please take yours today if you did not receive it. The Coaches Committee is planning to follow up with clubs on their usefulness with a short survey before the end of the summer. We will appreciate any feedback so we can determine if this was a good use of resources or not.

The Coaches Committee is also looking at ways to provide additional educational and mentoring opportunities. We are currently discussing incorporating programing into the expanding camps program, along with other avenues.

We have discussed the issue of HOD attendance at great length. 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.

Possible ideas for improving attendance that were discussed and presented to the BOD included:

- Adding programming to increase the perceived value, such as a clinic, guest speaker, coaches meeting, or round table discussions.
- Do a better job promoting the importance of the HOD meetings, especially to the clubs that consistently do not send any representatives.

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- Get athletes more involved! Make sure it is known that each club is allowed an athlete and a non-athlete representative, and that the non-athlete rep does NOT have to be the Head Coach.
- Change the weekend of the fall meeting. Columbus Day weekend in October is not only a holiday weekend, but several meets are scheduled as well.
- Hold just one HOD meeting in the fall, and in the spring, offer a day or weekend of educational opportunities and informal meetings.

We received positive feedback on the first three ideas, the fourth was subject to negotiation with the site already booked for the fall, and was ultimately adjusted. The last item was discussed the most, with the majority feeling two HOD meetings are still ultimately needed.

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, and including certification classes 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.

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

Coaches, if you have any concerns or suggestions for the committee, please do not hesitate to contact me. As your representative, I welcome your voice and input.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Reese
Illinois Swimming Coaches Representative
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