

Minutes - Age Group Committee
Sunday, February 19th, 2017

1. Roll Call, in attendance:

Lucas Ferreira (GA, Chair)
Sydney Pepper (DAQ)
Mike Radford (ABSC)
Pike Hightower (RAYS)
Mary Buzeta (DYNA)

Nick Graves (DYNA)
Mike Wardwell (GOLD)
Jamey Myers (SCAT)
Scot Davis (SA)

Guests:

Steve Potter (official)
Wil Bayer (SA)
Ian Goss (RAYS)

Jessica Cooper
Mike (SA)
Mark Schilling (GOLD)

2. Approval of [December Minutes](#)- First Jamey, Second Mike Wardwell
*No comments. **Approved***

3. Zone Team updates:

- a. Travel Document- Steve Potter presented the Zone Task Force information, which had the primary goal of making sure everyone involved in the trip (athletes, coaches, LSC) is protected. The BOD was largely in favor of the recommendations from both the Age Group Committee and the Task Force (see document from Steve).

The one main change, brought up in the last board meeting, was a suggestion to also develop a document allowing swimmers/families to opt-out of team travel (swimmers would travel to the meet and stay lodged with their families, but still be required to attend all team meetings and report to the pool at the same time as the rest of the team). There was discussion on this topic, and whether or not it might affect the team and the value of the Zone Team experience. While most in the committee felt that it could change the experience, and present larger problems if the meet comes back to Atlanta, there was also a feeling that, due to the problems in last year's trip, it might be a necessary step in order to renew confidence in the trip. Lucas asked for a vote from the committee about supporting this option, which passed on a split (4-3) vote.

- b. Sydney, Lucas, and John were tasked by Stu Hixon to work on the specifics of both chaperones and the opt-out option (to be presented to the BoD)
- c. Staff: there were 14 applications for staff, two females only. [Staff was announced at the meet.](#)
- d. Athlete application: we are waiting on final details about both the travel document and the opt-out option before the application will be published (update: [Senior Athletes applications are now available](#))

4. SCY State Meet Review-

- a. Breaks: Pike asked if a couple 5min breaks that were posted in the meet info had been skipped. Steve Potter (meet ref) explained that breaks were put into the meet info mostly to avoid the chaos between relays and individual events, and as soon as the refs verified that all swimmers in the following heat were behind the lanes and ready to swim, the meet was restarted. Mike W. mentioned (and was supported by all coaches present) that if breaks are posted in the meet information, then they need to be followed to allow all athletes and coaches plan warm-up. It was suggested that the meet information only says "break", and that there is a minimum of 3min for each break posted in the meet info, and to use the announcer to let swimmers know what time the next event will be started. This was supported by all, and will be reflected in the next meet information.
- b. 10&U session: there were concerns over the 10&U session running too quick. It was suggested we take more frequent breaks in order to allow swimmers time to recover between events. (note: that was adopted for the Sunday afternoon session, which seemed to run a lot better for the swimmers)
- c. 400 Relays: Lucas mentioned the possibility of running the 400 Free and Medley relays in 2 pools. All were in favor of this. Meet information to state that they might be run in 2 pools, depending on Meet Management (Ref, Host, Timers).

5. Old Business

- a. Positive check-in for 11-12 200s of stroke
There seemed to be prior consensus on requiring positive check-in for 11-12 200s of stroke. The discussion veered towards perhaps swimming all of those in the morning, and what to do with the 400IM as well. This lead to the format of the meet for 11-12s. Lucas reminded that the big changes to the meet (such as split or combined age groups, etc) were to be discussed separately.
Due to meet warm-ups about to start, the meeting had to be interrupted here, and the committee would pick back up with the same Agenda on a phone meeting March 1st.

Phone call (Wednesday, March 1st, 8:35pm) attendance:

Lucas Ferreira (GA, Chair)

Nick Graves (DYNA)

Sydney Pepper (DAQ)

Mike Wardwell (GOLD)

Jamey Myers (SCAT)

Scot Davis (SA)

Mary Buzeta (DYNA)

Mike Radford (ABSC), joined 30min in

Guests:

Wil Bayer (SA)

4. Meet Review Addendums:

- a. Although the committee had already covered this item, Lucas asked if there was anything that should be added. The only item that came up was the possibility of meet hosts using their own Admin Officials for championship meets. Jamey stressed that there were no problems with the Admin Ref for the previous meet,

but since they are used to running meets a certain way it could make things run more smoothly in the timing room if hosts could use their own personal. Lucas to talk about this and possible solutions with Rob Schreer.

