

Georgia Swimming Age Group Committee
Minutes - October 2nd, 2019, 8:35pm
Phone Call (404-465-2907 or www.uberconference.com/gaswimming)

Meeting was called to order at 8:38pm

1. Roll Call, present:

Committee Members	Guests
erreira (GA), Chair Roy (GOLD) Grace Thompson (SA), Athlete	Pepper (DYNA) adford (ABSC) amborg (WRA)

2. Approve minutes from [August 24th meeting](#).

Moved by Mike; second by Sydney.

No further discussion

Approved.

3. Reports:

a. LSC Select Camp

Lucas: nothing to report at this time. Camp went well at Emory again last year, so it should be straightforward to set it up again for 2020.

Mike asked who's going to be this year's Camp Manager, since Lucas will likely be out of the State.

Lucas confirmed that Sydney Pepper has agreed to be this year's Camp Manager, as long as the camp is not scheduled for the same weekend as Open Water Zones. Lucas also mentioned that it would be good to have at least one of the assistant coaches that worked last year back on the staff, but that can be worked out closer to the camp.

b. Zone Team (pool)

Dates for 2021 established at Convention as July 27th-31st. Meet will be in Tupelo, MS for both 2020 and 2021.

c. OW Zone Team

Will be May 30-31st in Chattanooga, TN (at the lake, like 2yrs ago)

Sydney: applications should go out in November.

Sydney mentioned that her, Nick Graves and Kevin Sullivan (LSC OW Chair) have been working together to include Disability athletes into the OW Zone Team. There are no limits as to how many kids we can send, only limits on how many kids can score. Only concern would be on how to determine classifications that could go based on safety and being able to swim standard distances for age group, as there are no Disability-specific races at the meet.

Lucas recommended waiting for Nick to join the call before further discussing this.

4. Old Business

a. Review cuts for "JO" session at Age Group State

Lucas had sent everyone [a document](#) with the number of athletes that have swam under the cut, and times 3%, 5%, and 10% off the cut in the 2018-19 season. Lucas explained that those were the total number of swimmers, not accounting for those who might have aged up prior to the meet. The actual number of entries for each event averaged around 70% of the total number of swimmers under the cut. This being a JO session, it is likely many swimmers will not choose to travel to the meet, and swimmers already entered in State might opt not to swim in the afternoon, so Lucas believes the actual number of entries will be 50% or less.

Ryan asked if the goal is to run the JO session together with the 10&U session, or if it will be run on the separate pool during the SCY meet.

Lucas: would like to leave some meet management items up to the hosts, the committee doesn't have to micromanage everything. With that being said, one of the reasons for adding the JO events was to slow down the pace of the 10&U session, so it would make sense for the committee to recommend running it combined.

Ryan asked what kind of timeline should we be looking at for the combined afternoon session.

Lucas said we should probably shoot for 3h. This would still allow for a break between the end of the afternoon session and the beginning of Finals warm-up, which coaches and officials would likely appreciate.

Mike asked what would be a bigger failure between having a session that runs too long or a meet that is way too small.

Thinks that having a meet that wouldn't even feel heats would be a bigger failure, as we would loose steam on trying to create some excitement about this option.

Committee seemed to agree with this point, while feeling like there should also be some safeguards to control the timeline in case the JO session ends up being too large.

Mike R. makes a motion to establish the cuts for the JO session as 5% off the State cuts for each event, while allowing meet management to limit all events 200 and up to the 3 fastest heats/event if necessary.

Second by Sydney

No further discussion.

Approved.

b. Change of Selection Criteria for OW Zone Team

Approved by BOD, into effect 2020-2021 season. Kevin Sullivan working with event hosts to make sure it goes through Sanctioning process with Georgia Swimming and includes language regarding the qualifying process.

Lucas just kept this on the agenda so we can make sure progress is made in due time. No further discussion.

c. Para Athlete Selection process

Lucas & Sydney working with Fred to make process more open, public. Sydney will work on the Zone Team Manual in order to include all necessary info. No further discussion or vote necessary.

d. Formula for proving State Cuts in SCM

Waiting on new page on LSC Website. No further discussion.

Nick Graves (DYNA) joined the call

5. New Business

a. Review when to swim relays based on "JO" session

Lucas: the committee had voted to move all the 14&U 200 relays to the start of the Prelim sessions. With the addition of the JO session, and since one of the positive points the committee discussed was that it would allow some relay-only swimmers to have some events to swim at the meet, Lucas wondered if the committee would like to review that decision.

