

2011 USAS Convention Report

By Susan Huckleby

Convention this year had a number of highlights for me. My daughters and I all served on committees so I was thrilled to hear numerous compliments about my daughters from their committee chairs. Lydia was a presenter for the 'Bizz on the Buzz' sports drink workshop that I was unable to attend, but many people told me she did a great job. The past year has been quite a bit of work for all five of us as we have had numerous conference calls and work to do, but it was exciting to meet at convention and see how much had been accomplished. I served on the Times and Recognition committee, the Scholastic All America committee, and the SWIMS Times Enhancement task force. Sarah was a member of the Athlete Protection committee. Rebekah served on the Awards committee and this committee does most of their work in closed meetings. She wouldn't even tell me in advance who had won the awards. Rachel served on the Times and Recognition committee and Lydia served on probably the most fun committee of all, Convention Education. Thank you to Montana Swimming for sending me to convention this year! As always, the Montana delegation did a wonderful job of attending meetings and speaking up to present our LSC's views. I know my report is long, but at convention we are always told to bring home the information and share it with our LSC. I hope you will browse through the report and read the section that are of most interest to you.

SWIMS Times Module Workshop

Convention opened with the Times and Recognition Committee hosting the SWIMS Times Module Workshop. My daughter Rachel and I are both members of this committee. There were 81 new NAG records set this past year – 36 short course and 45 long course – which included 24 individual records in short course and 32 individual records in long course with the remaining records set for relays.

The Senior Development Committee is working on the new Junior National, US Open and National time standards and it is expected that the new standards will be quite fast.

There will be four zone based workshops in April 2012 and LSCs are encouraged to send people to attend. Specifically LSCs are asked to send the LSC registration chair, times officer, the officials chair, and the OME person. The dates are April 13-15 and the locations will be announced soon. The LSC will provide transportation to and from the workshop while USA Swimming will provide food and lodging at the workshop.

Larry Herr reported in the past year 8100 meets were loaded into SWIMS – 7.8 million times by 267,000 unique individuals. He encouraged us that we need to manage expectations since we are all volunteers and can be overwhelmed at the task of loading and correcting times. Parents and coaches expect times to be loaded ASAP and that's not always possible. This is especially important with the new Deck Pass program which can have 280 million social impressions.

The times committee is working on a list of enhancements for SWIMS at this time. The major enhancement on the list is the automated Scholastic All America application for 2012. Another enhancement is the use of SWIMS by third party vendors to make online time validations on the public side of SWIMS. Other enhancements are SDIF files exported from SWIMS and updates to the times recon functions.

The Scholastic All America Committee is made up of 11 volunteers who process all the applications. Applications are up 10% over last year and last year was up 15% over the previous year.

Observed swims and swims from NCAA and how those times are added to SWIMS were discussed. The NCAA has dropped the recall start and now conforms with USA Swimming

rules; however the backstroke turn rules still differ from the USA Swimming rules. Approved meet applications still are sent to Suzanne Heath for approval.

Jim Foxx and Karen Lynnhart gave a presentation on Deck Pass which is the newest social media application from USA Swimming. Deck Pass will replace the My USA Swimming accounts. The idea for deck pass came from EpicMix at the Vail ski resorts. Skiers earned patches for completing specific runs and activities at the resort. Jim and Karen used that idea to develop Deck Pass. Deck Pass allows swimmers to earn virtual patches for their accomplishments and allows the swimmers to link their Deck Pass account to Facebook to let their friends see their accomplishments. Swimmers can friend each other on Deck Pass too. It also allows coaches to create and award virtual patches for their swimmers too. The swimmers can have their results posted on their Deck Pass as well as IMX standings, goals, and more. The program will also have mobile apps for Apple and Android soon. The hard launch of the program is late September. If a person has a My USA Swimming account, it will automatically be converted to Deck Pass. If you don't have an account, you can set up an account on the website. If a swimmer is not a member of USA Swimming, the swimmer can still set up a Deck Pass account and enter his/her times manually to earn patches. Hopefully this will encourage the swimmer to join USA Swimming. For more information go to www.usaswimming.org/deckpass. This is a great program that will be fun for the swimmers and I think will be a great recruiting tool for clubs.

The Top 10 LSC lists have been sent to the LSC times officers for verification and should be posted sometime in October. Certificates will be sent to the LSC times officers.

Finally we were again reminded to manage expectations about when meet results are submitted and what results are loaded into SWIMS.

Your Convention GPS

This fun meeting is hosted by the Convention Education committee and is a wonderful way for first timers and others to learn what convention is all about. We played bingo and searched for the names of all the USA Swimming officers and committee chairs in a race to win prizes. We learned about parliamentary procedure, the insurance reception and the awards banquet, heard from President Bruce Stratton and other officers, and had fun. Lydia was one of several committee members who helped lead the workshop.

