

USA Swimming Convention 2018

Officials Committee – Wed Sept 26

1. General Chair – Jim Holcomb

A. National meets approved for 2019-2020

- 1) May 3-5 Open Water - Miami
- 2) August 8-11 Futures – Irvine CA, Geneva Ohio, Des Moines Iowa, KnoxvilleTN
- 3) July 31-Aug 4 Senior Nationals – Stanford, CA
- 4) Aug 6-10 Junior Nationals – Stanford, CA
- 5) Dec 4-7 Winter Nationals LC/Time Trials – Georgia Tech, GA
- 6) Dec 11-14 Junior Nationals – East: Georgia Tech, GA, West: Federal Way, WA
- 7) June 21-28, 2020 Olympic Trials – Omaha, Neb
- 8) August 2-4, 2020 US Open and Junior Nationals combined – IUPUI Indianapolis, Ind

B. Pro Series – all have been awarded, 1st one is in Knoxville, TN in January

2. FINA – Carol Zelinksi, all major changes done at Budapest, - no new changes

3. Rules and Regs – Jay Thomas

A. Rules to be discussed that effect officials

- 1) R3 – Tech Suits ban via USA mandate
- 2) R13 – Tech Suit bans via LSC (to be withdrawn if R3 passes)
- 3) R5 – Swimmer who will be disqualified for suit violation will be allowed to swim, but the swim will be DQ'd.
- 4) R9 – Backstroke Ledges – must be uniform throughout the meet (swimmers cannot buy own backstroke ledge and use in meet)

B. Most officials now trained to go to their LSC Official's Chair with issue instead of going straight to Jay. This is the appropriate process.

4. Testing – Bill Rose

A. New test went up in May and so far things are going well

- B. There have been no questions that have needed refining – if more than 25% of respondents get it wrong the question is reevaluated
 - C. NCAA will use the same process of testing as last year
5. National Certification – Melissa H-Bing
- A. Mentor Evaluator concept is rolling out nicely
 - B. Mentor Evaluator Workshop – We Are Mentors, June, Minneapolis, Minnesota
 - 1) The venue – JW Marriott, in the Great Mall was a perfect venue
 - 2) 65 officials attending – worked on determining eligibility for N2, N3i and N3 final
 - 3) Did role playing in giving feedback to evaluatee – lessons on how, it can be very problematic if done incorrectly (can stimulate vow to never work again, to storm off the deck, to come almost to fighting).
 - 4) Tom Ugast from Potomac Valley has a team with 18 sites and 150 officials – helped with development of incentives to attract officials and retaining them
 - 5) Last evening the attendees were divided into 6 groups that worked on developing mentorship programs in the LSC, and work on plans for retention which cost no money or cost minimal money
 - 6) Teams practiced approaching the team’s “owners” on getting financial support for officials.
 - C. Zone Workshops – combined into Eastern Workshops and Western Workshops
 - 1) Smaller group discussions
 - 2) Eastern one worked on whether LSCs set up certifications for Chief Judges, and differences for the Admin Official, and Admin Referee positions
 - 3) Western just worked on issues of officiating and evaluations
 - 4) Official’s calls quarterly can also supply more ideas for future workshops
6. Education – Anne Lawley
- A. New Referee workshop still being offered
 - B. Evaluation documents being evaluated
 - C. Official’s Quarterly calls – All LSC Official’s chairs are invited or a sub if they cannot make the call.

7. LSC Liaison – Jamie Cahn
 - A. Focus in quarterly calls is to get consistency across the nation, and to share ideas
 - B. The Share Site is up to post the best presentations an LSC has – we can all share and use those presentations for education, clinics etc.
 - C. Next quarterly call is 1st Monday of October (Oct 3) 8:00 PM EST
8. OTS – Matt Wilson – OTS with better and easier access will be available very soon. They are ready to pilot test it with 5 people. For those who are apprentice/trainees who are not registered with USA Swimming, they will still need to access the info via My account.
9. Open Water – Sandy Drake
 - A. Nationals were in May – Tempe Town Lake
 - B. There was a clinic there for officials with 30 attendees, but for the meet there were no volunteers so these 30 officials had to step up to the plate
 - C. Pan Pacs in Tokyo – Mike Murphy, and Mark McCaw were USA Officials there
 - D. 2019 – plan to have 3 Open water clinics and if a team or LSC wants to plan one of them USA Swimming will supply speakers and provide transport.
 - E. For Open Water Nationals officials will have to pay their own way, and there will be a clinic given there
 - F. Committee is finalizing N2, N3 certification for officials
 - G. Committee is discussing red flags, and having consequences if the swimmer does not obey the red flag and come out o the water.
10. Athlete – Patrick Hunter
 - A. Officials newsletter, bimonthly distribution, is under the athletes: publish rules from Jay, update for officials from Jim, and the selected Maxwell excellence award winner
 - B. Working on the revisions of the Officials Resolution documents: Stroke and Turn is up, Starter will be up in April, and working on Deck Referee/Meet Referee
 - C. New Referee Workshop – will have a section of what it is like from the athlete’s view
11. This is our 40th year as USA Swimming (1978)
12. Posting of meets for applications to officiate
 - A. When possible 180 days before the meet starts applications to officiate will open up

