

## **2017 USAS Convention – Dallas Tx Sep 13-16 (inclusive).**

### **General Chair Report.**

This was probably the busiest USA Swimming convention I have attended – it is getting harder to get between relevant sessions. I believe expanding our Iowa athlete and non-athlete attendee list is helping to maximize the benefit of the workshops and information for the LSC. We need to ensure we continue to “attend in force” to help ensure the LSC continues to improve its services to its members and the sport of swimming.

The tracks/meetings I attended were the LSC Chairs’ meeting, Rule and Regulations, Officials, LSC Development, Meet Evaluation, Athlete Leadership Development and Operational Risk. Highlights from these meetings are as follows:

#### LSC Development and LSC Chairs:

1. There is an Athlete/Junior Coach Leadership camp in Houston next April (either the weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> or the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup>) at Rice University. LSC’s can send 2 athletes and 1 coach. USA Swimming will cover travel, accommodation and per diem for an athlete and coach, as well as accommodation and per diem for another athlete (the LSC to cover the cost of travel). Iowa should sign up 4 athletes and a coach as soon as registration opens (additional athletes will be accommodated if space is available as not all LSC’s send a full complement). The athlete committee should recommend athletes and the coaches committee recommend a coach to attend. The camp will focus on training, both in and outside of the pool with a coaching staff of national caliber coaches, which will give LSC athlete leaders an excellent opportunity to experience a national level camp. Goals for this camp are to provide swimmers with elite training, to improve swimmers’ leadership skills both within our LSCs and beyond, and to help swimmers establish strong connections between their experience as athlete leaders and their future outside of USA Swimming. LSCs will have complete discretion as to which athletes they want attending the camps. There will not be any time standards, but LSCs should send athletes who will be engaged in LSC Governance well beyond the camp. USA Swimming recommends sending Sophomores and Juniors in high school. There will be a coaching track for one coach per LSC. The camp’s coaching staff will be given the freedom to develop their own programming with the intent that coaches leave the camp with the experience and resources they need to mentor LSC athlete leaders.
2. There was a workshop on LSC office and staff development – one highlight was that Iowa’s Personnel Policy and Handbook were held up as an example of a best practice for USA swimming – well done Curt and the committee involved with the preparation of the document.
3. The Board and LSC committees need to be addressing our LEAP Level 2 documents to ensure they are kept up to date and also be working towards LEAP 3. There are changes in the works for LEAP that will impact LEAP 3 requirements – these are noted in the handouts from those sessions. Rather than repeat handouts, we will be compiling them into a shared folder accessible from the LSC website to ensure they are easily accessible by our membership in the future.

4. While reviewing the changes to the organization of the USA Swimming Board, I realized that the Iowa LSC organization is relatively convoluted and nowhere is it described succinctly for membership. To that end, I've drafted a document outlining the structure and intend to incorporate roles and responsibilities which will be updated as time progresses and our policies and procedures change. I will have the draft for the next LSC HoD in Iowa City.

#### Rules and Regulations

1. The primary item for Rules and Regulations (as well as the House of Delegates) was the restructuring of the Board of Directors and changing roles between staff and volunteers. There were a lot of meetings/discussions on the inter-related pieces of legislation and the impacts it would have on board operations and organizational performance. This doesn't as yet flow down to the LSC (and most elements probably will not to Iowa) as USA Swimming has around 100 full time staff – whereas most LSCs have few if any full-time staff. The most noticeable visual impact is the reduction in the numbers of members of the Board of Directors and the fact that Zone Directors will no longer sit on the board. The role of the nominating committee is, I believe, more critical under the new legislation in order to ensure candidates with the "right" background and capabilities are put forward to the HoD for consideration as board members. Other items included incorporation of updated FINA rules and incorporation of NCAA meets as approved meets for USA Swimming times since the NCAA has incorporated FINA rules as the basis for its rules and regulations. This will impact officials as well (since they are approved meets). I did discuss with Travis what we could do to provide officials with the opportunity to include these meets into OTS.

#### Officials

1. The new dress code for 3 star meets and above (Juniors, Pro Series, Nationals) for officials will be black pants, socks and shoes under the white polo/blue shirt. This doesn't impact the LSC or Zone dress codes unless the officials committee decides to change. There was clarification of the updated FINA interpretations which are being distributed by the Officials Committee. It is great to see the number of Iowa Officials selected for the Winter Juniors meet in Iowa City this coming December (21 with 2 on the assigned team). We need to ensure this is a great event for the athletes, coaches and officials as well as the LSC. We are working to provide support to the meet and some give aways to attendees.

#### Operational Risk

1. One item – the safety committee is now the Operational Risk Committee (perhaps we should entertain the same change for consistency). The safety training for coaches has been updated as well as the shallow water blackout PSA to align with current recommendations. A recommendation for LSCs is to implement a common mailbox for report of occurrence distribution and that the LSC website point to relevant URLs for operational risk in the USA Swimming website. There was also discussion on concussion training and information for parents and athletes. Some officials have completed online concussion awareness training but we don't have that as a requirement within our LSC. As a minimum we should implement

- a checklist for coaches and officials. Finally (from me), there was talk about backstroke start certification to be consistent with forward start certification.
2. Curt Oppel brought forward the suggestion to me that the LSC look into bringing an Operational Risk committee member to the convention given the expansion of items and potential impact on athletes and the organization. The board needs to discuss this before the next convention to ensure we have adequate coverage of these items.

Finally, I'd like to thank the LSC for the honor of the Life Membership presented to me at the convention. It was a total surprise and I'm humbled by the recognition

Sincerely,

Phil Barnes