

USAS CONVENTION—DALLAS, TX 2017

As always, this was information packed convention. Days were filled with meetings from 8:00am till 7:00 pm. As Officials Chair, I attended all meetings relevant to Officiating and in between those I was able to attend a variety of classes that spanned from Deck Pass to the Mighty 2500 LSC Reunion. It was an honor and a privilege to represent Iowa LSC at this convention.

Wednesday started with Registration and visiting with the vendors that were there showing new products and technology. The first meeting related to Officials started with a Rules and Regulation Committee meeting on Wednesday, where the topics for the upcoming HOD meeting on Saturday were started to be discussed. This is the first step in the process to allow items to get ironed out, so the HOD meeting does not last for 12 hours. The bulk of the discussion was on the new structure of the Board being proposed. Following this meeting I was able to attend was the Sneak Peek—Deck Pass on Team Unify. There are many new items that they are planning on implementing over the next year with more interaction and having it is more users friendly.

Thursday got started with attending another Rules and Reg meeting where there was more discussion on the proposals to be presented and more discussion on the New Board proposal. I wanted to understand this new Board structure and how it would affect USA Swimming. It seemed at the time that people were equally split on this proposal from the discussions coming from the audience. The big news from this meeting was the inclusion of NCAA meets into Swims and OTS. As Officials Chair this is something that concerns me a little since a lot of these meets, Officials that are working these meets are not USA certified. NCAA has adopted the USA technical rules but do the Officials know and understand the USA rules. Adding these into OTS will be a little challenge since a certified USA referee needs to be listed, along with USA certified officials that worked the meet. Following the R & R meeting, I was able to attend the first half of the Open Forum on Tech Suits in Age Group Swimming. USA is doing a study on this right now to see if they will implement a rule. Some states have already passed a rule on this and I believe Iowa soon will. I am a supporter of this but there are things that need to be worked out so we (The LSC) don't alienate ourselves from the surrounding LSC's and hurt teams meets. A rule would mean any team, from any LSC, would have to abide by this rule. I was not able to stay for this meeting since the Mighty 2500 Reunion overlapped and I, Jen Matthews, and Don Spellman attended to represent Iowa. In my opinion the LSC is at the top of this club as we had goals set last year at this meeting and we had achieved those along with many more. Our goals for the upcoming year were to improve on what the LSC had accomplished and improve the membership of Inclusion & Diversity along with our Disability.

Thursday ended with a forum on Navigating the Coach/Official Relationship. 3 Nationally recognized coaches and 3 nationally recognized officials were asked questions by a moderator. One question was what information is a Coach looking for about a DQ when they approach the Referee and how should the Referee present it? If the Coach is fired up, should the Referee respond to them the same way? The answer, sometimes the Coach does not see the swimmer's complete swim and wants to know what the

officials saw, sometimes the coach saw it and is trying to get the DQ overturned(a loud chuckle erupted when that was said). The answer from Dave Coddington on the response if a Coach is fired up was, remain calm and listen. Don't respond back with an attitude. This day concluded with a Central Zone meeting discussing items for Friday's meeting.

The first meeting on Friday was the very popular Burning Issues for Officials. This is a Q & A meeting where Jim Holcomb, National Chair, answers questions from the attendees. He also presented his Myths Busters power point, which I will post a link to on the ISI website under Officials. This was started at the Chair conference in Houston and shows some of the Myths that we encounter as officials. It's a great presentation, funny but very informative. He also noted that the new attire (uniform) for National meets 3 stars and above would be white/blue shirts over black pants, socks, and shoes. The next meeting of the day was a Town Hall meeting with the CEO/President and Chair of BOD. It was nice to listen to Tim Hinchey speak during this meeting and give his views on the proposal for the new board structure. After this was the final Central Zone Meeting and followed by the Friday night HOD. Here our very own Phil Barnes was awarded a lifetime membership by the LSC.

Our Final Day Saturday was centered on the HOD. It was nice to hear Tim Hinchey speak and give the state of the sport address. He is going to do a great job leading USA Swimming for many years. He himself is a swimmer. The passing of the new Board Structure was a needed item and this in my view is a huge positive for USA Swimming.

Again I want to thank the LSC for this opportunity to be a representative and the opportunity to attend all these amazing meetings.

Travis Albang

ISI Officials Chair