



North Texas Swimming

Final Minutes of the North Texas Swimming, Inc. House of Delegates Meeting October 25, 2008 D/FW Marriott Hotel, Irving, TX

John Rieff called the meeting to order at 11:13 am.

1. Roll Call

Motion made to forego roll call. Seconded – passed.

Board members present:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| John Rieff | General Chair, Records Chair, Top 16 Tabulator |
| Ron Forrest | Senior Vice-Chair, Program Development Chair |
| Claire Brandt | Executive Committee Junior Athlete Representative |
| Shannon Gillespy | Technical Planning Chair |
| Maggie Shook | Club Development Liaison |
| Sherry Gentry | TSA TAGS Committee Representative |
| Jason Walter | TSA All-Star Committee Representative |
| Bill Christensen | Coaches Representative |
| Karen Rourke | Registration & Membership Chair, LSC Forms |
| Jay Brandt | Safety Chair |
| Matt Franks | Disability Swimming Chair |
| Jeanne Manikowski | Finance Chair |
| Nancy French | NTS Webmaster and Member-at-Large |
| Mike McDonald | Secretary |

Team members present (* denotes athlete):

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ATAC: | Chris MacCurdy, Sherry Gentry, DJ Taylor* |
| CAT: | |
| CLAS: | |
| COPS: | Steve Mateer, David Gregory, Kevin Fease, Ted Carson, Liz Kershaw |
| COR: | Maggie Shook, Nate Saunders |
| DM: | Mook Rhodenbaugh, Eric Futscher, Keegan Watters*, Claire Brandt*, Doug Moyse, Jay Brandt, Paul Malouf |
| FA: | Michael Lawrence, Jeff Allen, Quan Tran |
| FAST: | Ron Forrest, Kristi Dena*, Nancy French |

HEAT: Robert Coleman, Claire Whitmer*, Grace Whitmer*
 IS:
 LAC: Mike Yearwood, Kelsey Fugere*, Deb Behrens, Adam Arnett, Jason Walter, Terry Feehery
 LSCC:
 MAC: Cody Huckabay, Danny Huffman, Carlos Salazar, Bob Button
 MARS: Betsie Cook, Laurie Stanat, Daniel Jau, Haylie Stanat*, Josh Hall*
 MTRO: Brent Mitchell, Deanna Morrison*, Mark Morrison, Ginger Brennecke, Matt Franks, Mike McDonald
 NTN: Bill Christensen, Jeanne Manikowski, Jason Johnson, Lizzy Osterman*
 ROCK:
 SMU:
 SNAP:
 SWAT: Jay Chagnon, Taylor Thomas*
 TCU:
 TRS: Pat Henry, Hayden Henry*
 WEST:
 WW2:

2. 2009 Meet Bids

Shannon presented the 2009 meet bid calendar. Several meet dates were initially open or contested by two teams:

- ? Apr 24-26 A meet: Contested by MARS/MAC and FAST. Shannon called roll, and the meet was awarded to MARS/MAC. Total votes were 30 for MARS/MAC and 28 for FAST.
- ? Nov 20-22 B/C Div 2 meet: **Motion** made to award to COPS. Seconded – passed.
- ? Jan 16-18 BB meet: **Motion** made to award to LAC. Seconded – passed.
- ? Jan 23-25 B/C Div 2 meet: TRS, already scheduled to host the Div 1 meet, agreed to also host Div 2. **Motion** made to award to TRS. Seconded – passed.
- ? Jun 12-14 B/C meet: Contested by TRS and SWAT. Shannon called roll, and the meet was awarded to TRS. Total votes were 44 for TRS and 15 for SWAT.
- ? Jul 3-5 B/C meet: **Motion** made to award to FAST. Seconded – passed.

