

Minutes for Technical Planning, Georgia LSC

Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, April 14th, 2012

General Chair (Gary Theisen)

Committee Members:

Jonathan Foggin (Technical Planning Chairman); Phil Hurd (Administrative Vice-Chairman); Adam Byars (Senior Vice-Chairman), David Weeks (Age Group Vice-Chairman), Rob Schreer (Officials Committee Chairman), Jim Young (Coaches' Representative), Shayla King (Athletes' Representative), Andy Baer (Metro Division Representative), Bill Forrester (Southeast Division Representative), Meredith Green (Northeast Division Representative), Yit Lim (North Division Representative), Jamey Myers (Southwest Division Representative).

The Technical Planning Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. All committee members were present except Phil Hurd. Also present were Hugh Convery (outgoing Technical Planning Chairman); Jason Turcotte (outgoing Coaches' Representative), and Falco Fleischman (outgoing Age Group Vice-Chairman).

Coach Foggin (ABSC) began by thanking his predecessor, Coach Convery (GA) for all his work on behalf of the Georgia LSC. He further stated that he looked forward to working with the Committee and the Board for the betterment of swimming in the State.

The first item of business was to discuss matters discussed earlier in the day by the Senior Committee. Coach Byars (ASL) gave a brief recap of the 2011 Long Course Season, which he said went well. He noted that ABSC would be hosting the 2012 Long Course Senior State Meet at UGA (July 27th – 29th) and that SA had agreed to host the 2012 Short Course meet at Georgia Tech (December 7th – 9th). Coach Convery noted that there was a shortage of applicants for the 2012 Zone Team and asked coaches to encourage participation among their swimmers.

Next, Coach Fleischman (GOLD) gave a report from the Age Group Committee. He noted that many thought the Short Course State Meet hosted by SCAT at Georgia Tech was too large, primarily because the 10 & Under session was not broken out and swum in the afternoon. He then gave a report on the Age Group Committee's decisions regarding the upcoming long course meet (July 18th – 21st), to be hosted at Georgia Tech by GA. First, other than what is required by USA-Swimming rules, there would be no event limit for 10 & Unders. Second, finals would be broken down into single age groups. Third, relay qualifying standards would be adjusted using the aggregate of the previous year's times and adding 10%. And finally, the qualifying period would begin on the first day of the previous year's meet.

Following Coach Fleischman's report, Coach Foggin then moved to the matter of the 2012-2013 Short Course Season. He reported that the bids had been updated, but that some further changes might be necessary, depending on decisions to be made later by the Board of Directors. There also had been two bids for the Northern Divisional meet, one from LINS and the other from GOLD. There was, at that point, some question about how the bidding process for the Divisional Meets should work. Coach Foggin stated that it had, up until this point, been something of an *ad hoc* process. With the Divisional restructuring, though, it might be an opportune time to regularize the process. Coach Myers (SCAT)

made a motion that each Division should come up with a mechanism for deciding the meet host prior to the fall LSC Meeting. Coach Byers seconded and the motion passed. Coach Forrester (GCAT) asked if the General Chair could set aside time for the Divisions to meet. No motion was made, but there was general consensus that this would be a good idea. Stu Hixon (the incoming Treasurer), suggested that the Divisions could meet using Skype.

Moving on to the matter of the 2013 Long Course season, Coach Foggin stated that planning long course continued to be problematic, due to the early start date of the public schools, and noted that if the LSC is not careful, many developmental swimmers will be left without a season ending meet (i.e. one in late July). He also recommended that the Age Group Committee look into restructuring the Age Group State meet, for both long course and short, with an eye toward simplifying the format and providing a logical season progression.

Coach Foggin then asked for a report on the LSC's progress with regard to the LEAP initiative. Mr. Hixon stated that he and his colleagues found several areas of weakness, including officials recruitment, and participation in IMX meets. He also mentioned that less than half of Georgia swimmers participate in four or more sanctioned meets per season. He pointed out that the LSC could also look into increasing such things as swimposiums, meet director classes, and service award recognition. Pat Murphy (GOLD) asked that the LEAP criteria be published so that everyone is aware of the areas where the implementation of programs might be beneficial. He also asked that those leading the LEAP initiatives communicate their actions to the LSC. It was generally agreed that this should be done. Mr. Hixon concluded his report by stating that the LSC is not currently in a position to advance to LEAP 2.

