



**UNION AMERICANA DE NATACION
AGENDA OF A MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE**

Galleon Ballroom, Westin Casuarina Resort

10 June 2017

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- 3 Executive Committee Update
- 4 Vision for OWS and Objectives
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- 6 Development of OWS Circuit
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UNION AMERICANA DE NATACION
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE
Galleon Ballroom, Westin Casuarina Resort
10 June 2017

PRESENT:

Officers:

Dennis Ryther, Vice Chairman (USA)
Michael Lockwood, Secretary (Cayman Islands)

PRESENT:

Members:

David de Vlieger (CAN)
Nicole Nomandin (CAN)
Tomas Haces (CUB)
Marco Flores (GUA)
Emily Brunemann-Klueh, Athlete Member (USA)
Rick Walker (USA)

ABSENT:

Jorge Delgado, Chairman (ECU)
Ricardo Olmos, Member (CHI)
Nelson Osorio, Member (COL)
Andrew Kirby, Member (BAR)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dale Neuburger, President (USA)
Algernon Cargill, Bureau Liaison (BAH)
Mel Goldstein, Chairman of Technical Masters Committee (USA)
Greggory Eggert, Director (USA)
Sid Cassidy, Member of FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee (USA)
Bailey Weathers, Technical Director of the Cayman Islands Amateur Swimming Association (CAY)



CALL TO ORDER

Dennis called the meeting to order at 10.05am. Dennis and Michael were appointed as chairman and secretary, respectively, of the meeting.

It was noted that a quorum of the members (the “**Committee Members**”) of the technical open water swimming committee (the “**Committee**”) of Union Americana de Natacion (“**UANA**”) was present in person.

INTRODUCTIONS AND REMARKS

The chairman invited all persons to introduce themselves and made special mention of those invited persons in attendance.

Bailey was invited to provide an update from the organising committee (the “**Organising Committee**”) of the UANA Pan American Open Water Swimming Championships (the “**Championships**”) 2017. Bailey tabled copy of his report for the Committee Members’ review, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. He provided an overview of the report.

There was some discussion regarding the relay event which was held on Friday, 9 June 2017. Nicole noted that there should ideally be different coloured buoys around the finishing funnel to avoid confusion with the turning buoys. Rick noted that he thought the safety measures put in place were good. Dennis and Nicole noted that the referee boats and officials should be in place earlier to ensure a prompt start. It was generally agreed that the races went well and that there was room for improvement with some organisational matters.

Sid queried what the plan was for the start of the 10K race on Sunday? It was noted that the starting order would be men then women starting three minutes later and then exhibition swimmers starting five minutes later. It was also noted that there shall be a feeding boat on the shore side.

Emily noted that she had received feedback from the swimmers who competed in the relays.

Greg noted that the registration fees from competing countries had yet to be collected but that the Organising Committee would do so.

Emily and David noted that a one page sheet to supplement the summons with additional or new information should be provided to the competitors and coaches upon arrival.

Sid was invited to provide an update from the FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee. He noted that a lot of consideration had recently been given to the wetsuits issues and the need to get the suits approved by FINA. He also noted that the new FINA committees would be named by FINA in Budapest on the occasion of the FINA World Aquatics Championships.



Rick queried if any indication had been given to the leadership positions of the FINA committee. Sid noted that USA Swimming would like to have him in a leadership role. It was noted that Tomas and Sid were both being put forward for the FINA committee by their respective federations.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dale was invited to provide an update from the Executive Committee. Dale provided his thanks to everyone for attending the meeting and the Championships and noted that he was excited about the Championships and the Committee's first meeting. He noted that the Executive Committee has six strategic visions for the aquatic disciplines one of which is to have an outstanding championships. He further noted that UANA's first corporate sponsor is Astral Pools which provided UANA with €50,000 which has been spread across all the disciplines for which the plan is as follows: (a) US\$10,000 shall be given to each of Zone 1 (CONSONAT) and Zone 2 (CCCAN) for development purposes, (b) US\$10,000 shall be used for a UANA Cup swimming competition in Florida (which is proposed for January 2018 and shall be a duel meet for Zone 1 (CONSONAT) and Zone 2 (CCCAN), though Zone 3 (USA) and Zone 4 (Canada) clubs shall be invited), (c) US\$10,000 shall be split evenly between each of the technical committees which host championships to enhance the value and experience for athletes and (d) the remainder (including the exchange) to be kept by UANA.

He noted that the IOC had just announced the addition of new events for the Olympic Games including men's 800m, women's 1500m and mixed relays and that the inclusion of other distance pool events will have a great impact for open water development as well. He further noted that with the inclusion of mixed relay events, this may allow smaller countries the ability to compete in relays. Dennis noted that these changes would also have a trickle-down effect to the NCAA in the USA.

Dale noted that there was an increase in women's teams for water polo. He further noted that the sport of swimming is number one in broadcast, social media and medals and that it is intended that the open water contingent will continue to increase.

David queried how the Committee should leverage off an increased number of athletes in open water events. It was noted that if more countries and athletes are able to compete in distance pool events and open water relays then this should help improve the level of competition in open water events and that we should promote the mixed relays as much as possible. David also queried if it was likely that the Committee would see further increase numbers of athletes or the number of events. Dale noted that it was more likely that open water swimming would see an increase in the number of events.

Algernon expressed his thanks to the Executive Committee, the Committee, the Flowers family and the Cayman Islands for inviting him to attend the Championships.

Michael expressed thanks on behalf of the Committee to the Executive Committee, the Flowers family and the Cayman Islands for organising the Championships. Michael also thanked Marco and Nicole for assisting with translating documents into Spanish and French, respectively, and David for assisting with legal matters.