Western Zone General Chairs meeting

The Western Zone General Chairs met and discussed holding a general chairs meeting April 13-15 in Phoenix. The General Chairs meeting at the Western Zone Senior Championships in Clovis was attended by several general chairs. There will be more communication between the general chairs. Susan Huckleby reported on the progress of using OME for the age group zones entries. There would be several problems in using the USA Swimming OME program particularly that SWIMS is based on clubs rather than LSCs so it would be difficult to do the entries.

Officials Committee Meeting/Workshop

Paul Jones reported on the online officials testing. This year there on the test there are 80 new questions, 91 updated questions, and 16 open water questions were updated.

Bob Griffiths reported on the Officials Tracking System (OTS). There were 126 officials qualifying meets this year. Currently there are 12,075 officials in USA Swimming. 1525 have

one or more N2 or N3 certifications. Of that number 769 officials have one N3 certification, 196 are certified as N3 chief judges, 190 are certified as N3 starters, 184 certified as N3 deck referees, and 64 are certified as N3 administrative referees.

Amy Hoppenwrath reported on the Women In Officiating (WIO) task force. From the results for the questionnaires received from officials, WIO learned 10 things: we want excellence in officiating no matter the gender; people want to feel included; it's not about the evaluations; we need to find ways to reduce the personal cost to attend national meets; we want to be personally encouraged and thanked; we need to find our own replacement (so we can move up or retire); most LSCs have no formal program to attract/promote/retain officials; we need to prepare officials for the next step with national qualifying meets held at the LSC level; and what are we doing to change or improve to become excellent in officiating.

Jamie reported on communications including the Maxwell awards and the officials' page in *Swimming World* magazine. Hopefully a national officials' blog will be set up soon and will provide feedback to the committee.

Lucy Duncan reported on education. Her group will begin updating and consolidating the information on the officials' portion of the web site, will update the situations and resolutions; and send out ideas on how to educate officials.

Melissa talked about mentoring and evaluations. There 116 initial N3 evaluators at the chief judge level and up. New material will be presented on how to evaluate. A new webinar will teach N3 evaluators how to become better mentors. It includes listening, feedback, how to question people, standards by which officials are evaluated, how to write an evaluation, and what to include in an evaluation. She encouraged LSC to have more national qualifying meets at the LSC.

John Kenny spoke on the new open water safety rules. The online OW referee and safety officer certification tests have been updated and there is now a more specific definition of the duties of the safety officer. Jay Thomas has been editing the OW referees manual and it will be online soon. There is a new 7 page OW sanction form online also.

Joel Black talked about liaison efforts with the YMCA.

Carol Zalesky gave an update from the FINA Technical Rules Committee. There are no new FINA rules changes at this time. FINA has changed how it trains FINA officials and now operates FINA Training schools on each continent. Carol has been suing USA Swimming officials training material for the FINA training school. The USA will have two deck officials at the 2012 Olympics—Jim Sheehan as a deck official and Paul Memont as the starter.

Dan McAllen was introduced by Clark Hammond, committee chair. Clark announced Dan will be the meet referee for the 2012 Olympic Trials. Dan is the rules committee chair and the most frequent question he receives is about the breaststroke dolphin kick prior to the start of the arm pull. There may be an attempt to have the rule changed back to the previous rule (no dolphin kick) at the FINA level.

The two athlete representatives discussed some problems they encountered at Nationals. They asked that swim offs be announced well in advance so it does not interrupt the swimmers in regular events. They also asked that officials let the athletes know when and where to be for swim offs. They also created a USA Swimming Officials fans page that is now online. Steve also wrote a good rules newsletter for athletes which is posted on the PNS website under the swimmer's tab. They stressed that officials need to communicate better with athletes at meets.

Clark Hammond spoke on the Our Kids Initiative.

Bob Marchon spoke on the athlete's protection new online education webinar that will be live September 18. The goal is to inform and teach. At the end of the webinar is a quiz each person must take and pass every 24 months. The program is free. Level 2 background checks for coaches and officials include a motor vehicle check. He also explained why officials are

required to pass a back ground check. He said officials are the deck police and are in authority over children. Swimmers do what officials tell them. Officials need to be aware of the environment at meets, understand hallways, locker rooms, parking lots, and rooms where an athlete might enter.

Clark Hammond discussed starting a hearing impaired swimmer. Officials need to practice this starting protocol when there is no hearing impaired swimmer so the protocol is natural when a hearing impaired swimmer is in the heat. Clark will put together a video showing the correct starting protocols and send to the officials chairs in the next 60 days.

Zone workshops will be in April and the officials chairs as well as registration chair, times officer, and OME person are encouraged to attend.

Times and Recognition Committee Business Meeting

The committee discussed the Scholastic All America applications for the year. Applications are up 10% over last year. There was only one athlete with a perfect score this year – Eva Fabian who had a 4.0 gpa and won the 10K Open Water Championships.

This year all persons with access to SWIMS will be required to be a member of USA Swimming. Could the times officers have read only access to the registration side of SWIMS? That would assist in clearing times from the holding tank.

Isabelle gave a report on NAG records for the year. Record application forms need to be submitted in a timely manner. Each LSC should check for records and delete erroneous times.

The group discussed the 0.15 timing correction for secondary times in CTS. The correction is valid and is the delta between the pad and button and has nothing to do with the original pad time. The adjustment only occurs in CTS where the button is the secondary time. It has been studied several times over the years. CTS uses the adjustment while Daktronics and Omega systems do not. There is a proposal to remove the 0.15 adjustment.

The Top 10 age group recognition certificates will be mailed out after October 15 to the LSC times officers.

The Scholastic All America time standards were discussed. The group debated about making the standards faster and what standard to use. Times committee athlete representative Rachel Huckleby was tasked with surveying the athletes to ask their input. She will survey athletes in the Western Zone and at others about the size of the Scholastic All America team, keeping the gpa requirement at 3.5, increasing the time standards, and what standard to use. She will report back to Suzanne Heath and Marvin Lanphere and report to the Scholastic All America committee. The group decided to use either the 2011 Junior National bonus times or the 2011 Junior National times. The current standards are the 2000 Junior National times.

Larry Herr will mail out links to the age group top ten file in the future rather than having to send LSC specific file to each LSC times officer to review each year. The group thought it would save Larry considerable time.

The ConocoPhillips athlete reimbursement plan was discussed. \$28,900 was given for the short course season. Josh Fowler will be taking over the program from Susan Woessner.

The SWIMS enhancement list includes the SAA automation, third party vendor database searches, SDIF export from SWIMS, and times recon updates including short course meters and altitude adjusted times. The enhancements committee will meet on Friday at 3:15.

The zone based workshops in April were discussed. In the Western Zone Judy Divan from Southern California will lead the times work shop with assistance from Jim Halcomb and Susan Huckleby. Betty Kooy will lead the Central Zone times workshop. Suzanne Heath will lead the Southern Zone times workshop. Topics to be covered include sanctioned/approved/observed meets and breakout sessions on best practices. Each participant should bring their own laptop.

The group will meet by conference call to discuss the rest of the workshop agenda which needs to be set by March.

The SWIMS policy manual revision was discussed to include pool certification guidelines which will be presented at the January board meeting. A rules change is proposed to use the 0.30 as a guideline as some times may need adjusted if less than 0.30. A new rule to be proposed for next year will include the number of official needed for an approved meet and at an observed meet. Officials should be at both ends of the pool. A sample meet approval form will be added to the policy manual.

The group discussed is an NCAA conference meet could host a LC time trial. NCAA only accepts yard and short course meter ties for meet entries. For a conference to host a LC time trial, the trial must be on the college schedule, should be USAS approved, and athletes must represent their college not club. The NCAA does not recognize intermediate splits, but if requested those splits could be added by USAS staff. The starting wedge is now legal in the NCAA. Taping is also legal in the NCAA but is illegal in USA Swimming. If observing an NCAA meet for USAS compliance and observe a swimmer with taping, mark the swim as a disqualification and list the reason as tape.

The committee budget handouts were reviewed.

The committee term limits were discussed. Rachel Huckleby, Betty Kooy, and Suzanne Heath were encouraged to re-apply for the committee.

The 2011-2012 projects include reviewing the policy manual to make specific dates and years more general to eliminate revisions each year. Jim O'Neill will review.

Athlete Welfare Education Presentation

The Athlete Protection Committee and Praesidium presented the workshop. Committee members were introduced including athlete representatives Margaret Hoelzer and Sarah Huckleby. The group presented portions of the new athlete education webinar "Establishing and maintaining Healthy Coach and Athlete Relationships". Britt Darwin-Looney from Praesidium presented most of the talk.

Praesidium is an abuse risk management company founded in 1992. Its goals are to prevent abuse and false allegations and train, assess, accredit, and investigate abuse allegations. Safety for athletes and children involves having the correct policies, safety and selection, training, monitoring and supervision, feedback systems, consumer protection, responding, and administrative practices in place. Where abuse occurs, one or more of these items has been at fault. 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys have been abused before age 18. About 80% of abuse goes unreported. Abuse victims may suffer psychological, educational, behavioral, interpersonal, and sexual effects.

There are two types of offenders. The preferential offender has a primary sexual attraction to children. This person will groom a child in steps leading to abuse. The naïve or situational offender is a person in the wrong place at the wrong time and gets into a situation that leads to abuse. An example is a young teacher or coach going through a rough time or a divorce and a teen aged boy begins to show her attention. They form a relationship and boundary violations occur. The exchange texts and messages on Facebook and more. When caught the abusers often explains that 'I didn't mean to hurt him.'