3. Reports of Officers

a. General Chair

At Convention, John attended an LSC leadership workshop. USA Swimming is implementing the LSC Evaluation and Achievement Program (LEAP), similar to the existing Club Recognition Program. John requested that NTSI be part of the pilot group for 2009; initial rollout of the Program is scheduled for late summer. Contact John for materials and information related to the Program.

b. Secretary

No report.

c. Treasurer

No report due to absence. This is the second meeting at which there is no budget up for discussion. John stated that a special meeting, most likely in November, will be called once the new budget is received.

Motion made to authorize John Rieff to solicit 2 or more bids from an accounting firm to create a 2008-2009 budget and to award the contract within 3 weeks. John is authorized to pay up to \$2000 for the budget. Seconded – passed.

d. Admin Vice-Chair

No report due to absence.

e. Senior Vice-Chair

No report. However, Ron Forrest is retiring from the position.

f. Coaches Representative

No report.

g. Registration & Membership Chair

Karen presented the following swimmer registration numbers:

| Date | New | Renew | Outreach |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Sept 2007 | 518 | 363 | 2 |
| Sept 2008 | 847 | 542 | 0 |
| Oct 2007 | 241 | 276 | 4 |
| Oct 2008 | 419 | 585 | 3 |

h. Safety Chair

Jay announced that the annual safety directors meeting will occur within the next two months. An email with the exact time and location will be sent soon. Each team needs a Safety Chair, who must be a registered non-athlete with USA Swimming, and is required to attend the meeting.

i. Technical Planning Chair

See Item 2, **2009 Meet Bids**.

j. Executive Committee Jr. Athlete Rep

Claire discussed some ideas for an athletes' social, sometime in mid-April, with the exact place and date yet to be determined. Initial thought is to hold an LSC-wide picnic with games for 12&U athletes and a dance party for 13&O athletes on separate weekends. For the dance party, Josh Hall has agreed to act as DJ, and someone will contact Austin Ranch to schedule the party at that location.

D.J. Taylor (ATAC) has been elected Executive Committee Sr. Athlete Representative.

The athletes would like to hold an LSC-wide banquet, where athletes who represented the LSC at various meets throughout the year (for example, All-Stars and Zones) would be recognized. Additionally, a “coach of the year” and other awards would be presented. The banquet might best be held in September.

k. Program Development Chair

Ron announced that 10&U events at TAGS meets, starting at short course 2009, will be timed finals. Dates for long course TAGS 2009 in College Station conflict with a firefighter’s convention, so plan to book hotels as soon as possible.

Regarding 10&U events at short course TAGS, Ted Carson raised the idea to present awards to those finalists at the end of the prelim sessions, during the break before the relays. John agreed to notify the meet director, Jane Maxvill, about the idea.

Ron also emphasized that TSA has expanded the 12&U “no body suit” rule to all participants, including 13 and 14 year olds. Girls can only wear a suit that extends from the shoulders to the hips, and boys can only wear a suit that extends from the hips to the knees. Any infraction will be considered a false start.

New USA Swimming time standards will go into effect at the end of short course season.

The application deadline for the November All-Star meet has been extended to Monday, October 27th, at midnight, due to a glitch at the application website. All coaches with swimmers who have already submitted an application should send, as soon as possible, the list of swimmers to the NTSI webmaster (Nancy French), who will post the list on the North Texas Swimming website. Because of the technical glitch, those swimmers must resubmit their application. An email confirmation will be sent when the application is received.

l. Equipment Chair

Bob Lang, in absentia, submitted a Policies & Procedures change proposal regarding the bidding of meets by teams that do not have certified timing system operators. (See Appendix A for the proposed change.)

A few points were raised against this proposal:

- ? Some teams in the LSC use equipment (e.g., Daktronics) other than what is used for certification (Colorado Timing). How will this be handled?
- ? Some teams have volunteers that have been running the timing equipment for many years, although they are not officially certified. Because they already have the experience, they are unlikely to attend the certification clinic. Should that prohibit teams from bidding for meets?