VISION FOR OWS AND OBJECTIVES, DEVELOPMENT OF OWS CIRCUIT AND DEVELOPMENT OF UANA MASTERS AND OWS

The chairman noted that the Championships had not been held since 2007. He also noted that the first Championships had 17 swimmers and the second Championships had 22 swimmers. He noted that using masters is a good way to develop open water swimming.

Mel noted that this was the first time that masters were invited to compete an open water swimming championships. He also noted that masters would ideally like to know destination, date and events as early as possible and that a year would be sufficient. David noted that this is absolutely essential to have the information available at least one year in advance for masters as they will plan family trips around swimming events.

Mel noted that ideally masters events should be held in even numbered years to avoid conflicts with FINA events. The benefits of co-hosting with Masters was generally acknowledged though it was also noted that Orlando was already hosting a Pan American Masters event in 2018 and so masters would not host a separate open water swimming event in 2018. It was also noted that the senior completion would be unlikely to be held in 2019 because of the Pan Am Games which is the senior UANA championships.

Emily noted that a circuit should be developed in the continent. She also noted that Europe has a great open water circuit that attracts swimmers from the world. She further noted that the Committee should look into developing a combination event with masters in 2019 or 2020.

Sid queried what the Committee's vision is for open water swimming in each quadrennial. There was substantial discussion and it was noted that ideally there be at least three events in each quadrennial excluding the year that the Pan American Games is held.

Emily noted that a test event should be held for athletes in Lima prior to the 2019 Pan American Games.

The chairman noted that a sub-committee of the Committee should be established with David, Rick, Tomas, a CONSONAT Committee Member, a representative of the Technical Masters Committee and Emily as the athlete member. It was further noted that the purpose of the sub-committee is to review and plan for quadrennial plan for all four zones of UANA for open water swimming. It was noted that the expected time frame is 3-4 months to report back to the Committee.

Dale and Greg noted that Felix Calderon (Zone 2 President) and Juan Carlos Orihuela Garcete (Zone 1 President) have had discussions about plans between CCCAN and CONSONAT and event scheduling.

The chairman noted that each UANA federation should be requested to provide the names of persons to contact regarding open water swimming.



UANA OWS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The chairman noted that the Cayman Islands is interested in hosting the Championships in 2018. Rick noted that ideally the Committee should host the Championships again in the next year for the purposes of continuity and call for bids for 2019 or 2020. He further noted that this would allow for calendars to be set and also allows the host to have a great second event and make it more financially feasible.

Dennis noted that future Championships will need to have masters and that it helps if the Championships is held as part of an existing event. He also noted that the second time a host runs the Championships, it becomes more enjoyable and easier to organise.

Mel noted that he would promote masters participation in future events but that it shall be important to avoid conflicts.

Algernon noted that he does not think the Championships should be held in an Olympic year as it would not have an impact for athletes who are trying to qualify for the Olympics.

David noted that there are three sections to the Championships; masters, junior and senior. He also noted that ideally the events should be run in opposite years to develop junior kids to be ready when they age up and that the Committee should set out a plan and schedule.

The Committee agreed that the Committee should start planning two years in advance for future events.

Michael noted that he would prioritise setting a date for June 2018 and that he would abstain from any vote regarding the 2018 Championships.

Following substantial discussion and upon a motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved to recommend to the Executive Committee that the Cayman Islands be named as the host of the 2018 Championships and that the Committee should seek bids from UANA federations to host the 2019 Championships.

2019 PAN AMERICAN GAMES

The chairman noted that he had been provided with an initial drawing of the course maps for the 2019 Pan American Games and he tabled a copy for the Committee Members' review. He also noted that he would query the water quality, temperature and the exact courses for the 10K.

Dale and Greg noted that they are visiting Lima this summer for inspections.



INACTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The chairman noted that some Committee Members have not been active over email since 2015. It was noted that four Committee Members had not participated since the Committee's formation, including the chairman of the Committee. There was substantial discussion regarding this topic.

David suggested that the Committee should have a one hour conference call on quarterly basis to discuss any matters which require the Committee Members' attention. He also suggested that if any Committee Member fails to attend three consecutive conference calls without valid excuse then the Committee should be able to declare the seat vacant and requisition the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy in consultation with the relevant Zone. Rick agreed with David's comments.

Denny noted that an inactive Committee Member should not be eligible to attend the Pan American Games in their capacity as a Committee Member and technical official.

Michael noted that he has a record of those persons who do not, or rarely, respond to emails and who are not engaged in the business of the Committee.

Dale noted that he would speak with Felix Calderon (Zone 2 President) and Juan Carlos Orihuela Garcete (Zone 1 President) regarding the inactive Committee Members from those zones.

Following substantial discussion and upon a motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved to recommend to the Executive Committee that the Committee meet via teleconference on a quarterly basis and that if any Committee Member fails to attend three consecutive conference calls without valid excuse then the Committee should be able to declare the seat vacant and requisition the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy in consultation with the relevant Zone

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that a date should be set in August for a meeting of the Committee via conference call and that Michael would send out further information once confirmed.



ADJOURNMENT

Following discussion and upon a motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12.10pm.

/s/Dennis Ryther

/s/Michael Lockwood

Dennis Ryther
Chairman

Michael Lockwood
Secretary

Action Items Arising from the Minutes

#	Action	Responsible/ lead	When
1	Report to committee regarding Zone 1 and 2 representation issues	Denny	Mid-July
2	Report to committee regarding recommendations for a UANA OW quadrennial schedule, to include consideration of junior, senior and masters events	Sub-committee	October 2017