Offenders can operate in a group by getting access, privacy, and control of a child. Offenders need control through physical, psychological and community grooming. Clubs need to have rules for electronic communication between coaches and athletes. Physical grooming happens in steps – a touch to the shoulder (how does the child react to being touched?). Increased touch is done subtly. Psychological grooming occurs as a child depends more and more on a

offender (coach abuser). When the child doesn't like something a coach abuser does, the coach can then blackmail the child. Community grooming occurs when the coach abuser gets the team to trust and believe the abuser rather than the child (kid you're always in trouble and the team will believe me.).

False allegations are rare and only happen about 5% of the time. To prevent false allegations follow the policies set by the organization, keep your boundaries clear, avoid time alone with a swimmer, treat all swimmers equally, don't pick favorites, and respond directly to anything that is unusual and tell your supervisor and team president.

One of the biggest problems for coaches is inappropriate electronic communication including texts, Facebook and pornography.

Learn to respond to inappropriate boundary violations. What if you see someone videotaping or taking pictures at practice or at a meet that you don't know and the person seems to be taking inappropriate pictures (like standing behind the blocks taking pictures of the swimmers as they are bent over for the start) or the coach has a swimmer sitting on his/her lap? Respond to the violation by interrupting the person and spotlight the behavior (once the child has left the area remind the coach kids are not to sit on the coach's lap or ask a photographer who their swimmer is and why are they taking pictures in this area). Share your concerns with others. Contact the athlete protection officer. Report suspected abuse anonymously to USA Swimming. Clubs and LSCs should also allow anonymous abuse reporting. Don't forget to report abuse to the proper authorities such as the police. Document all allegations in writing and keep a copy in the personnel file.

The athlete protection education webinar is about an hour long plus the time it takes to pass the quiz at the end. You must get all the answers correct to pass the quiz. You can print out a certificate at the end when finished and the completion of the webinar is uploaded into the database. While a group can watch the webinar together, only one person at a time can take the quiz. You can log in and watch part of the presentation and then log off. When you log back in, the presentation will begin at the same section you stopped at earlier. The webinar is free and everyone needs to pass it to register with USA Swimming.

They did show clips from the webinar during the presentation. It is really disturbing how easily offenders can operate in our society. We must take steps to protect our children. For more information go to www.usaswimming.org/protect.

SWIMS Times Enhancement Committee

The USA Swimming IT staff and contractor Stratera in Denver work on all the SWIMS database enhancements. John Burbidge tracks the enhancements. The times group has about \$70,000 available for enhancements to be used for outside IT work.

The Scholastic All America application is currently stored to an access table. It will be automated this year as one of the enhancements. The third party vendor scrubs of the times recon will be added. It will be done nightly and needs to be open and transparent to all parties. SWIMS will be enhanced to export SDIF files which are used by Team Unify.

Times recon updates include short course meter times and altitude adjusted times and upgrading the recon report options. Other report options could be to export all times from an LSC, record reports by LSC, and meet participation lists. FINA does not use altitude adjusted times for entry.

The group discussed how to reduce the number of keystrokes to manually enter times, adding a box to denote relay leadoff times when the time is manually entered.

Currently mixed relays are not loaded into SWIMS. In the future we may be able to load a lead off time for a mixed relay. FINA is introducing mixed 4x100 freestyle and medley relays at the 2013 Worlds.

If a member of a relay team is not a current member of USA Swimming, then the time is not loaded into SWIMS.

Developing a table of meet levels was discussed along with enhancements for LSC and team records and team top time reports.

Deck pass will have live results as a feature with the results coming from Hy-tek. Hy-tek will add a switch to automatically upload the results. People will need a Deck Pass app to see live results.

The group will have a conference call by mid October to go over any additional items.

Western Zones meeting

Zone officer reports were presented. At the senior zone meet this year there were 11 LSC represented with 38 clubs and 316 athletes. Age group Zones had 16 LSCs represented with 662 total athletes including 317 males and 345 females. The 2012 Senior zone meet referee is Sue Renna and Dave Coleman is the Age Group zone meet referee.

A 2012 US Paralympics meet will be in Portland in December and plans are to grow it into a regional meet. 0.7% of the western zone swimmers are disabled.

The athletes plan to work on improved communication and want to hold a diversity clinic in the zone.

Senior zones next year will be in Clovis. Age Group zones will be in Grand Junction August 7-11 with the open water swim on August 12 at Highline Lake. The meet will be held at the indoor 10 lane 50 meter El Pomar Natatorium at Colorado Mesa University at 4593' elevation. They will also have the portable pool from Gillette for warm-ups and access to the outdoor Lincoln Park Moyer Pool for additional warm-ups. The official and coach social will be Wednesday evening, the zone meeting Thursday evening, and the swimmer social will be Saturday evening at Banana's Fun Park. The cost of the swimmer social is \$20. The web address for the meet is www.maverickaquatics.com. The official and coach social and the zone meeting will be held on campus. There will be an athlete village on campus. A shuttle bus will run from 9:00 am – noon during preliminaries continuously from the motels to the pool. Motels that have already blocked rooms include the Courtyard and residence Inn, Doubletree, Grand Vista, Holiday Inn, and Clarion Inn. These hotels offer hot breakfasts. The president of Colorado Mesa University is a masters swimmer and is very interested in making the meet a success. Lee Young is the contact persons and may be contacted at 970-250-7058 (cell) or 970-242-1665 (work).