Mike: thinks that we should still keep the relays at the start.

Nick: agrees, thinks we should prioritize the State Champs set-up rather than decide on event order based on what would be best for those swimming in the JO session.

14&U and 12&U 200 relays to be kept at the start of Prelim sessions.

b. LCM State Cuts

As the committee just adjusted the SCY cuts, Lucas would like to know if everyone is in agreement we should use a similar formula and parameters to adjust the cuts for the LCM cuts (single age, looking to weight the cuts more towards the older age in each age group, not tighten any standards by now).

Committee agreed that would be the right path at the moment.

Lucas asked what numbers the committee would like to shoot for.

Mike asked if we couldn't use the same numbers as we did for the SCY meet.

Lucas explained that we probably shouldn't do that, as the SCY meet runs in two pools, and the LCM in one. Therefore, the LCM has to be a little smaller in numbers than the SCY one. Lucas reminded everyone that the targets we used when adjusting the SCY meet were 25 athletes per event for the younger ages, 35 athletes for the older ones.

Ryan makes a motion that the committee adjusts the cuts for the LCM Champs using 15-20 athletes per event for the younger ages, 25-30 athletes for the older ones as the target numbers.

Second by Mike.

No further discussion.

Approved.

Lucas will send an e-mail with the actual formula and ask for an e-mail vote to approve it, so that we have the actual numbers before our December meeting.

c. Establish set "Age Up Date" for State Champs?

Lucas: in conversation with Wes during the last week, recognized that the change of SCY Age Group Champs to a latter weekend means a number of swimmers will "leap" a year in competition (i.e. some were 11 in 2019 and will be 13 in 2020). While this was outside of the Committee's powers, and an exception created this year, this is something that happens to a few swimmers every so many years whenever the calendar dates have to be moved back. Both Lucas and Wes wondered if there could be another way to determine age for the meet.

Upon checking the national rulebook and consulting with the Rules and Regulations Committee Chair, it seems there is not a way to work around the rule at the moment (national eligibility rule copied below). However, Lucas would like to check with the committee what would we choose to do if the national rule was changed to allow the eligibility period for Championship meets to be set on a date up to 15 days of the first day of the meet (i.e. every year would be February 15th for the SCY Champs).

Committee seemed to be initially against the idea, as the current national rule is understood and accepted.

Nick worried that in the case of the top swimmer in the state having a birthday between the set eligibility date and the first day of the meet (thus being older according to calendar years) would set a bad precedent.

Lucas explained that this is something that could not be used for the current season, as it would require a national rule change and likely not go into effect until the 2021-2022 season

Ryan suggested we table this discussion until the next meeting.

Lucas asked that committee members float the idea with other coaches in order to get feedback prior to the next meeting.

Tabled.

205.2 ELIGIBILITY

- .1 Eligibility to compete in a particular age group shall be determined by the swimmer's date (not hour) of birth.
- .2 Age on the first day of the meet shall determine the swimmer's age for the entire meet
- .3 When an Age Group Meet is scheduled over two weekends the younger age groups must compete on the first weekend.
- .4 In the event a meet is postponed, the provisions in Article 102.7.4 apply.
- .5 A swimmer must compete in the age group events corresponding to the swimmer's age, except when competing in consolidated events (102.1.4), mixed classification meets (102.2.8), and in events combined by the Referee (102.7.2).
- .6 USA Swimming Group Members may establish their own age group eligibility requirements for seasonal closed competition. Times achieved in competition conducted under different age group eligibility rules shall be recognized as official USA Swimming times only if achieved in conformance with 205.2.1 and .2

As Nick had joined the call later, he asked if the committee had already discussed taking disability swimmers to OW Zones (see item 3.c). Lucas said Sydney had explained it a little, but with the call running late he would like to keep any further discussion short. Nick explained that since there is no limit to the number of athletes that can compete at the meet, it would not change anything for other athletes applying/attending. Nick also mentioned

that this is how the Disability athletes were included into the Age Group Zones meet - Georgia simply started taking them, and other LSCs followed, which eventually led the Southern Zone to create ways to include them in the meet.

Nick and Kevin Sullivan will work together to draft a proposal, which will just need to be stamped by the Age Group Committee and the BOD once it's final.

6. Next meeting: **December 4th, 2019, 8:35pm**, via conference call.

There will be no meeting in November

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm