

Georgia Swimming Age Group Committee
Minutes - February 18, 2018, 8:00am (hospitality room)

1. Roll Call, present:

Committee Members		Guests
Lucas Ferreira (GA), Chair Pike Hightower (RAYS) Scot Davis (SA) Sydney Pepper (DAQ) Mike Wardwell (GOLD)	Sofie Taylor (GOLD), Athlete Nick Graves (DYNA) Mike Radford (ABSC) Wes Hamburg (WRA) Jamey Myers (SCAT)	Jessica Cooper Steve Potter, Official Wil Bayer

2. Approve [minutes of December Meeting](#)

Moved by Pike; Second by Jamey

*No further discussion. **Approved***

3. Zone Team updates

Lucas applied to be on staff, so will recuse himself from staff selection; Mike Wardwell will replace him in the selection committee;

Jessica: applications are going to be transitioned to an online form, and would like to eliminate the need for deposit checks (concerns with the number of checks being held by team manager).

Discussion revolving around the need for some sort of deterrent so that only serious Zone Team candidates apply. Eventually the Committee made the recommendation, to be approved by the BOD, to switch from a deposit to a \$25.00 non-refundable Zone Team application fee, to be charged electronically.

4. Camp updates

a. Price

Finally got prices and contracts from Emory, ready to sign; looks like final price will be \$185.00/athlete

b. Head Coach

Lucas: has yet to be able to secure a head coach.

c. List of Selected Athletes

List is ready, just waiting on some contact info and signing the contracts prior to sending invitations.

Lucas asked the members of the larger teams in the committee, as many of the selected athletes will come from those teams, if there will be support from them in terms of encouraging athletes to attend.

Scot: SA is taking 35 kids to a camp at the OTC, and many of those might be the same kids.

Nick: DYNA is also planning their own training camp, and will be taking around 75 kids to that, which could also mean many of the same kids.

Some concerns if both SA and DYNA kids opt out of the camp, but we might be in the same scenario if we were to wait another year.

5. Review Current Meet

- a. Switch Friday night pools (allows for smaller scoreboard for 500fr).

Jamey mentioned that if we switch the 10&U 500 to the pool by the Dive well end, they could use the secondary scoreboard for those, and have the full scoreboard for the Final heats.

Committee approved to try this set-up next year.

- b. 10&U Awards

Jamey said there was an issue with awards at the 10&U session, in which they awarded a kid that was later DQ'd. Will switch to doing 2 sets of events, and then awarding events from the previous cycle. This is a meet management decision and the committee doesn't have to weight on it.

- c. Warm-ups:

Jamey suggested to have a maximum number of lanes a team is allowed to take based on team size.

Pike: if we had assigned warm-ups it would eliminate all the issues with warm-up

Mike W: assigned warm-ups eliminates issues to a degree, but there are other issues, such as smaller teams being stuck sharing lanes and having to either agree on what to do or running into similar issues, but now being stuck in a certain lane and time assignment with less flexibility.

To be discussed again prior to the LCM meet.

- d. Move 400IM top heats to beginning of Finals

Nick made a motion to do the same we are doing with the 500 Free, and swim the top heats at the start, rather than at the end, of the Final Session. No further comments.

Approved to change for next year

- e. Run 400IM/500 Free with same format as rest of the meet

Mike W. suggested we maintain the pattern of the meet and run the distance events all the same way, preferably keeping it in event order and with Odd/Even heats running in different pools.

Scot: rationale for the 1000 was to allow some of the top 11-12 swimmers, who are coming back for finals, to swim their events sooner than they would if the event is running in straight event order. 400IM and 500 Free are much shorter, so there is no need to do the same thing. There is the issue of "dead water time" if we just run odd/even heats instead.

Committee decided to switch the 400IM and 500 Free to running in event order, with odd heats and even heats in opposite pools, same as the rest of the Preliminary sessions.

- f. Review Team Division sizes

Jessica brought up that some teams would like the committee to review the numbers used to determine team sizes (mainly teams just over 200 swimmers having to compete with the super-sized teams).

Mike W: that feeling is probably shared by anyone who's at the low end of the spectrum of a division.

Lucas: the committee has talked about this in the past, but the proposals brought forward were considered to be drastic changes, and the committee just didn't have all the data needed in order to make a decision on this.

The committee would like to be provided with some additional information (number of clubs in the LSC and their respective registration numbers) in order to be able to deliberate about a possible re-structuring of the Team Size Divisions.

6. Old Business

a. Update on Tech Suit legislation

Lucas: Technical Planning has received our proposal and had conversations on the topic, with most people being favorable towards the proposal. The proposal was forwarded to the BOD, and there's some concerns from the board (largely from officials) in terms of how this policy would be enforced. At this point the BOD has requested some time to reach out to other LSCs with similar policies and ask about implementation. Not sure if this will be up for a vote at the upcoming HOD in April.

b. State Champs Event Line-up:

i. 11-12 stroke (back, breast, fly) Events: drop 50s for SCY; drop 200s for LCM State Champs?

This has been suggested back at the Fall LSC meetings, and the committee has had discussions on it, but Lucas has delayed voting on it to allow us a chance to hear comments from a broader base within the LSC. No additional comments from member of the committee or guests.

Failed.

ii. Distance events at LCM (pair boys and girls?)

With the current move from FINA to offer the same distances for men and women at the Olympics, should we start moving in the same direction and offer paired distances for both boys and girls at the LCM meet (we do only offer the 1000 in the SCY meet).

Nick: thinks especially for the 11-12 boys, we would probably get more athletes and better competition if we were to offer the 800 instead of the 1500

*Motion by Nick to switch the 11-12 boys 1500 to 800 Free in the LCM meet. Second by Mike W. No further comments. **Approved.***

With regards to the 13-14s, at this point most members of the committee think the transition to 1500 is a good one for the boys, but not necessarily for the girls. As at both Zones and at Senior State the events offered for 13-14s are 800 for the girls and 1500 for the boys, might be better to leave it as is.

No change to events for the 13-14s

c. Age Group Coach of the Year Award criteria

John has asked for feedback from the Committee with regards to a criteria for award the Age Group Coach of the Year. Currently, there is no set process in writing as to how that should be determined. The standard has been to award the coaches with the largest number of

top-10 nationally recognized swims; this year, it was also taken into account the percentage of top-10 swims in relation the number of swimmers in each club. While the former criteria seems to favor coaches of larger clubs, this seems to do the exact opposite.

Mike W: coaches of large teams might also be working with a small number of swimmers, so their ratio would be far greater than just taking into account the total number of swimmers in the club.

In other LSCs, there is a ballot process, and the Coach of the Year is voted by his/her peers. Committee recommends John should study a 2-step process (perhaps a certain number of top-10 swims to get into the ballot, and then a vote, possibly allowing only one vote per club).

7. New Business

- a. LSC "B"-level championship

Tabled

8. Next meeting:

*No need for a meeting on the first Wednesday of March since we covered a lot at this meeting. Issue with some other dates so next meeting will be a **phone meeting on the last Wednesday in March: March 28th, 8:35pm***