The National team Director Frank Busch spoke to the group. This was his first convention. He wants us all to feel the pride of what our athletes are doing at the highest levels and that USA Swimming is here to help us. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please e-mail him.

The 2013 age group zones meet will be held Roseville, CA and hosted by California Capital Aquatics and Sierra Nevada LSC. Zones was last held here in 1997. The 9 lane pool is 4 1/2 'to13' deep. They have a 5 lane warm-up pool. There is covered seating for 1500 spectators. It is next to the Woodcreek High School and Hanging Gardens Regional Park. The swimmer social will be at Golfand SunSplash. There are 23 hotels nearby with 18 hotels within 5 miles of the pool. All the hotels have free breakfast, Internet, and parking. The motel rate today is \$69-119 per night plus tax. The pool is near the Sacramento International Airport, minutes off I-80 and near I-5. You can shop at the largest mall in northern California, the Westfield Galleria.

National committee member reports were given. Linda Eaton spoke on the need for more distance swimming and safety awareness for warm-ups. Joyce Lanphere spoke on Scholastic All America. John Kenny spoke on open water. Karen Bryers spoke on the zone based workshops. Jim Patterson spoke on pre-employment screenings. Don Hawkins spoke about disability. Shawn from Colorado spoke for the senior development committee. Short Course nationals will have no relays this year and it will be held in LCM format. The US Open will have only LCM qualifying times. The 2012 Junior Nationals will have significantly faster time standards. The US Open time standards will be Olympic Trials cuts. LC Nationals and the US Open will only have LCM qualifying time standards. There will still be bonus cuts at Junior Nationals. LC Junior Nationals will still have yard cuts but they will be faster. Olympic trials currently has 1500 swimmers qualified so it will be a huge meet. They expect 55-60% of the Trials qualifiers to compete at the 2012 US Open. The 2013 Nationals will be Trials cuts or faster. At the 2011 Nationals, 64th place was a trials cut. The faster time standards will reduce the number of swimmers at the national meets which were felt to be too large this summer. Rachel Huckleby left with the athletes to ask them for their input on the Scholastic All America time standards.

In unfinished business regarding the dates for Age Group zones, LSCs were sent a survey last year asking for their preferences. 6 liked the current date, 3 wanted the meet at the end of June, and 1 wanted the meet during LC Nationals.

Robert Broyles was re-elected as non-coach zone director, John Hyashida was re-elected Championship Meet Coordinator, and Marilyn Loitz was re-elected secretary treasurer.

Proposals from the zone meeting at Clovis were passed. They included swimming the 15-18 year old age groups combined in prelims and split out in finals and removing the restrictions on 18 and under relays. A resolution was passed to investigate using OME for age group zone entries. Susan Huckleby will chair the committee. Committee members will include Jim Patterson and Mark Brown.

The 2012 budget passed.

Dave Berkoff said Montana, Snake River and Inland Empire were combining to host an A level championship meet. The Western sectionals are the fastest in the country and we need to make zones faster. Dave Berkoff proposed that the Western Zone age group meet format be changed to 14 and under only beginning in 2013. The age groups would be 10&U, 11-12, and 13-14. The qualifying time standards would be slower to bring in more swimmers. It would still be an LSC format meet. The western zone senior zone meet would be changed to 15 and over in an open format. The proposal passed. The senior meet will hopefully grow and become a much faster meet. Dave will chair the committee with no 2 people from the same LSC on the committee and a representative from Sierra Nevada should be on the committee. Dave may select the committee members.

Burning Issues for Officials

How can we recruit and retain more officials? Pay their USA Swimming dues. Ask parents to shadow officials on deck during certain session to learn about officiating. If teams have a requirement that parents must volunteer to be members of the team, ask coaches to encourage parents to officiate. Offer officials clinics to parents at meets.

We have a huge meet running in 2 pools with only a few officials, but we can see officials sitting in the stands. How do we get them to help? Beg. Send people into the stands to ask them to come down. Stand on the bulkhead and stare at them until they feel shamed/guilty and come down to officiate. Prior planning- send out personal e-mails inviting them to officiate.

How do we educate coaches on how to treat and speak to officials on deck at meets especially when the coach is screaming on deck in front of everyone? Let the coach vent without

getting upset, listen, and ask to meet again after investigating the problem. Handle the problem before it happens at the coach meeting explaining how protests will be handled and that the referee is not your adversary and is not here to be yelled at, but here's how to handle things at the meet. Be proactive at the coach meeting. Ask if there is anything that needs attention now or any problems. Take the coach off deck if possible to hear what the coach has to say.

Can a swimmer re-submerge in the free, back, and fly after surfacing? FINA and USAS – No, even if prior to the 15 meter mark. Once the swimmer surface the swimmer has to stay on top of the surface for that length. The HS rules book makes it very clear that the swimmer cannot re-submerge.

Breaststroke – hands moving prior to the kick. Is moving the fingers and/or thumbs and initiation of the pull? Must be downward or lateral separation of the hands prior to the kick. The finger/thumb are not the hand. Is body undulation or movement of the water the start of the stroke? The initiation of the stroke is the purposeful act of the swimmer not the undulation - up and down movement. How do you observe to see if a violation occurred? (Dan McAllen's method to observe) Look at the entire position of the body once it dives in. Is it superman position or one hand on top. Look for the fly kick then look at the hands. Are the hands in the same position?

A relay swimmer on the block slips, falls into the pool prior to the previous swimmer finishing the length, goes back to the wall, hangs on, and once the previous swimmer touches, goes to swim the next relay leg. Is it a DQ? Yes it's not an in water start.

Does the starter have to stand at the edge of the pool (next to the gutter) within the 5 meter distance from the end? No. The 5 meter distance is a guideline. Be in the best spot to see the start. Can be several feet back from the edge of the pool.

In a C/B/A final, the C and B finalists behind the block, parade out the A finalists. If you need to fill a hole in the upper finals, do you need you have all the alternates on deck? Expect alternates to be there for the C final. To avoid a hole in the B final, ask all the B and C finalists if they will be there in advance. Hope coaches tell you about a scratch so you can re-seed. In a non-championship meet, move the lane 4 C seed into the B heat and then add the alternate to the C final. Get all coaches cell phone numbers and text them if you have a possible problem. Be certain to correct all meet paperwork if you bring in an alternate.

What's the official's responsibility to make a deck safe for the athlete protection program? If you see something that seems wrong to you, call the USA Swimming athlete protection officer. Interrupt if you can to ask what is happening. Don't be so cautious that we might misread. Tell people if you see inappropriate behavior. If it was your child, what would you do?

Facility check – is it safe? Do basic checks. If it is new to you, find to where things are. Officials aren't the police. The meet referee needs to run the meet not police the locker rooms. Be proactive in officiating.

There's been a slight problem with online meet applications. If it doesn't submit, mail to the office.

Evaluations? They aren't about the person, but the ability. When writing evaluations, discuss the person's ability not personality.

Can a non-athlete member with a green card do a background check? Yes, if they have a social security number.

OTS – can it track multiple positions for an official in each session? No, but will be working to add that feature.

Are club tattoos advertising? No.

Criteria for national meet selection? In the policy manual.

Background check costs? No standard method of payment – some officials pay, some clubs pay, some LSCs pay. It's an expense we will have. An expense we need. It's not where we are but where we will be. Who pays is still open.

Photographers at meets and athlete protection? Know who the photographers are. Issue media credentials. Set up a designated photography area at the pool. No photos behind the blocks. Watch for who might be taking inappropriate photos and intervene.

Training requirements for administrative officials? Requirements on the website. Tests online.

Can the LSC certify separately the deck referee, meet referee, and admin referee? Yes. You can have a deck referee and a meet referee certification with the meet referee including admin duties. The deck referee would shadow the meet referee to learn the duties.

How to handle having required 2 place judges? Use the starter and deck referee or assign place judges.

In case of a medical emergency, what should the meet referee do? Keep the crowds away, help responders, ask for a doctor if needed, clear the path for a gurney and EMTs.

OME for LSCs

There were 109 meets run in OME last year. OME is linked to times and registration and provides proof of time. Illinois runs all their championship meets in OME, 14 meets per year and have used it for 6 years. Great training for coaches when entering national meets.

For entries, coaches should start early. Create a roster, monitor the entry deadlines. Don't check out until you are certain you are finished with your entries. Once you check out you can't go back in to make changes. The coach has to know what events the swimmers are eligible to enter. You can't do the entries with a Hy-Tek entry file. Altitude adjusted times are shown. To update an entry time, you have to manually update it. Click on the time, when the new time pops up, save it. The best practice is to set it up so the head coach does the entries for a team and that coach's ID is used for entry to OME.

You can pay by credit card which has a fee for the credit card processing or if the meet is set up as such, you can pay at the meet by cash or check.

You can print out entries and compare it to your H-Tek entry file to see if you have missed entering a swimmer.

OME does proof of entry, proof of time, and payment of fees. The coach can print a receipt and print cost per swimmer.

The coaches who will be in attendance at the meet are entered and OME will check that their credentials are current.

Unattached swimmers can use OME to enter meets. A coach can also enter an unattached swimmer with his team entries.