- ? Since meet bids are done a year in advance, how can teams anticipate which volunteers will want to run the equipment?

Motion made to adopt this proposal as part of the Policies & Procedures document. Not seconded.

m. Outreach Chair

Susan Danglemaier, in absentia, submitted a report regarding the USA Swimming Foundation's Make-A-Splash water safety initiative. (See Appendix B for the report.)

n. Disability Chair

Matt Franks will be sending an email to all coaches requesting the number of disabled athletes with whom they work. Also, he will be adding more links to the North Texas Swimming website so that these athletes, their families, and their coaches will have more information regarding opportunities locally and nationally.

Coaches are reminded that, if one or more of their disabled athletes enter and attend a meet, the meet referee should be notified before they swim, so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

o. Age-Group Chair

Brian Danglemaier, in absentia, submitted a report regarding the Age-Group Committee's activities since the previous HoD meeting. (See

Make a Splash

www.makeasplash.org

- *Make a Splash* is a national child-focused water safety initiative by the USA Swimming Foundation to save lives.
- How to Make a Splash: (1) Host a Make a Splash for water safety day (2) Become a Local Partner Program
- Promotional Opportunities: Diversity Research Study with University of Memphis: "Constraints Impacting Minority Swimming Participation" Findings:
 - 58% of Black children can't swim
 - 56% of Hispanic children can't swim
 - Parental influence – major factor in child's risk
- Take advantage now: This research was broadcast on: NBC Nightly News, Today Show, 400+ print media placements, 31 network affiliate stories, 4 CNN segments, 125 "blog" mentions, Rush Limbaugh, ABC Radio, school materials
- Why Become a Local Partner Program:
 - The Local Partner program provides the opportunity to make a difference in your community. By tapping into the *Make a Splash* campaign you will expand awareness about the importance of water safety and the need to learn to swim, as well as help make your learn-to-swim program more visible in your community.
 - Your program can take advantage of these great Local Partner benefits:
 - Utilize the *Make a Splash* name and branding in your community to help drive awareness for your learn-to-swim and aquatic programs
 - Participate in an on-going, national marketing and public relations campaign along with the USA Swimming Foundation and its corporate and aquatic partners
 - Marketing and programming ideas
 - Ability to purchase additional *Make a Splash* materials at cost
 - Access to an affordable national learn-to-swim general liability insurance program
 - Enhanced ability to raise local funds to help provide scholarships to disadvantaged kids
 - Potential to apply for future grant dollars and/or scholarship support
 - Receive a FREE promotional kit of materials to use in your community

Appendix C for the report.)

4. New Business

a. Convention attendees

- 1) Shannon Gillespy, the Southern Zone Director, announced a new website for the Southern Zone: szoneswim.com. Everyone is encouraged to browse the website for more information, including the Southern Zone Committee minutes from the Convention. Of note, there will be a senior zone meet in August at the Woodlands. The Southern Zone is the first to hold a senior zone championship. Shannon also announced that Brian Danglemaier, Head Coach at Mid-Cities Arlington Swimming (MARS), was elected the Southern Zone Age-Group Chair.
- 2) Liz Kershaw attended a meeting on athlete privacy and the Internet. USA Swimming has published a privacy policy outlining acceptable information that can be displayed on a website. This information includes an athlete's name, age in years, club affiliation, time and place, and any awards or honors received. USA Swimming is strongly discouraging online registrations at this time due to security concerns. USA Swimming membership numbers may not be published with the member's name; for example, if a team publishes a list of meet entries for confirmation, the membership numbers cannot be shown.
- 3) Maggie Shook has CDs available for each team (1 per team) that discusses the process of transitioning from high-school swimming to college swimming. Each team can use their CD to make copies for members of their team; USA Swimming recommends handing these copies to athletes during their sophomore year.

Maggie has a copy of the sectional time standards, which have not yet been posted to the website.