Coach Foggin then brought up the issue of Divisional realignment. At the last meeting, it was decided that realignment would proceed as published, with the teams who asked to remain in their old Divisions be given a one year grace period to prepare for transition. That period being up, the following changes would be made for 2013 Short Course season: GOLD would transition from Southwest to the North; WAVE would transfer from the Southwest to the Southeast; TARA and CAD would move from the North to the Southwest. Another minor tweak, that of moving CW and NGA from the Northeast to the North, was recommended. Nelson Camilo (TARA) moved that this realignment be accepted. The motion was seconded by Jake Moon (ABSC), and some brief discussion followed. Coach Forrester mentioned that the Southeast Meet was changed from Prelim/Finals to Timed Finals because the meet referee refused to run a Prelim/Final meet. Coach Foggin stated that this should not happen; Divisionals are intended to give all swimmers a season ending Prelim/Final meet. He further stated that the Divisional Representatives should become more active in addressing issues within their Divisions, functioning, in essence, as subcommittee chairs. He noted one thing that ought to be addressed before the Fall LSC Meeting is providing a mechanism for governing team participation at the various Divisional Meets, and handling requests for moves between Divisions. Seeing no further discussion, Coach Foggin called for a vote on the proposed Divisional realignment, and the motion passed.

Next Coach Foggin brought up a recommendation made by the General Chair that the rule on session length for Age Group swimmers be more strictly enforced by imposing a fine on meet hosts whose sessions run longer than the prescribed limit of four hours. Mr. Schreer stated that the length of sessions is hurting the officials' recruitment process. Coach Turcotte (DYNA) stated that the Coaches' Committee had discussed this proposal at length and is against it. Many coaches felt that the data presented was insufficient to make a judgment on the matter, and that those in favor of imposing the

fine were relying largely on anecdotal evidence. Mr. Schreer was asked to provide more complete data from the Officials' Committee at the next meeting. Coach Myers moved that the Technical Planning Committee oppose this proposal; Coach Turcotte seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Theisen suggested that the Technical Planning committee come up with an alternative proposal. Coach Foggin asked anyone who might have ideas or suggestions to bring them forward.

Following this, Coach Foggin asked that the Committee take up a motion, also proposed by the General Chair, to implement a change to the meet fee structure which would allow the LSC to collect 6% of meet surcharges in addition to its percentage of meet entry fees. It was noted that this change was rejected by three committees (Senior, Age-Group, and Coaches). Coach Myers moved that the Technical Planning Committee likewise dismiss this proposal. Coach Convery seconded and the motion to reject a change to the fee structure passed.

Finally, Coach Foggin brought up a proposal from ABSC aimed at streamlining the officials' training process. Both the Coaches' Committee and the Age Group Committee strongly supported this proposal, which in essence, recommended three things: a) that any Meet Referee with 1 year of experience be allowed to train candidates for Stroke & Turn and Clerk of Course; b) that the Officials' Committee train candidates who have completed the requirements to advance to Starter and Referee without requiring a vote first; and that the current requirements within the LSC be modified to conform more closely to the standards supplied by USA-Swimming. Mr. Schreer noted that the Officials' Committee had earlier in the day agreed to have a subcommittee, consisting of Julie Allen (Meet Referee—GOLD), Steve Drew (Officials Training Chair), and Jamey Myers, evaluate the recommendations made in the proposal, but warned against accepting minimum standards for training of officials. He then presented data about those who were delayed in their advancement to Starter or Referee and stated that these cases involved people who were simply not ready for the responsibility of the job. Mr. Hixon stated his belief that the requirements were not as much a problem as volunteerism simply being down in society as a whole. Kathleen Schmaltz (Meet Referee—ABSC) stated that the process needed to be streamlined for precisely this reason. She likewise argued that if advancement comes down to a vote, then there is no point in a publishing a list of objectives to complete for advancement. Coach Myers moved that Technical Planning accept ABSC's proposal. Coach Convery seconded and the motion passed.

Coach Foggin then asked if there was any new business. Coach Myers asked to discuss the process of choosing referees for State Meets, saying he felt meet hosts should have more influence in the process. He proposed that in the future, the meet host should be able to choose from a pool of five potential meet referees, to be submitted by the Officials' Committee. Mr. Schreer stated that though the referees are currently chosen by the Officials' Chair, host clubs are free to voice their objections. Coach Myers pointed out that some clubs might not feel comfortable objecting to a meet referee already chosen and assigned, and that the process of discussion would best be done prior to any decisions being made. Ms. Allen suggested that the LSC adopt the same process that is used in selecting referees for Sectionals. It was agreed that this might also be an appropriate area for the committee of Allen, Drew, and Myers to discuss and make a recommendation.

Seeing no further business, Coach Foggin asked the committee for a motion to adjourn. Said motion was made by Coach Baer (RAYS), and seconded by Coach Camilo. The motion passed, and at 4:45 pm, the Technical Planning Committee meeting came to a close.