

National club development report

Club Recognition Program

The new Club Recognition Program officially launched on March 2. Under development for the past 24 months, we believe that this program offers our 2800 club members a working blueprint for developing strong, stable, financially sound and athletically productive organizations.

Designed and tested by the Club Development Committee, this voluntary program presents four levels of achievement across four component areas deemed critical to long-term club success. The program will encourage clubs to establish organizational goals and to benchmark their progress toward those goals. The ultimate objective of the program is to strengthen the club system in USA Swimming by guiding clubs through a development process that ultimately will position the program and its coaches to better serve athletes.

2007 Club Excellence Program

A record 160 clubs have applied for the 2007 program. Clubs earning Gold, Silver, or Bronze status will be notified the week of April 23. Gold and Silver level clubs will also receive grant applications that must be completed and returned to NHQ by June 1. A total of \$320,000 in grant dollars will be distributed to approximately 100 clubs. Final grant awards will be announced by July 23. Looking ahead to next year, clubs have been notified that the requirements for the 2008 program will include some minimum achievements in the new Club Recognition Program.

Build-A-Pool Conference

The 3rd Build A Pool Conference took place April 11-14 in Colorado Springs. The 170 people attending the 4-day conference received an overview of the facility planning, programming and development process in presentations provided by some of the foremost aquatic and design experts in the country. The conference addressed everything from the privately owned smaller facility to the public "mega facility".

Participants had plenty of opportunity to interact with industry experts and ask questions concerning their specific project.

On the final day of the conference, 16 nationally-recognized aquatic organizations signed the “Make a Splash” Proclamation pledging their support for a national initiative to promote water safety through learn-to-swim programs that ensure that children will be safer and healthier for a lifetime. Participating organizations included:

American National Red Cross

Aquatic Exercise Association

Aquatic Therapy & Rehabilitation Institute

Educational Adventures

National Drowning Prevention Alliance

National Recreation & Park Association

National Swimming Pool Foundation

President’s Council for Physical Fitness & Sports

United States Swim School Association

Safe Kids Worldwide

Starfish Aquatics Institute

Swim America

Swim for Life Foundation

USA Swimming

USA Swimming Foundation

YMCA of the USA

Zone Select Camps

224 athletes have been selected to participate in four Zone Select Camps this spring. The date, location, head coach, and head manager for each camp is listed below. First conducted in the Spring of 2006, this program seeks to identify emerging athletes in each Zone. The camps serve females age 12-13 and males age 13-14. Swimmers are selected from a combination of individual event rankings and IMX performances.

Zone	Camp Dates	Camp Location	Head Coach/Club	Head Manager
Western Zone	May 17-20	University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)	Peter Banks Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center (FL)	Maddy Crippen
Central Zone	May 24-27	Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)	Brian Lee Iolani S.C. Club (HI)	Eric Fucito
Eastern Zone	June 7-10	US Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD)	Ann Urschel Team Foxjet (MN)	Kent Nelson
Southern Zone	June 7-10	The Baylor School (Chattanooga, TN)	Roric Fink Tucson Ford Aquatics (AZ)	Mary Liston

Diversity Select Camp

Scheduled for April 26-29, the 2nd Diversity Select Camp will serve 32 athletes, ages 13-18, representing an ethnic population that is less than 20% of the current USA Swimming membership. The purpose of the camp is to instill a vision of success and inspire athletes from underrepresented populations to become leaders in the sport of swimming. 13 athletes of each sex regardless of age or course were selected from the highest power point score from the combination of three different events. 3 athletes of each sex regardless of age or course were selected from the highest IMX scores. The ethnic make-up of the 2007 camp is as follows ... Asian-American 43%, African-American 37%, and Hispanic/Latino 20%. In addition to offering a leadership component for the athletes, the Diversity Camp will also include an educational track for the personal coaches of each athlete. The staff for this year's camp is as follows:

Head Coach	Pablo Morales	University of Nebraska
Asst Coach	Tommy Jackson	City of Atlanta Dolphins
Asst Coach	Abi Liu	Stanford University
Head Manager	Ben Sheppard	Oakland Undercurrents

Background Screens Rollout

As of April 13, 9100 individuals had successfully completed the background screening process. The fourth LSC-specific rollout, which is all of the Southern Zone LSCs, is scheduled for April 23-May 4. The fifth and final rollout period, the remaining Western Zone LSCs, is planned for May 14-25. Announcement letters have been mailed to coaches in each LSC approximately 3 weeks prior to the start of their rollout period. Coaches also receive an email reminder 3-4 days before their assigned period begins.

Make A Splash – Atlanta

Working jointly with the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, the Make a Splash-Atlanta program provides an opportunity to test some alternative program concepts in an urban setting. USA Swimming is working cooperatively with local and national partner organizations to develop a quality, multi-level swimming program for six Boys & Girls Club pool facilities serving 600 young people ages 6 to 16. We will provide partial funding over a four-year period with the intent that the local community would eventually be able to fully support the program and make it self-sustaining. We anticipate final approval of partner funding from the Atlanta Falcon Youth Foundation by the end of April. The target date for launching the program is Monday, June 4.