She also briefly described an upcoming "women in coaching" conference and requested that money be budgeted for someone from the LSC to attend. The request will be further outlined at the November budget meeting; however, John Rieff has already asked the Treasurer to look into the possibility of sending 3-4 women coaches from the LSC to the convention.

b. Reimbursement for national-level athletes

Steve Mateer raised the issue of reimbursement for swimmers who attend national-level meets, such as Jr. Nationals, Sr. Nationals, and US Open. According to Steve, the NT LSC budgeted \$40,000 for Zone swimmers, but not nearly that much for the national-level swimmers.

Motion made to budget \$40,000 in the 2009 budget for national-level championship meet reimbursement. Seconded – withdrawn, in lieu of the HoD budget meeting on November 23, 2008.

John Rieff described how some other LSCs calculate athlete reimbursement; in particular, the Gulf LSC uses a formula based on average airfare and federal government per-diem reimbursement policies. However, using such a formula for the NT LSC will require a Policies & Procedures change. John established an athlete reimbursement task force to study the issue and propose a reimbursement formula that can be included in the NT LSC Policies & Procedures document. The task force includes the following individuals:

- ? Chris MacCurdy (Chair)
- ? Steve Mateer
- ? Ron Forrest
- ? Mook Rhodenbaugh
- ? Maddie Shook

c. Next meeting

The next House of Delegates meeting will be on Sunday, November 23, 2008. The time and place have yet to be determined. The focus of the meeting will be the 2009 budget.

John Rieff adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McDonald
Secretary

Appendix A -- Proposed P&P Change Regarding Timing System Operators

Propose Addition to Section IV – Meet Scheduling and Awarding
Paragraph 4.1 – Meet Bids

Purpose of Addition: To ensure that we can provide our swimmers with “official times” as required by USA Swimming. In many meets these past two years, the lack of knowledge, ability and experience of timing system operators has seriously and negatively impacted our ability to provide official times and to provide results in a timely manner.

The following is to be added to Paragraph 4.1 – Meet Bids

E) Have parent volunteer(s) in attendance at the annual North Texas Swimming Certified Timing System Operators clinic; these volunteer(s) must complete the clinic and be certified. All teams that bid must have Certified Timing System Operator(s) equal in number to the number of courses (pools) being used at the meet to be bid. All teams that bid must have Certified Timing System Operators actually operating timing equipment at their meets. If a team does not have currently Certified Timing System Operators, the meet can only be bid if the team guarantees to hire Certified Timing System Operators for the meet from the North Texas Swimming Certified Timing System Operators pool, or if the meet falls after the annual clinic, the team guarantees that parent volunteers will attend, be certified and will work the meet. Certified Timing System Operators must be listed on the team’s sanction application.

Appendix B - Make-A-Splash Water Safety Initiative

Make a Splash

www.makeasplash.org

- *Make a Splash* is a national child-focused water safety initiative by the USA Swimming Foundation to save lives.
- How to Make a Splash: (1) Host a Make a Splash for water safety day (2) Become a Local Partner Program
- Promotional Opportunities: Diversity Research Study with University of Memphis: "Constraints Impacting Minority Swimming Participation" Findings:
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Appendix C -- Age-Group Committee Report

House of Delegates Meeting – October 25, 2008

Age Group Vice Chairman Report



I apologize for missing today's HOD meeting. A previously scheduled family obligation has prevented me from being here today. The following is a report of my activities since the last HOD meeting.

During the last HOD meeting I reported on the Southern Zones Championships, and our team's successes at this impressive event. At the TSA meeting earlier this month the House of Delegates voted to put the TAGS meet on the same weekend as the 2009 Southern Zones Championships in Orlando, FL. This short-sighted decision will have a significant impact on our LSC's, and the rest of Texas', ability to assemble a competitive team. There was limited representation of our LSC's clubs at this meeting and some of our clubs there gave their support and vote to this decision. I'm therefore recommending that North Texas suspend sending a team in 2009 to the Southern Zones Championships. If TSA sees fit to adjust their calendar next year I will recommend we again assemble a team to represent our LSC.

