

Georgia Swimming Age Group Committee
Agenda - July 23rd, 2017 (Sunday of Age Group State)

1. Roll Call, present:

Committee Members	Guests
Lucas Ferreira (Chair, GA)	Mike Rinde (SA)
Mike Wardwell (GOLD)	Alyson Sweeney (SA)
Sydney Pepper (DAQ)	Meagan Odoin (VAST)
Scot Davis (SA)	Rob Schreer (Official, RAYS)
Nick Graves (DYNA)	Jason Swain (SMAC)
Mike Radford (ABSC)	Kevin Sullivan (OAC)
Sofie Taylor (Athlete, GOLD)	Andrew Beggs (HURR)
Mary Buzeta (DYNA)	Wil Bayer (SA)
Pike Hightower (RAYS)	Jabari King (HLHK)
Larry Baskin (LINS)	Jessica Cooper (LSC ED)
	Hugh Convery (GA)

2. Approve [minutes of July Phone Meeting](#). Moved by Mike, second by Scot.

*No further discussion. **Approved.***

3. Zone Team updates

a. Issue with Senior swimmers

Lucas updated the committee that there had been some conversation amongst the Senior swimmers already selected for the team about breaking curfew and mixing genders in rooms on the last night of the trip. In the messages exchanged, one of the swimmers confessed to having done that in last year's trip; as all other swimmers who did that were banned from this year's trip, that swimmer was removed from the team Mike Wardwell pointed out how this should hopefully serve as a lesson not only to the swimmer involved, but other as well, not only about following the rules and trip's code of conduct, but also on how everything that is shared online is never completely private

b. Zone Team Scoring

It has been brought up that the wording on how to score swimmers for the Zone Team ("fastest time in finals") does not reflect the intention of the language and allows for swimmers in 'B' finals to score higher than swimmers in 'A' finals. Lucas pointed out that the language was likely changed when the meet went into single-ages, in order to allow 11yr olds to compete with 12yr olds, same for 13-14; once we re-combined the 13-14 age group, language was not revised.

It was agreed that, for this year's team, the selection would have to follow the language as it reads, however discussion was brought up about reviewing it for next year.

Nick Graves mentioned he sees both sides of how it would be ok to allow for fastest times, meaning swimmers could calculate efforts in Prelims just to get a final swim.

Mike Wardwell stated the intent of the selection process is to come up with the best team, and a swimmer who does not make "A" final at State is likely not going to be able to get into finals at Zones.

With the meet going back to combined age groups for 11-12, and the C final being open to 14yr olds next year, it would be easier to change the zone team scoring to follow the rankings at the meet.

It was agreed to change the language for next year's selection process. It should read swimmers will be scored according to ranking at the meet (swims in C or B finals will not score higher than swims in B or A finals, respectively; swimmers who swim in finals will score higher than those who do not), therefore putting a prize on performance in both Prelims and Finals.

Mike Wardwell brought up questions about the selection process for disabled swimmers. Currently there's a cap on how good an able-bodied swimmer can be in order to be a part of this meet (Junior Nationals qualifiers are not allowed in the meet), but in the case of disabled swimmers, those who qualify and competed in the higher stages (Paralympics) can still participate. Mike wonders if, as it is the case for other swimmers, there should be a ceiling for how good a swimmers is in order to participate at the meet. Jessica pointed out that able-bodied swimmers have far more opportunities to compete, and therefore we should be careful about adding a ceiling to disabled swimmers.

Lucas pointed out that the ceiling on level of swimmers to compete at the meet is imposed by the Southern Zone, and the LSC; therefore, unless the Zone imposes it, the LSC would be putting itself at a competitive disadvantage if it did so.

Lucas also mentioned that the selection process for disabled swimmers should be published online, so that everyone can have a better grasp of it.

It was pointed that there is currently not a mechanism to decide on automatic spots in the case of a tie. After discussion, and in order to keep with the idea of honoring better Prelims swims, it was decided to add to the language: in the case of a tie, the automatic spot will go to the swimmer who had the fastest time in Prelims.

Mike Wardwell pointed out that, currently, the selection process for Senior swimmers is done strictly on points, without automatic spots, which at times makes it difficult to put together a Medley relay. As the selection process for Seniors is different, and there are usually fewer applications than for the 14&U, there was discussion on whether or not it would be best to add automatic spots to the selection process. Wil Bayer suggested the Senior committee should be consulted. Lucas to get in touch with Beth and ask for this to be discussed in the next Senior committee meeting.

As there were no items that needed to be voted right away, it was agreed that we'll work on all the changes suggested above and bring them with the correct wording to be voted on in a future meeting.

4. Camp updates

Lucas is still having a hard time securing a location for the Age Group Elite Camp. He hopes universities will be more prompt to respond and eager to host the camp after September.

5. State Meet review

- a. 800/1500, 1000 swimming order

Lucas pointed out the current format in which we are swimming the distance events is not support by HighTek. On top of that, there is a question on why should the 11-12s have to wait for 6 total heats of 13-14s before they even begin to swim. Wil Bayer suggested going back to combined 11-14, making the seeding easier. Most agreed it is still beneficial to allow head-to-head competition at this meet, especially for the kids applying for Zones, and therefore it would be best to keep 11-12 and 13-14 separated.

Scot Davis moved that we switch the seeding for the distance events into fastest to slowest, alternating 13-14 Girls, 13-14 Boys, 11-12 Girls, 11-12 boys (1 heat of each through entire session). Second by Mike. No further discussion. **Approved.**

b. Other issues

Hugh Convery pointed out that, for teams using Team Unify to do their entries, if they have a relay-only swimmer they must include that swimmer in one of their relay entries, or else the swimmer's data is not imported into the entries, and the swimmer is not entered into the meet (and therefore will have to be entered, and shown proof of registration at the clerk of course).

6. Old Business

a. Review Order of Events for State Champs

Mike Wardwell suggested we ask usual host teams (SCAT, GA) to come up with recommendations on Event Order. Lucas to contact SCAT and take charge of the LCM meet.

Tabled for future discussion. Goal is to have a proposal for SCY meet before the LSC meeting in August; otherwise we'll keep the current Event Order for that meet.

7. New Business

a. Suit Policy

Following legislation being passed in [Southern California](#), [Maine](#), and [Arkansas](#), to either ban or restrict the use of Tech Suits by Age Groupers, the committee has engaged in discussion about whether or not it is appropriate to follow suit. At the July phone meeting, committee members were encouraged to engage with different coaches in the LSC and enquire about the need for such policy. It seems, based on the responses, that a policy from the LSC, if not as legislation at least as an educational piece, would be welcome.

Nick Graves stated that either a recommendation or legislation coming from the LSC should make it clear that, in younger ages and developmental stages, the goal should be on learning skills rather than focusing solely on performance (suits could help in dropping time, but if swimmers focus on streamline, making changes to strokes, etc, they will be better off in the long run)

Jessica Cooper added that the [LSC recently put out a statement](#) supporting this rationale of focusing more on developing basic skills for 10&U, rather than focus on performance

for that age group. An LSC directive or policy would be in alignment with that philosophy.

Questions arose if legislation on this would need to be voted by the HOD into By Laws. Jessica Cooper clarified it would be a Rules and Regulations change, but it would still need to be voted by the HOD, and proposal would need to be published on the website 30 days in advance. Due to that timeline, committee has decided to keep working on this issue and come up with language to be presented at the LSC Spring meeting.

Andrew Beggs mentioned he came from an LSC in which a Tech Suit policy was in place, but it was hard to enforce. Suggestion to tap onto what other LSCs with policies in place are doing in order to police and enforce them, as well as use their text for coming up with language.

Committee members to come up with language for a proposal, to be discussed at our next meeting, and brought forward to the HOD in the Spring LSC Meetings.

8. Next meeting (LSC Meetings):

August 26th, 2017 (time TBA) at Marist (3790 Ashford Dunwoody Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30319)

Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm