

**ZONES 2011 REPORT**  
**DELEGATES MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 2, 2011**

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Zones 2011 was held in Clovis, California, August 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. There were 30 swimmers who signed up to attend, but only 29 went due to one swimmer having a last minute family emergency. Coaches Kirk Ermels and Peter Loyda were the head coach and assistant coach. Shannon Scroggs was the primary chaperone/coordinator and Emmie Kleppelid assisted as a chaperone.

**Budget:** This year's Zone budget was increased from \$15,000 to \$17,000. This budget increase was based primarily upon two factors; the 15% increase in uniform costs and the Delegates decision to promote and use coaches as chaperones. The Chaperone/Coach position would not earn the Coach's salary, but would have their expenses paid as a chaperone. See attached budget for more details. The Zones budget for 2011 was \$410.93 under budget.

**Bus Transportation:** Karst Transportation was used once again this year at a cost of \$9,905.16. The 48 passenger bus was only filled with 29 passengers at \$207 per passenger which was \$6,003.00 collected from passengers, leaving \$3,933 to be paid by our Zones budget. Other options were explored for transportation including 7 passenger mini vans and 12 passenger vans. Ten other charter bus companies were contacted for price comparison and Karst continued to be \$2,000 to \$5,000 less than all other bids. Parents, chaperones and coaches all expressed concerns about driving passenger vans to Zones and ultimately, for the safety of all concerned, convenience and team building concept, the charter bus was utilized. **Recommendation:** *Continue utilizing Karst for team transportation; encourage parents, 12 and unders, and officials to use the Team transportation; and increase the cost of the individual bus seats to cover the potential of vacant bus seats.*

**Team Hotel and Meals:** The cost of swimmers staying and eating with the Zone Team is a cost completely incurred by the swimmers and their families. The only cost to the Zone budget regarding hotels, is when there are not 4 swimmers to a room, then the Zone budget will pay for the vacant spaces. **Recommendation:** *The team hotels have been announced for 2012 Zones ins Grand Junction, Colorado and can be reserved now through [www.maverickaquatics.com](http://www.maverickaquatics.com). This should be done as soon as possible as there are not many affordable hotels listed. I continue to believe that team banquet meals for dinner are the best and I would recommend increasing the budget per dinner meal from \$12.50 to \$15.00.*

**Team Roommates:** It has been the practice of the Zone Coordinator and Coaches to work together to assign swimmers with gender and age appropriate roommates. These guidelines have been set by USA Swimming in the Athlete Protection – Best Practice Guidelines. Montana Swimming followed those guidelines this year and last when assigning roommates. **Recommendation:** *Zone Coordinator should publish this USA Swimming guideline so parents and swimmers understand the guidelines and know that Zone Coaches and Coordinators will assign roommates.*

**Team Uniform:** This is a budget item that is completely paid for by the Zone budget at a cost of about \$155.00 per swimmer. Each swimmer receives an Aquablade, a Speedo backpack, 2 t-shirts, 2 pair of shorts, a western hat and 2 latex caps. This year Zones offered swimmers an upgraded Fast Skin suit for the cost difference of the Aquablade and the Fast Skin. Twelve of the thirty swimmers took advantage of this upgrade.

The primary vendor for all Speedo gear and the Team shorts is JD Pence located in Portland, Oregon. They provided excellent customer service and were able to accommodate our last minute qualifiers for their Zone uniforms.

**Zone Social:** This year the cost of the Social was \$25 per person. The Zone budget paid for the swimmer's Social, which included dinner.