- B. Applications will close 120 days before the meet starts, although it may be sooner if enough applications have been received.
- C. They try to fill each National meet with 60 Officials which include all assigned positions

13. Operational Risk presentation by Mary Jo Swalley

- A. Concussion training programs are CDC (keep a copy of your certificate) and NSF that keeps a permanent record
- B. Reevaluate a non-symptomatic swimmer who hit head 15 or 30 minutes later, because some symptoms begin to show after that time period
- C. Symptoms do not resolve until 24-48 hours at the earliest, so meet referee should not expect to have a swimmer return to swim the next day
- D. The release needs to be signed by a medical provider that follows the laws of the state for assessing concussion – not just any doctor
- E. Parents should accompany swimmer for medical care and if not there the coach should accompany the swimmer
- F. Working on the requirement that there be a Safety Director for each meet separate from Meet Referee and Meet Director, that will also need to be assigned and on the meet sheet as a part of getting the meet sheet sanction.

14. Additional dates

- A. 2019 LSC Official's Chair workshops
- B. May 9-10 Zones
- C. Definitely 1, maybe 2 Annual Deck Referee Workshops

Rules and Regulations: Wednesday, Sept 25

1. Suzanne Heath described how they are adding Paralympic meets results to the SWIMS data base.
2. Housekeeping items – there are 5 that are primarily for clarity
3. Question of what to do about our annual rule book and changes that are passed after the rules are printed. Will continue to have an as up to date printing of the Bylaws and rules etc. in the annual rule book. But refer to on-line changes that will be on the website.

Keynote Speaker: Thriving in Transformational Times –Rishad Tobaccowala

1. Change is a mindset – Balance today and tomorrow, figure out what you need to learn and what you need to unlearn. You need to be relevant to tomorrow and relevant to yourself.
2. Communication is important – the what has not changed but the how has
 - A. The what is – we trust you, we appreciate you, we treat you with respect. The result is they learn to trust you.
 - B. We are humans and the what is always around respecting the human, the how is the new technology, the new media, that is what needs to change.
3. Remaining relevant – spend time each day learning something new. Be willing to keep learning so you do not become obsolete.
4. Learn the new medias, learn the stories
5. Remember, you learn best when challenged.

By-Laws

1. Changes remove redundancy, encourage putting most of the LSC things in Policies and Procedures (enabling quicker ability to change local things – no need to go to HOD of LSC, and USA Swimming approval process, and make sure the LSC meets all the governance requirements
2. Require you have either a Governance Committee (that includes duties of the Nomination Committee) or you have a Governance Committee and a Nomination Committee.
3. Establish a Finance Vice Chair
 - A. Finance Vice Chair duties: Strategic Planning, Financial Policy and Procedures, Budget, Financial Oversight & contracts, Investments, Audits
 - B. Treasurer duties: Operational Issues, Cash Flow, Deposits, Disbursements, Bookkeeping, Financial Reports
 - C. Division of duties provides good check and balances
 - D. Bank Statements get sent to the Finance Vice Chair – not to the Treasurer
4. Mandated to adopt the Template if HOD passes
 - A. Allows for easier adoption of changes

- B. Those elements that are mandated are in regular type, optional or choice items are in italics
 - C. Hope that using one template will allow for more flexibility in the LSC to effect changes because they will be in the Policies and Procedures
 - D. When Leap reviews are done they will be easier to evaluate and approve
5. If passed by HOD, effective date will be January 1, 2020
 - A. Leap will work with the LSCs so that a change in ByLaws that are in the making but have not gone through the LSC HOD, and USA approval process can still be considered if the hold up is the date of the HOD and the USA approval process.
 - B. Julie Baird is considering reviewing the changed by-laws as an LSC prior to them getting passed by the LSC HOD and approving for immediate effectiveness when passed by the HOD (provided there are no changes when it goes through the HOD)
 6. There is a document up on Sched that shows what goes in the By-Laws and what goes in the Policy and Procedures
 7. If there is going to be a change in structure as a result of the By-Laws changes the LSC should have a transition plan (which includes moving things to the P&P, and how the offices will transition). Check with the state regulations for BODs of non-profits, does the Chair need to be elected, which positions can be appointed, etc.
 8. There will be a document on Sched about transition of structure and some models of how some LSCs are planning it.

