

Age Group Committee Meeting - January 28, 2016

Committee Members In Attendance:

Allison Dunlap - MTRO
Chrissy Gentry - LAC
Abby Turner - NTN
Eric Briscoe - MARS
Lindsay - TFA
Rodrigo Periera - COPS
Lauren (Athlete Rep) - COR
Trevor Liu (Athlete Rep) - MTRO
Abby Koczko (Jr Athlete Rep) - TFA

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Tom Applegate - RACE

Meeting began at 8:10 pm

- I. Discussed current (Age Group) meet structure and made the following suggestions:
 - A. **APPROVED by AG COMMITTEE FOR RECOMMENDATION TO TPC:**
Swimmers with BB times or better in the 400/500 free can swim the 800/1000 and/or the 1500/1650 (and visa versa) at Level 2 meets.
 - B. **Discussed:** Open Meets vs. "Levels"
 1. Benefits of Open Meets over Levels:
 - a) Allows for more flexibility among teams
 - b) Allows for more flexibility in meet structure, and possibly means athletes (and/or coaches/parents) having to attend less meets overall
 - c) Possibly encourages more teams to bid on/host meets, to spread the responsibility out over a greater number of teams
 - d) Teams can bridge Level 2/3 gap (or 1/2 gap) by creating their own time standards for meets, allowing more swims per athlete without the headache of bonus swims.
 2. Drawbacks of Open Meets over Levels:
 - a) How do you regulate numbers? What if you get 1000 athletes interested in one meet and 100 interested in another? Some teams/facilities will be more conducive to hosting better meets, so how do you keep everyone from wanting to go there, and not going to another location where a smaller team may be hosting a meet at a lesser facility?
 3. Suggestion: Possibly look (again) at re-writing divisions--namely level 3--so that there are more teams who are able to host meets in each division.

II. All Star Camp (Now Called Texas Select Camp): Discussed Current North Texas Athlete Selection Procedures and made the following recommendations:

- A. **APPROVED by AG COMMITTEE:** Put all selection procedures in writing (in the policies/procedures and on the NTSI website).
1. This helps swimmers know what they need to do to make the camp
 2. This also gives confidence in the process to parents/coaches/athletes, knowing there are procedures in place that are being consistently enforced and regulated.
- B. **APPROVED by AG COMMITTEE:** Athletes can be selected up to twice.
1. Previous NTSI "policy" was that swimmers could only go once.
 2. Athletes can go once as an 11-12 athlete and once as a 13-14 athlete
 3. Athletes must remain eligible via IMX score for their respective age (only top 2 11, 12, 13, and 14 year olds go for each gender--16 total athletes).
 4. Athletes can **not** attend the camp (for the first or second time) if he/she has already been selected for (and attended) a higher-level USA Swimming Camp (including, but not limited to: Southern Zone Select Camp, National Diversity Camp, National Select Camp).
 5. Purpose of this change:
 - a) This would allow the swimmer to get the experience as a young athlete, but also to get more out of the camp once they are older and able to understand/absorb more.
 - b) Additionally, it will keep us from going so "deep" and taking such a wide range of athletes to a camp that is supposed to be for "Elite" Age Group athletes.

III. Zones: Discussed Current Budget, Projected Budget, and Current Athlete Selection Process and made the following recommendations:

- A. **Most Zones Discussions Tabled due to lack of knowledge on where meet will be hosted.**
1. Since last summer, up until 2 weeks ago, USA Swimming website indicated this year's meet would be located in Cary, NC.
 2. Last week, USA Swimming website indicated the meet would be held in Tupelo, MS.
- B. **Being that this is one of our LSC's largest budget line items, we discussed looking into OTHER meet possibilities, if meet will be held in Tupelo**
1. Air Quality there last year was not in the best interest of athletes. Conditions were very severe.
 2. We still value the meet and the experience it gives our Age Group athletes, so we recommend at least researching other options
 3. E-mail has been sent to Southern Zone Age Group Chair, BJ Alenstein, to confirm location one way or another, but have not received a response.

- C. **Proposed Budget - Tabled due to not knowing the location of the meet**
- D. **Athlete Selection Process for Zones -- Discussed and considered a variety of suggestions.** Agreed to continue thinking about this to come up with a solution in the coming months

1. Current Selection Process:
 - a) Need at least 1 AAA to apply
 - b) Preference given to athletes with more AAA and better times
 - c) Preference given to athletes with higher IMX/Power Point Scores
 - d) Preference given to athletes who can fill relay and/or scoring gaps
2. **APPROVED by AG COMMITTEE: If we keep current process, athletes who apply must have at least 1 AAA in the age group in which they will be competing at the meet (so a 12 year old with AAA or better times cannot apply if they will be 13 at the meet and do not yet have 13-14 AAA times or better)**
3. IDEA Discussed: Invitation Process → Set a deadline (or a meet or a series of meets) where the top 6-8 athletes in each event are invited to join the team
 - a) Concern Raised: How do we do this without placing too high an emphasis on an early-season meet?
 - b) Concern Raised: How do we get a list of the top ___ athletes in each event?
4. IDEA Discussed: Coach Recommendation → Set a deadline by which coaches can make recommendations. Those are the athletes that are considered for the team.
 - a) Concern Raised: Could this end up penalizing an athlete if he/she is fast enough but the coach is not overly proactive?
5. IDEA Discussed: Earned Applications → Set a deadline (or meet or a series of meets) wherein athletes who place high enough or get fast enough times are then invited to apply. Athletes could not apply until they get to that level
6. IDEA Discussed: Selection Committee (AG Committee) would select certain athletes based on SCY season (top 4 per age group, for example), then fill 4 remaining spots in each age group with applicants.

- E. **Members Agreed to continue considering Zone Meet Alternatives and Selection Procedures for future recommendation**

IV. Additional Questions/Comments? - None

Meeting Ended at 9:10pm