Having said this, if there is support for assembling a team of non-TAGS swimmers for the 2009 meet I will proudly serve as head coach. I hope that the delegates at today's meeting will discuss this issue at length and determine our course of action for next year. I will be happy to answer any questions regarding this issue.

2008 USAS Convention Notes

I attended several meetings and workshops at this year's convention. The following is a brief summary from these events:

1. Make-a-Splash Program

The Club Development committee presented the successes of the MAS program. They specifically highlighted the success of the Boys and Girls Club in Atlanta. Members of the Atlanta Boys and Girls Club were in attendance to answer questions and to discuss promotion of the MAS program. Other programs in the US were also briefly highlighted, including the effort in our LSC by MARS. I would like to task each of our clubs to investigate how to start a MAS program within their teams. I would also like to see our LSC take a leadership role in our Zone in implementing programs in support of the MAS initiative.

2. Safety / Risk Management Workshop & Website Use

Privacy policies, the USAS Insurance Summary, and COPPA were discussed in this workshop. No major changes have been made regarding USAS insurance coverage, but COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) was very interesting and well-worth noting. Each club should investigate if their operating practices are well within the COPPA legislation. Several examples

of seemingly benign and common website practices were highlighted as possible areas for concern. On-line registration, pictures, and other items are things we should all be looking at within our club organizations and LSC.

3. LSC Age Group Chairs Workshop

The focus of the Age Group Development Cmt. continues to be with IMX and other programs. Open water events extensively discussed. USAS is pushing hard for LSC's to begin programs and has offered assistance and advice to produce new events at the local level. Membership trends within USAS were also discussed. There are 257,163 registered athletes in 2008, up 2.2% from 2007. The pending legislation regarding body-suits was also discussed. By-in-large all in attendance seemed to approve some sort of restriction on performance swimwear for our younger athletes.

4. Southeast Zone meetings

I was elected Southern Zone AG Chair. I'm now in charge of a meet that my state is likely to not attend. There's a certain amount of irony here, eh?

5. Age Group Chairs Workshop - part 2

LSC championship formats were discussed, as well as more statistical data from USAS. USAS will soon have a list of near state athletes to clubs on the USAS website. Open water events were discussed again. I like to ask our LSC to investigate making open water an integral part of our swimming programs. I challenge all of our clubs to begin by supporting the effort of LSC & NASS to bring an open water event to our LSC next April. We need club support to make this a reality for our LSC.

If you have any questions regarding any of these reported cases or subscribing anything else under my control within the LSC please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Dongmatras

NT Swimming Age Group Vice Chairman

Appendix D -- Motions and New Actions

Motions Passed

- ? **Motion** made to forego roll call.
- ? **Motion** made to award Nov 20-22 B/C Div 2 meet to COPS.
- ? **Motion** made to award Jan 16-18 BB meet to LAC.
- ? **Motion** made to award Jan 23-25 B/C Div 2 meet to TRS.
- ? **Motion** made to award Jul 3-5 B/C meet to FAST.
- ? **Motion** made to authorize John Rieff to solicit 2 or more bids from an accounting firm to create a 2008-2009 budget and to award the contract within 3 weeks. John is authorized to pay up to \$2000 for the budget.

Motions Withdrawn

- ? **Motion** made to budget \$40,000 in the 2009 budget for national-level championship meet reimbursement.

Motions Not Seconded

- ? **Motion** made to adopt the Certified Timing System Operator proposal as part of the Policies & Procedures document.

New Actions

- ? John Rieff to solicit 2 or more bids from an accounting firm to create a 2008-2009 budget and to award the contract within 3 weeks.
- ? Athlete reimbursement task force to study the issue and propose a reimbursement formula that can be included in the NT LSC Policies & Procedures document.