



**FLORIDA SWIMMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SPECIAL MEETING  
CONFERENCE CALL  
January 30, 2003**

**Minutes**

General Chairman Jim Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:20pm. Those in attendance were as follows: Jim Kelly, Helen Kelly, Bill Vargo, Mac Kennedy, Nancy Hennessy, Gay Wright, Grant Nelson, Scott Caron, Stuart Michelson, Steve Lochte, Vic Riggs, Jon Sakovich, Rick Benner, Mike Yearwood, Cashel Mack, Randy Johnson, Sherwood Watts, Fred Lewis, Steve Altheimer, Helen Ryan and Jack Goltz. **Officio Member:** Dan Jimar; **Guests:** Randy Johnson & Todd Mann.

General Chairman Jim Kelly briefly stated the ground rules: We would be discussing and voting on two issues, each person speaking will first state their name before making their comments; the first issue is to decide whether or not the 10 & under age group would be returned to the prelim/final format for JO's, the second & final issue would be to decide whether or not the Zone Team selection period would be extended to include YMCA Nationals & Junior Nationals.

Stuart Michelson asked why the board was told the vote had to wait a 30-day period? Jim Kelly explained the 30-day wait period pertains only to new topics. The vote could have been on Saturday. Stuart made a motion to return the 10 & unders to the prelim/final format at Junior Olympics.

Todd Mann explained the committees recommendation was not based on a time line factor but that 10 & unders were a developmental group and that too many are being trained and not coached. Jim Kelly provided the background of why 10 & unders were being discussed. Many complaints were received after last years JO's, by far the biggest complaint was the length of the meet for the 10 & unders (both short & long course). The parents complained that these kids were not used to the long hours, length of prelims. Stuart said that putting them in finals would only add 10 minutes to final sessions. Jim said moreover the parents were upset that they were getting their kids back to their hotels at 9:30 and 10:00 at night.

Nancy Hennessy said she felt very strongly about keeping 10 & unders out of finals. She also

asked why we have annual meetings and without trying out a decision, decide to overturn it because of a backlash from some parents.

Sherwood Watts stated that "time" was why the decision was made. He then asked, how is taking them out of finals going to change what's going on with coaching/training etc...?

Nancy Hennessy added, to some degree, trying to influence coaches and parents is FUTILE. She added that she feels as an age group coach she needs to educate parents as well as swimmers.

Sherwood Watts, "not an educational process".

Stuart Michelson agreed, but that we couldn't tell parents that we were just trying it out.

Steve Lochte stated, we need to educate parents and swimmers on developing athletes. Justice is not being done for retention by putting too much pressure on <10, should be a natural progression. Prelims of 6 – 7 hours are NOT a championship! Swimmers need to rest for performance at night.

Fred Lewis mentioned the sacrifice made by parents at Junior Olympics, they don't mind long hours.

Steve Lochte stated that the <10 returning for finals is only 15% of that group and that a total re-education of coaches and parents is needed.

Fred Lewis stated that kids don't burn out but choose other sports. He stated he believes the decision to remove <10 from finals to be a major mistake.

Rick Benner stated he agreed that in the best interest of swimmer, we need to educate.

Jim Kelly stated that all discussion was closed, and a vote would be taken. The request for a Roll-Call Vote was made. The vote was as follows;

**Vote to return 10 & under age group to prelim/finals for Junior Olympics, Yes in favor, No is opposed.**

**Yes** (in favor): Stuart Michelson, Mike Yearwood, Cashel Mack, Fred Lewis & Steve Altheimer

**No** (opposed): Bill Vargo, Nancy Hennessy, Gay Wright, Grant Nelson, Scott Caron, Helen Kelly, Steve Lochte, Vic Riggs, Jon Sakovich, Rick Benner, Sherwood Watts & Helen Ryan

**Abstain:** Jack Goltz

Fred Lewis suggested for summer JO's we go off the top 10 list.

Stuart Michelson suggested we think about it before arbitrarily making changes.

Vic Riggs stated nothing was in place for <10 recognition at prelims and added that he feels they should be announced during prelims.

Nancy Hennessy stated they had discussed having a sticker board up at venue and that the top eight would be announced.

Vic Riggs mentioned there was no room for a sticker board at Gainesville. Possibility of area next to Total Teamwares, they would work it out.

Issue #2 – Zone Team Selection – extend period to encompass Junior Nationals & Y Nationals

Steve Lochte made a motion for Zone meet consideration be changed to Jan 1 thru April 18.

Steve Lochte explained why fall dates were not included.

Nancy Hennessy asked, what about the fall?

Steve Lochte explained why fall dates were not included.

Todd Mann said the best shaved meet is Gainesville in December and should count.

Stuart Michelson said we should include all December Meets.

Jim Kelly Stated a motion was on the floor.

Todd Mann proposed an amendment to the motion making the dates 12/1 – 4/18.

Steve Lochte accepted the proposed amendment.

Vote on the proposed amendment passed.

Vote on the motion passed.

Steve Lochte suggested to shorten long course JO's, that we look at tightening the time standards.

Jim Kelly said, we need to table this topic for discussion at the next meeting.

Nancy Hennessy requested meet letter get to Helen Kelly for sanctioning by 9:00am Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gay Wright, Secretary