OME makes the data entry for the meet host so much easier. The registration record is clean. The times come in clean unless a swimmer has to prove a time at the meet. The fees are collected. The paperwork is so much easier. OME exports a file to import into Meet Manager. The host can set up qualification times, bonus entries, how payment can be made, and view entries in progress prior to the deadline. OME will print a coach contact list, meet rosters, meet check off list, and other reports.

Scholastic All America

The group is still processing the 2011 applications. So far there are about 1800 successful applicants – 1060 girls and 750 boys. Eva Fabian had the only perfect score with a 4.0 gpa and a national championship in the 10K OW Championships.

The group discussed the time standards. Rachel Huckleby reported that the Western Zone athletes wanted the time standards faster and most favored the 2011 Junior National bonus cuts. Suzanne Heath said the North Carolina coaches wanted the standards to be faster. The Central zone wants the junior bonus times. Others reported that they wanted to have faster standards. Betty reported that more clubs are represented this year. There were 5 or 6 disabled applicants this year which is about the same. Open water numbers were up. About 70% of the applicants have a 4.0 gpa.

Paul Bloom gave the group an overview of the new automated application for 2012. Suggestions were made for improvements.

Disabled meets for the 2012 applications will be the 2011 World Deaf Championships, 2011 Cognitive Games, and the 2012 Paralympic Trials. The open water meet will be the 2012 OW Championships.

Diversity Workshop

Cecil Gordon spoke on a partnership with a charter school called family First Academy. He encouraged people to look for partners with your diversity program and see if they will match funds. The school provided insurance and transportation. The Delaware Swim team gave free swim lessons twice a week for eight weeks. They provided a benefit for 74 children. Identify a group you want to help. Identify partners to help you.

John Gearwood discussed a Metropolitan LSC outreach with the NYC Parks and Recreation Department. They hosted a stroke clinic for over 120 swimmers. Anthony Ervin spoke to the swimmers. All the swimmers got a participation award, cap, water bottle, and goodie bag.

The Diversity Summit is November 17-19.

National Board of Review Certification

I have taken this certification class several times in the past, but this year's class was punctuated by lots of laughter as John Morse told numerous jokes. The National Board of review is an independent and impartial judiciary for swimming to hear and decide disputes and is also known as the court of chlorine. The class went through how a board of review hearing is conducted at both the LSC and national level. I have the power point slides for this presentation if anyone would like a copy. Please e-mail me and I will send them to you.

iHigh.com Program – from a USA Swimming press release (it says it all)

USA Swimming's 2,800 member swim clubs will have the ability to share local and regional swim meets online, providing the opportunity for friends and family worldwide to watch youth swimming, thanks to a partnership between the national governing body and iHigh.com, the Global Youth Network.

To reach potentially 4,000 sanctioned events, iHigh will create the USA Swimming Channel on its network - giving fans "all swimming all the time". The channel will include broadcasts and videos, from across the country. Thanks to iHigh's live streaming capabilities, USA Swimming member clubs will be able to broadcast their meets to aquatic fans all over the world - including

live video on mobile devices.

Along with expanding the reach of local swimming events, the platform will also create new revenue-generation opportunities for local clubs and regional governing bodies, which can sell advertising on their individual pages.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer this outlet to our clubs as a way to increase interest in the sport of swimming,” said Chuck Wielgus, Executive Director of USA Swimming. “As an organization, we are always looking for ways to expand our reach and better serve our clubs. This partnership allows us to make every swim meet available globally, and provides the 300,000 members of America’s Swim Team the chance to share their performances on the web, just like our national team swimmers.”

"iHigh.com is very excited to partner with USA Swimming and its more than 2,800 local clubs throughout the U.S.," iHigh.com CEO Jim Host said about the new partnership. "These grassroots level clubs have historically not had the opportunity for national exposure. Now, through the use of the feature-rich iHigh platform, they can provide greater opportunities for their student-athletes to gain much needed exposure."

Host said that the new channel will give clubs the flexibility to completely customize a video landing page while keeping them connected to the USA Swimming community.

“The USA Swimming Channel will also have a tool to bring more cohesiveness to the entire association while still allowing for individual club independence and diversity,” Host added. “We look forward to facilitating greater visibility to each of the local swim clubs, while also forging new avenues of revenue opportunities along the way.

Ultimately, the goal is to help USA Swimming and its member clubs across this country thrive in this challenging economic environment."

To learn more, visit the USA Swimming website on iHigh at usaswimming.ihigh.com.

About iHigh.com®: iHigh.com®, Inc. is a Global Youth Network providing free Web services to schools, students and other youth organizations around the world. iHigh.com® provides free Web tools that allow sports teams and other groups to post live streaming video, stories, photos, video clips, schedules and other information to a page customized with a group's colors and logos. For more information, go to <http://www.iHigh.com>.

