**Operational Risk / Safety Chair Report**

**Chairperson: Lisa Jorgenson, Aberdeen Swim Club**

**Reports of Occurrence:**

The South Dakota LSC had 17 reports of Safety Occurrences in 2020 and January and February of 2021. It is important to remember that reports of occurrences are not compiled for any reason other than to see trends as to when and where accidents associated with the sport occur, and to ensure that, if applicable, those injured at a USA Swimming sanctioned activity have access to the excess accident medical insurance.

1. You can reference the Risk Management & Safety Manual at any time with questions regarding subjects such as Meet Marshals, Emergency Action Plans, etc.

<https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/risk-management/safety-and-operational-risk/operational-risk-safety-manual.pdf>

1. Report of Occurrence link: <https://fs22.formsite.com/usaswimming/form18/index.html>

There have been an increased number of in-water head injuries during practice reported to USA Swimming.  The majority of these injuries have been a result of head to head contact between swimmers, not from swimmers striking against the wall. Coaches, please take some time to remind kids about circle swimming protocols when sharing a lane with other swimmers.

**Junior Coach Requirements:**

As we enter the summer season, it is important for our teams to be aware that there is no such thing as a ‘volunteer coach’ according to USA Swimming. If you have someone on deck that is working in the capacity of a coach, he/she must be certified as a Coach Member through USA Swimming and must meet the requirements of that designation. Anyone who is 16 or 17 and works in a coaching capacity is considered a Junior Coach. Following, are the FAQs dealing with requirements and limitations of a Junior Coach. These can also be found at the following link:

<https://www.usaswimming.org/coaches/popular-resources/junior-coach-membership-faqs>

**-What age can a junior coach be?** Junior coaches can ONLY be 16 or 17 years of age.

**-Can a junior coach member be designated as a head coach for a USA Swimming club member?** No, a Jr. Coach cannot be designated as a head coach of USA Swimming club member.

**-Is a junior coach allowed to be on deck without another non-athlete coach member on deck?** No, there must be present another non-athlete coach member who is in good standing.

**-If a current athlete member becomes a junior coach member, do they have to pay a second membership fee?**  No. If the athlete is registered as a Premium member (not a Flex or Outreach member) for the current registration period, the second USA Swimming membership fee is waived if both memberships are under the same LSC. NOTE: LSCs are not obligated to waive their LSC membership fees that are in addition to USA Swimming membership fees.

**-Once a junior coach turns 18 years of age, how long do they have to complete a background check?** The junior coach has 30 days from the time they turn 18 to complete a background check. They will receive an email notification 30 days prior and another one 15 days prior to turning 18, letting them know that they must complete the background check within 30 days after turning 18.

**-Do junior coaches need to complete all the non-athlete coaching requirements?** Yes. Junior coaches are required to complete everything but a background check (CPR, Athlete Protection Training, Online and In-Water Safety Training and Foundations of Coaching 101 (1st year coaches) and FOC 201 & Rules and Regulations (2nd year coaching)

**Racing Start Certification Checklist:**

Coaches need to be completing this certification for all new swimmers. The forward racing start certification has been required since May 1, 2009 and the backstroke start certification has been required since May 1, 2018. The certification process is described on the Racing Start Certification Checklist. That document requires that for swimmers age 10 years and under or swimmers with less than one year of experience, the coach must certify that the swimmer has been trained according to the progression set forth on the form. For older or more experienced swimmers, the checklist requires the coach to certify appropriate skill level based on the coach’s observation. The required certification is based on the coach’s professional judgment and an electronic or paper certification form must be completed for each swimmer. The Racing Start Certification Checklist can be downloaded below. There is also a FAQ link found below about this process.

[Racing Start Certification Checklist](https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coaching-resourcesdocuments/ongoing-compliance/racing-start-certification/racing-start-certification-checklist.pdf?sfvrsn=10)

[Racing Start Safety and Backstroke and Forward Start Protocols](https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coaching-resourcesdocuments/ongoing-compliance/racing-start-certification/teaching-racing-starts-safety-and-backstroke-and-forward-start-protocols.pdf?sfvrsn=8)

**Concussion Protocol Training for Coaches & Officials:**

Concussion Protocol Training has been required for coaches and officials since January 1, 2020. Your USA Swimming Membership Card shows whether this requirement has been met.

* Courses from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), as well as individual states’ required courses will satisfy the USA Swimming requirement.
* For USA Swimming membership, coaches and officials must successfully complete concussion and head injury education at least once. Individual states may require annual or continuing education and coaches / officials must abide by the requirements of their home state or states in which they coach or officiate.
* This requirement is necessary to avoid personal liability for concussion / head strike incidents, ensuring our insurers will continue to provide liability insurance protection to USA Swimming, coaches, officials and clubs.

CDC Course can be accessed with the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

The National Federation of State High School Associations course can be accessed through the following link: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61129/concussion-in-sports>

South Dakota Swimming requires that this course only be taken once, but the protocols should be reviewed by coaching staff, and the Concussion Information Sheet for Parents and Athletes should be posted on your TeamUnify Site.