

Minutes - Age Group Committee Meeting  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

1. Roll Call, in attendance:

Lucas Ferreira (Chair, GA)  
Mary Buzzetta (DYNA)  
Sydney Pepper (DAQ)

Mike Radford (ABSC)  
Jamey Myers (SCAT)  
Nick Graves (DYNA)

2. Approve Minutes from November meeting

*Moved by Jamey, Second by Mike; no further discussion. Approved*

a. Update on Zone Task Force

*Task Force focused largely on legal ramifications of Zone Incidents, and making sure that LSC would be insured. It also looked into best practices from other organizations that deal with youth group travel. Task Force has yet to present its recommendations to the BoD, but those will be in line with the ones presented by the Age Group Committee a couple months ago.*

b. Update on 2017 SCY State Champs

*Meet info was submitted to sanction 3 weeks ago, but has not been approved yet.*

*(update: it was approved over the weekend).*

3. Resume Discussion on Future of Age Group Champs

a. Review [Georgia Swimming Mission & Vision Statements](#)

i. With those in mind, what is the purpose of the Age Group Champs?

*Mary: based on those statements, it would make sense to try to grow the meet, however, there is a concern with "watering down" the level of the meet by loosening the cuts.*

*Jamey: there seems to be a divide between large and small teams; while large teams feel the meet is already big enough, small teams are getting progressively squeezed out, which makes it hard to maintain their registration numbers.*

*Lucas: one of the arguments made last month -: as long as timelines are still manageable, having more kids in the meet does not dilute the experience for the top kids; however, for the kids who are just making the meet, at this level, being there is a big deal*

*Mike: agrees with Lucas' comment.*

*General consensus: while the goal is not to water down the meet, allow for a higher participation of 11&O swimmers (slightly looser cuts), while tightening the 10&U cuts, and thus reducing the gap between 10&U and 11&O cuts.*

b. Review of points from last month

*Lucas noted that, rather than rehashing the same discussion, the goal was to see if any ideas have changed due to new information or feedback from the LSC since last meeting.*

i. Make better use of space by moving 11-12 Prelims to the afternoon

*In order to allow overall size of the meet to grow, it will be necessary to move either only 11&U or 11-12 Prelims into the afternoon. There is a consensus that, while this might not be an optimal scenario for 11-12 making finals, it is something they are used to doing through the year, and thus a viable option.*

*Pike Hightower, while not present at the meeting, sent an e-mail with a proposal he's been working on with Mike Wardwell to make the afternoon session 11&U, and keeping the morning option 12&U (thus allowing coaches who feel their swimmers belong in that session instead to enter it). Lucas asked that, as neither Pike nor Mike W could call in, we avoid spending too much time in that proposal as there might be more to it than we could tell. General concern with cutting out more relays.*

*(update: I spoke with Mike W over the weekend, and there is indeed more to the proposal than we first understood: the 11&U session would be a timed final session, with the possibility of scoring as 11&U or as both 11 and 10&U, thus removing the 11yr old heat from finals, but allowing coaches who think their swimmers belong in finals to compete as 12&U; this could also allow a "bonus" heat of 12&U in finals, or just speed the finals timeline. I wasn't sure how I felt at first, but this could be an option for real change. I encourage members of the committee to reach out to either Pike or Mike W to get more info, or build on it).*

- ii. Keep current scoring format.

*All in agreement.*

- iii. Require positive check-in for 11-12 200s of stroke.

*All agree that this should be the norm. There should not be empty lanes for those events during the Finals session. Discussion on allowing swimmers/coaches on picking an 'AM' option, committee feels this could be left for meet management to decide.*

**Note:** *this does not need to wait as much as the big changes to the format we are discussing. We need someone to make a motion and this could be put into effect as early as the LCM meet this year.*

- iv. Only offer one heat of 11-12 200s of stroke during finals

*Mary: if every other event has 2 heats coming back, we should honor the 200s of stroke and keep 2 heats at night. They might be the only chance for some late-developers, but hard-working kids, to swim during the Finals session.*

*All in agreement with Mary's comment. Keep 2 heats of 11-12 200s of stroke during finals*

- v. Offer 11-12 50s/200s of stroke as a combo (athletes would have to pick one).

*No support for this option.*

#### c. New topics

##### i. Team Competition

*Lucas posed the question: how much does the team scoring matters for teams at this meet, and if it does could we do a better job of promoting that?*

*Nick: believes it is up to the teams to promote the team concept and buy into that, and that can be a big deal.*

*Jamey: we could be doing a better job promoting that aspect: flash the team scores in the scoreboard, announce it more often during the meet, etc.*

*Lucas: it seems teams from medium and small divisions are more invested in it, but at the top it is unlikely the team places will switch; would there be a different way to score the meet that could make it closer and more engaging for athletes and teams (weighted scores)? No answers on that.*

*Jamey: we should look into the current team sizes division structure, as they are pretty disproportional;*

*Lucas: the same structure is used by both Age Group and Senior, and so this might need to go through BoD/HoD rather than just this committee.*

**Consensus:** *no good answer on how to improve the inter-team competition, but we can certainly do more to promote that aspect of the meet. Should work with meet hosts to make that front and center during the meet.*

##### d. Any other topics?

*None raised*

#### 4. LSC Camps

*Mary contacted Emory and got availability and prices for a camp to be held there*

*Lucas: camp would be during Memorial Day Weekend (Fri-Sun), currently looking into filling 60 spots (30 boys/30 girls), based on LCM performances while 13yr old, so they are at the camp as 14yr olds (goal of keeping like that versus inviting both 11-12 and 13-14 would be go deeper into the LSC).*

*Initial concern with that date, as many families use the holiday to travel. It is the first weekend in which kids would not have to miss school to attend, and any weekends after that would run against meets. If names are announced early in advance, and in case swimmers decline the next person in the list is invited until the camp is full, date should work.*

*Nick: this would be of great benefit not as much for the top kids (who get such experiences out of USA-Swimming), but for the next tier of kids.*

*Initial reaction positive to the idea. Lucas to write a draft of proposal with more details; Mike volunteered to take a look into it before it is officially submitted to Committee and LSC.*

5. Next meeting

*We will not have a phone meeting in January, and since we will all be at State in February, **our next meeting will be Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> prior to warm-ups** (likely 8:00am).*

*Adjourned at 9:45pm*