House of Delegates

The Friday evening session of the House of Delegates includes an awards ceremony. The award winners were as follows:

Female Open Water Swimmer of the Year: Ashley Twichell

Fran Crippen Memorial Male Swimmer of the Year: Alex Meyer

Glen S. Hummer Award: Maddy Crippen

Adolph Kiefer Safety Commendation Award: Megan Healey

Trischa L. Zorn Award: Mallory Weggemann and Marcus Titus

James Raymond “Jimi” Flowers Disability Coach of the Year: Jim Andersen

Outstanding Service Award (Disability): Dave Thomas
Diversity Inclusion Award: El Franco Lee and Johnnie Means
Ken Pettigrew Award: Bill Rose
ASCA Coach of the Year (Presented at the ASCA Convention): Gregg Troy
Developmental Coach of the Year: Brian Brown
Athletes' Appreciation Award: The Crippen Family
ConocoPhillips Performance of the Year Award: Ryan Lochte, 200m IM at World Championships
USA Swimming Athlete of the Year: Ryan Lochte
USA Swimming Award: Richard Shoulberg

Ryan Lochte did attend the ceremony and accepted his awards. Normally the athlete of the year award is given at the banquet Saturday evening, but Ryan had practice and a Florida football game on Saturday so he was unable to attend the banquet. Everyone was hoping Ryan would linger after the meeting to sign autographs and pose for pictures, but he left immediately after accepting his awards.

It was an evening that also honored the family of late open water swimmer Fran Crippen who died almost a year ago while competing at an open water race in Dubai. His sister Maddy received one award for contributions to open water swimming and accepted the athlete's appreciation award for her family. Maddy was poised and gracious and was a wonderful role model for everyone in attendance at how she faced adversity.

The Saturday House of Delegates meeting included numerous reports and then passing of the budget and proposed legislation.

Chuck Wielgus, USA Swimming executive director gave his state of the sport address. Chuck had been absent from convention during the week as he has been recovering from cancer. He had an upbeat address highlighting the success of the national team and looking forward to the 2012 Olympics.

The new bullying legislation passed and is effective on January 1. The legislation is as follows:

R-27 ADOPTED/AMENDED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012

Location: Page 91 Article 304.3 Code of Conduct

Page 93 Article 403.1 Jurisdiction of the LSC Board of Review

Page 94 Article 403.2 Jurisdiction of the National Board of Review

304.6 Bullying is prohibited. For these purposes, the term "bullying" shall mean, regardless of when or where it may occur, the severe or repeated use by one or more USA Swimming members ("Members") of an oral, written, electronic or other technological expression, image, sound, data or intelligence of any nature (regardless of the method of transmission), or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at any other Member that to a reasonably objective person has the effect of: (i) causing physical or emotional harm to the other Member or damage to the other Member's property; (ii) placing the other Member in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property; (iii) creating a hostile environment for the other Member at any USA Swimming activity; (iv) infringing on the rights of the other Member at any USA Swimming activity; or (v) materially and substantially disrupting the training process or the orderly operation of any USA Swimming activity (which for the purposes of this section shall include, without limitation, practices, workouts and other events of a member club or LSC).

Other legislation included stating that approved underwater camera video replay may be used to review infractions called on deck. The officials reviewing the video may only confirm the call, overrule the call, or advise that the video replay was inconclusive. No calls will be made using underwater video replay.

The proposal for sexual misconduct reporting requirements passed. A section was added about knowingly filing false allegations. Sarah spoke on behalf of the bill.

New wording was passed dealing with open water temperatures and the legislation is effective immediately. It had been in effect earlier being passed as emergency safety legislation but was only in effect until the House of Delegates meeting. The wording is as follows:

R-40 ADOPTED/AMENDED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Location: Page 148 702.2 Water/Air Temperature (formerly Water Temperature)

702.2 WATER/AIR TEMPERATURE - The race shall not begin if the following conditions are not satisfied:

- .1 The water temperature should shall not be less than be a minimum of 16°C (60.8° F).
- .2 For races of 5K and above, the water temperature shall not exceed 29.45° C (85° F).
- .3 The air temperature and water temperature when added together shall not be less than 30° C (118° F) nor greater than 63° C (177.4° F).

A proposal passed to be added as a condition to sanction or approve a meet with regards to the use of cameras at meets. The following passage is to be included in the meet announcement: 'Use of any audio or visual recording devices, including cell phones, is not permitted in changing rooms, restrooms, or locker rooms.' There was quite a debate over the correct wording of the proposal.

The proposal to require adding an LSC athlete protection officer and an athlete protection committee failed.

The only elections at the House of Delegates meeting were for OIOC delegates. Todd and Vicki Marsh of Spokane were both elected along with many others to fill the positions.

Awards Banquet

The Saturday evening awards banquet for all the water sports organizations was once again fun. The Masters swimmers provided the evening entertainment with their always outrageous skit.