Western Zones Business Meeting, Thursday, Sept 27

1. We had our first Zone meet in 1979 before any other Zone. Last year we had our 40th Age Group meet (721 swimmers, 60 officials) and 10th Senior Meet (1277 swimmers, 44 officials). We had our first Western Zone Team attend a National D&I Meet and we did very well, and we had our Western Zone D&I camp in San Diego.
2. Dale Aman: Working on better ways to communicate on the Western Zone, and a lot is on the website [Western Zone Swimming.org](http://WesternZoneSwimming.org)
3. Debbie Baldwin – Treasurer’s Report: Everything went pretty much even except for Diversity Camp which ran over the budget by about \$10,000. This was covered by the accumulated funds for the past 2 years for D&I that were not accessed. Now the D&I fund needs replenishment and there is a motion to do those by collecting \$.10 per swimmer registered from each LSC.
4. Athlete Report – continue to work on getting athletes onto the athletes’ committee
5. Diversity and Inclusion All Star Team was very successful

6. Preparation for Western Zone meets especially Age Group should have an LSC contact – ours is Jeanette Soe
7. Time Standards for Seniors are up – no change
8. Time Standards are almost done and will be posted shortly
9. Report on Age Group Championship that took place at Roseville (Sierra Nevada, California Capital Aquatics)
 - A. First time we allowed charging gate fees -500 adults all meet pass at \$50, 150 students all meet pass at \$20, and \$7 one day pass.
 - B. With the Gate fee the team was able to make a total of \$3181 net revenue from the meet – not much for all the effort but it made the meet something that would not put up with a loss
 - C. That was a deterrent last year so that we had no bidders for the Age Group Meet
 - D. Some learnings
 - 1) Be sure to distinguish between meet passes and officials/swimmers passes so they cannot go on deck with it, get special parking privileges
 - 2) Offer purchase on line and have a will call desk
 - 3) Have cash line and credit card line
10. Report from Clovis Senior Championship meet:
 - A. Went well,
 - B. Need to consider having a 3rd pool to be used to run the 1500 in three pools (it is available at Clovis).
 - C. Need to have more officials since we are covering 2 pools simultaneously for prelims
 - D. Had backstroke ledges for one side of the pool. Looking to purchase them for the other side.
 - E. Similarly, looking to get track start wedges for starter blocks on the turn side so 50 meter swimmers will have them also.
11. Mike Dilli – Officials Chair
 - A. Only Zone that has an Official's reimbursement program
 - 1) Need to work 80% of the meet
 - 2) 35 officials qualified in Age Group meet

- 3) 23 officials qualified in the Senior Meet
 - 4) Reimbursements have all been sent out
 - B. Western Zones has 6 Sectionals – run by Coaches Sectional Committees, but we supply the officials to those meets as well
 - 1) This December the Gold Zone (South) is opening up the meet to other LSCs besides CA and Nev LSC.
 - 2) This meet can take 700 swimmers, is always undersubscribed and so they believe they can take up to 250 Swimmers outside of the LSC
 - 3) They will monitor and make sure they do not violate USA Swimming's sectional requirements
12. Western Zone D&I
- A. Western Zone D&I Camp had 48 athletes, 14 LSCs represented
 - B. Task force looking into combining efforts of D&I and Disability
 - C. Thanks for financial support to allow all this – and request for \$.10 per swimmer to replenish D&I as we did in the past.
13. Paris Jacobs liaison to Foundation – encouraging we support it
14. USANA – athlete presentation about being aware of substances that are banned, including some regular medications (too many puffs), supplements, and recreational use. Encourage education of all athletes.
15. LSC Development Committee – encouraging bright ideas and 2 of our LSCs Alaska and San Diego Imperial have entries
16. Safety Committee – Mary Jo Swalley
- A. Reminding about the motion to HOD for required Safety Director at every meet
 - B. Consider the Hammerhead caps for young swimmers to protect from concussions.
17. 2019 Age Group Meet will be at Mt Hood in Oregon – start making reservations for rooms and getting buses because that is a busy time of the year. Meet announcement should be up any time soon.
18. Zone Board of Review – LSCs should correct or add people from their LSCs to be the ones who can be called on for the Zone Board of Review
19. Bid for Age Group Championship in 2020 – Hawaii at Kihei in Maui. Can include an open water competition.
20. Bid for Senior Championships in 2020 – Clovis again

21. Gender Identity Task Force – Motion R1 is to establish Competitor Category which consists of Male Gender and Female Gender. Swimmers are to swim in their Category of declaration.
22. Diversity and Inclusive – Selection process to host 2020 Winter Zone Diversity Camp will be open to bidding on January, 2019 and will be open for 60 days
 - A. Submit bid to Zone Committee Coordinator
 - B. The D&I Chairs will select on April 15th, 2019
23. Vote for Zone Director Coach – Sean Redman from San Diego Imperial was reelected
24. 3 Athlete representatives will be voted on tomorrow: Jake Simmon-Alaska, Miriam Scary-Colorado, Marie Da Ville-San Diego

Western Zone's Business Meeting 2 – Friday, 9/28/18

1. Verified that PC has 4 BOR representatives: Darryl Woo, Liv Lyons, Grace Tramack, Robert Mitchell
2. Additional Bid for Age Group Championship in 2020
 - A. Snake River and Inland Empire coshare to host at Mt Hood in Oregon on the original dates August 12-15, 2020.
 - B. Hawaii was going to have to run August 4-8, 2020
 - C. Vote to give the bid to Mt. Hood in Oregon
3. Senior Zone Championship will be on August 4-8, 2020 at Clovis
4. John Simmons, Alaska withdrew his bid for Athlete Rep for Zone because he won a spot on the Athletic Executive Committee
5. Maria Da Villa voted Athlete Rep.
6. All revisions to the By-Laws were accepted
7. P&P changes accepted except \$500 charge to make late entry to Senior Championship Meet. Amendment made to make the penalty \$100 added entry fee, and double the fee for each event entry.

8. \$.10 per year round swimmer will be assessed from each LSC to fund the Diversity Account (\$10,000).
9. Task Force to be created to look into raising money for disability, diversity and safe sport.
10. 400 relays for 10 and unders are eliminated from the Age Group Championship meet. These are being replaced by 10 & Under mixed 200 relays.
11. Budget is approved

Officials Meeting: Burning Issues, Friday, 9/28/18

1. Using Social Media – can be used by LSC officials, giving information about clinics, socials and whatever
 - A. Can use Facebook (oldest generation as audience), Twitter (intermediate generation) and Instagram (young swimmers and parents)
 - B. Always have pictures – Facebook and Twitter have links
 - C. Can stream Facebook live but not at National events – where NBC holds copyrights
 - D. Instagram should be fun and not serious
 - E. Can block profanity and advertisements on these platforms
2. Myths and Legends
 - A. Meets that are Futures and up required the blank uniform
 - B. We see things done at Nationals (almost always for a reason) which may not have any relevance to lower level meets
 - C. Stroke and Turns should review DQs and then sign
 - D. Backstroke ledge – may have toes on the straps (considered the wall) and must have one toe from each foot on the wall
 - E. No requirement that your National level evaluation must be all out of your LSC, or all in your LSC. No requirement on that topic.
 - F. If call is correct and appropriate, the DQ will be upheld regardless of script errors (wrong turn listed, etc.) unless there is confusion regarding the DQ
 - G. Backstroke start – hands must be on the gutter or backstroke grips only

- H. Briefings should be “brief”
- I. Alternating kick means the legs are moving in opposite directions. They may cross while moving in the same direction
- J. If hands enter the water a little short in the butterfly (arms not totally straight) it is still legal
- K. We are not USADA so we do not rule on drug issues if we see a swimmer sniff or drink a substance – we might note it.
- L. N2 AR needs to also be an N2 Deck Ref - This is because the initial model of Admin was to have someone who can step in behind the Meet Referee. Admin Referee, needs to be versed in the dry side and wet side.
 - 1) AO was developed to allow people interested in doing time verification and the other dry side admin activities to be able to function (not interested in doing wet side stuff.
 - 2) AO was supposed to be level 1 only. But as there was more interest it was decided to create a level 2. There is no level 3.
 - 3) On doing wet side an AO can move up the AR track once picking up the Deck Ref N2.
 - 4) Only allow ARs at Futures levels of meets and higher.
- M. Concussions: should really be followed up by the coach. We have no way that a Meet Referee at one meet is aware of whether a concussion occurred at another meet and whether the swimmer is cleared.
- N. Officials’ Chair for LSC – some appointed, some elected. If elected and sitting on BOD they are subject to term limits. If appointed and not on the BOD there is no term restriction.
- O. If a swimmer has a certain injury (groin injury for instance) they could be medically excused from a breast stroke event, but then can swim a freestyle event. Need to look at circumstances of injury
- P. Hands can be stacked in the streamline part of the breast stroke (we are not being that infantesimal in our determination)
- Q. Differentiation of undulation versus downward butterfly kick really has to be seen for true clarity (it’s downward with propulsion, rather than following the hips.)

Rules and Regulations

1. Rules of note

- A. Technical suits for 12 and Under will be banned at all meets except the Nationals, Junior Nationals, Futures, and Sectionals. They will not be allowed for Pro Series. This will not take effect until sometime 2020.
 - B. No individual ledges are allowed. They must be uniformly available for everyone.
 - C. New Bylaws template for all LSC has been approved
2. New head of Rules and Regulations - Clark Hammond