(update: the position of Admin Ref is only filled during championship meets, and requires a different certification than Admin Official; most Admin Officials are not certified as Admin Refs; for that reason, currently the Officials Chair and the Meet Referee jointly decide on an Admin Ref; Lucas suggested including the meet host in that decision as well, which will be talked by the Officials Committee)

5. Old Business

a. Future of Age Group Champs

Lucas wanted to start by taking care of the “housekeeping” items (positive check-ins, distance events swam all in the morning or not, etc) prior to tackling the bigger changes. Mike W suggested it might be better to go the other way around, and thus devote more time for discussion on the bigger items. All agreed.

Mike W also suggested that, rather than thinking first about timeline or procedural steps, we instead think about what meet we want, what portion of the LSC it should serve, and then figure out how to create the best meet possible.

Prior to the meeting, the Committee received suggestions from Wil on behalf of the SwimAtlanta staff. Major format changes included: recombining 11-12s, swimming a 3rd heat of 11-12s in finals, and making the C final a combined age for both 11-12 and 13-14. Wil explained that with the need to march and announce fewer heats finals timelines should stay roughly the same, especially if we also decide to swim all heats of 11-12 200s of stroke and all heats of 400IM in the morning.

Mike W mentioned Pike (who could not join the call) had a different proposal, making the afternoon session 11&U timed finals, and having a 12&U time standard for the Prelims/Finals session; this would allow coaches of 11&U swimmers who also qualify for the 12&U meet to decide which session they would rather have their kids compete in. Since Pike was not on the call and the proposal was in not writing, there were not more details on event selection (50s of stroke only in the afternoon? 200s of stroke only in the morning?). This proposal would allow for a redistribution of cuts, possibly making better use of the pool space available for the meet, cutting off some of the younger 10&U from the meet but increasing the number of 11-14 swimmers.

The committee debated the merits of both proposals, and weighted heavily towards Wil’s proposal. There were concerns on Pike’s proposal being complicated/confusing for the membership. Wil’s proposal, in counterpart, is a straightforward meet in the molds of most Age Group Championship meets run around the country.

Distance Events:

It seems there are great points to swim at least one heat of them at night, as well as good reasons to swim them all in the morning. Lucas asked the Committee to consider 11-12 200s of stroke separately from the 500/1000 Free and 400IM,

and at least to the same thing with the 400IM/500Free (currently only 400IM has one heat at night). It was noted that Sunday evening timelines were very short and could actually take 4 heats of 500Free if the committee thinks that is the appropriate way. There was no final consensus on this.

When discussing 11-12s 200s of stroke, it seems there is a larger consensus on keeping all heats in the morning, though some members would still like to see at least one heat at night. It was noted that, if trying to control for timeline, event order would need to be changed (200s of stroke to the beginning of the session) so that there is no need for breaks in finals due to 13-14 events being back to back.

of Events:

Jamey mentioned the possibility of limiting swimmers down to 7 events for the meet. This option was well received by the committee, as many already are concerned that swimming 9 individual events plus all relays might be too much. Lucas reminded everyone that for 10&U can actually swim 11 events, as a few year back the committee decided to remove the cap altogether, and now they only have to follow the daily event cap by USA-Swimming rules; if an event cap is put back in place, it should include the 10&U. This could also, over time, allow the cuts to be redistributed to include more swimmers at the meet. The committee seemed to be in favor of this option.

Lucas reminded everyone that the original goal was always to come up with a completed proposal to be voted in the April LSC meetings, thus allowing more time and opportunity for the Committee to hear the voices of the LSC prior to making a decision. The target implementation would be for the SCY 2017-18 season. Therefore, Lucas asked Will to word his suggestions as a proposal for the committee to vote on. There was some discussion on keeping items together or separate for a vote, and which order in which to present them.

(Update: Pike would still like to present his proposal as a counterpart, and the committee can vote which one they think best serves the LSC)

b. LSC Camps

Lucas had sent a proposal for a Georgia Age Group Elite swim camp and asked for feedback on it. The committee was in agreement with the selection procedure for the camp, and in favor of moving forward with it. Lucas will present the proposal to the Board of Directors and ask that this camp is added to the budget for the next fiscal year (camp's 1st year would be 2018).

6. Next meeting

With Spring break the first week of April, the BoD meeting on the 2nd week, and the LSC meetings on the 3rd week, the next meeting will be April 22nd at Marist. Lucas will circulate the proposals as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm