USA Swimming Convention – Marie and Leo Lin

**Officials Committee Update:**

1. James Cahn (LSC Liaison): handles LSC Official’s Chair communication. 1) They have quarterly telephone conferences where they share information. Next step is to figure out how to disseminate that information to the officials throughout the LSC. 2) They have set up a share file so training and teaching presentations developed by any LSC which appear to be excellent can be shared with all the LSCs. They are asking that the LSCs send in any the might have.
2. Lucy Duncan (Education Chair): They have simplified the forms for requests and recommendations for evaluation and the criteria for advance to level N2 and N3 – all to try and get consistency across the LSCs. Request they be informed of outdated material on the website, or contradictions.
3. Sandra Drake (Open Water): focusing on training Open Water Officials. There will be formal training clinic this year on April 7-10 at Ft Myers Florida. Please nominate someone from your LSC to attend.
4. Bob Griffith (OTS): Simplifying the documents as Lucy said. They had 170 Officials from Nationals etc. to certify as evaluators on the National Level. Last year they certified or recertified 1996 applications at the National Level. So far this year they have processed 1809. Hi on their list of goals is to get the LSC and National Ceritifications on Deck Pass. 58 of the 59 LSCs are using the OTS to list their LSC certifications.
5. Melissa Hellervik-Bing (Mentoring): Evaluators have difficulty because there are so many different procedures and standards across the LSCs. They are working on consistency and trying to simplify this. There will be an on-line live meeting to help people know what to look for to know someone is ready to move up to the next level. There were a number of people who went to San Antonio who can be added to the list of mentors for Level 3. She will be putting this out.
6. Scott Mengelkoch (Communication): Handles the Official’s Blog and the Maxwell Award for outstanding official. If you have a nomination send it to Gena Mensay. He also handles the monthly news letter and is always looking for articles. They need to be 300-400 words in length because that is the limit for Swim World.
7. Bill Rose (Testing): Have done away with Part II of the test. The testing will only be on the content of the rules (not location). They do the updating of the test from April 15 – May 1. They have also go the NCAA test up as of September 1. Joe Woo and Paul Jones have a big part in helping Bill Rose get all the questions balanced and organized.
8. Jay Thomas (R&R):Update on some of the rules changes 1) clarification that letters waiving swimsuit restrictions will not list the type of reason for the waiving – for privacy concern. It will just state what is being waived. Swimmers to bring it to each meet and show it to the Official in charge. 2) Interpretations section with different scenarios have all been cleaned up and updated. 3) Timing of butterfly kick in the breast stroke has been clarified and made it to this year’s rules. 4) Deck Changing – encouraging an corrections to timing backups because there is so much human variability. Timing adjustments will be limited to lost heats, and obvious problems.
9. Carol Zaleski (FINA): 1) FINA interpretation of false start does not change anything we do. 2) Clarification regarding the freestyle turn onto the back for underwater kicks (Ryan Lochte turn). It is legal in regular freestyle. However, in IM and in Medley Relay, a turn in the freestyle leg must result in the swimmer being on or past vertical to the breast when the feet leave the wall. This is because 1/4 of the race must be in the stroke. Definition of backstroke is anything on the back. So it would also apply to the intermediate turn in the freestyle leg. 3) FINA is adopting our now stroke and turn training video just taking out the shots where officials are raising their hand for a disqualification (FINA does not raise hands). They will take off the USA Swimming and stick in FINA).
10. Dan McAllen (VP Program Operations): 1) Adding a 4th Futures in the West, 2) Pro Series (there will be 7) – Santa Clara’s Referee is Jackie Allender, 3) 2016 US Open will be at Univ of Minnesota for August 2-6, and Juniors on August 8-12. 4) Reviewed the video of camera filming of underwater on the breaststroke. Will be trying to have that incorporated at FINA and we are adjusting our rules to allow for approved camera and video for confirming or overturning DQs.

**Rules Regulations Summary:**

1. Summary of activities: 1) No FINA changes except the freestyle turn in IMs and Medley Relay where the swimmer must be at or past vertical on the breast when the feet leave the wall. 2) The water at Rio is being checked e:very two weeks in preparation for open water and other water sports in Rio. 3) YMCA swimmers are making themselves known by doing some spectacular performances in some meets. 4) NCAA – no changes funtil 2017 but there were over 40 changes in rules this year. As of September 1, we can take an NCAA test online. 5) NFHS (high school) – has dropped the prohibition for Jewelry (except for a few states that wished to retain it ). CA is not one of them
2. R-1: Clarified definition of Deck Changing
3. R-4: Clarifying that waiver letters for swimsuits will not listed reason (for privacy purposes, but we are informed that transgender comfort issues will be included)
4. R-5: Video footage from approved cameras (with prior written approval of the Vice President Operations) will be accepted to confirm or overturn disqualifications. It will not be used to initiate a disqualification.
5. R-6: Will no longer make time adjustments for backup times, except in the case of an entire heat being lost
6. R-12 : Clarification that for change of affiliation the 120 day count starts with last open competition for past team (closed meets don’t count) and swimmers cannot swim any open or closed meet for the new team during the 120 days.
7. R-13: No individual or group member of USA Swimming shall coach or give swim related advice to a swimmer who is serving a period of ineligibility or provisional suspension for an anti-doping rule violation.
8. R-15: Athlete to athlete bullying will no longer go to National Review Board unless it is a severe case. It will be handled on the LSC level in an educational way.
9. R-16: Prohibition of an individual who has been banned by USA Swimming or ineligible to be as USA Swimming Member, from working on the deck of a USA Swim meet as a timer, Colorado operator, marshall of anything else connected with the swimming activity.
10. R-18: The filing of a complaint to the National Board of Review, will first be subject to an inquiry, and if found necessary will then have an investigation.
11. R-22: Prohibition of Employees of USA Swimming (already in place), Zones and LSCs from serving as a voting member of the Board of Directors. **(FAILED)**
12. R-23: Clarification of the role of the Rules and Regulation Committee, with regard to new legislation proposed by a National Task Force or National Committee, is to check to make sure that legislation proposed does not violate existing rules, and fits in the appropriate place where it is proposed. They may debate the merits of the proposed amendments and provide a recommendation of approval or no recommendation, but should not recommend rejection allowing the HOD to review the recommendation of the Task Force or Committee (for which this is a speciality) without the negative influence of the R&R committee which is not a mini-HOD. **(FAILED)**
13. R-24: Safe Sport Coordinator should be a voting member of the LSC Board of Directors.
14. R-25: Athletes should represent 20% of any voting Committee in USA Swimming, including Zones and LSCs.

**International Officiating**

1. USA Swimming invites people to do international swimming.
2. Apply to get on the FINA list. USA has 5 slots at any time, 2 starters and 2 referee. They are selected by the BOD for 4 year terms, 2 every 2 years creating 2 lists for National FINA events. Criteria include participating as referees and starters at National Championship meets. The maximum age of an official is 65 during the year of competition.
3. Other competitions may come up that are not FINA, but rather UANA. Those are PAN AM games and World University Games

**Burning Issues for Officials**

1. Finding N3 level evaluators is the most difficult during April/March as this is the time for lots of Championship meets, Sectionals, Juniors, Nationals, and now Futures meets. We are especially short on Admin N3 final evaluators. Working on developing them.
2. N2 evaluators can be selected by local Official Chairs. Criteria is that they are N2s in the position they are evaluating and they are good at “mentoring”, and promoting the growth of officials.
3. USA and Swims Data Base now accepts Mixed Gender Relay Times. Relays must be 2 males, and 2 females. Other types of mixed gender relays (3 of one gender, 1 of the other, or all 4 the same gender) are ineligible. If you want times accepted from a meet that allows a variety of types of mixes, all but the 2 males and 2 females relays must be eliminated from the data base to be sent to swims. Otherwise all the relays will not be accepted. Transgender swimmers are considered in their identified gender.
4. Minutes from the quarterly telephone conference with the LSC Officials Chairs are being posted on the website now, so that other officials can pull them down and read the information. They are continuing to work on getting better ways of disseminating information besides relying on the LSC Official’s Chair to send it down. However, Jim will not bypass the LSC Official’s chair with regard to “pushing out” information.
5. In meets where there are bonus final, or other finals where there is not a score or award, you may go further down the alternate list if the 1st 2 alternates do not show up, provided there is a way to know the correct order (results available) and the swimmer is immediately available.
6. One rule of thumb for distinguishing an undulating movement downward versus a butterfly kick in the breaststroke is the following. If the downward movement is a continuous movement so that the legs, and feet continue to move in a recovery motion that is an undulation. If they stop after the downward movement it is a butterfly kick.
7. Pro Series Meets will now be considered National Meets for the N3 qualification to become an N3 evaluator.
8. Long skirt for finals is defined as any skirt that goes below the knee.
9. When getting the up to date documents go directly to the document. If you use the search button (either Google or USA website button) you may get archived documents instead of the latest up to date document.
10. Everyone is evaluated at National Meets – Nationals, Open, Juniors, and Pro Series
11. When a dysfunctional official effects the swimmers (cannot judge appropriately) negatively they must not do that function on the deck.
12. Stroke and Turns can be encouraged to understand when questions are beginning asked about what they saw, the Deck Referee is trying to get an accurate picture of something they have not seen so that they can accurately describe and explain the call to a coach if asked.

**Western Zones Update**

1. Age Group Meet this year had approximately the same number of swimmers as last year, 684 (Federal Way 2014), 662 (Hawaii 2015). There were almost 600 splashes and 28 records set. Because it was a closed deck, they used access to the deck as an incentive to get parents to volunteer to handle jobs at the meet. This worked very well. The meet made about $6000. This was the first time they also had an open water event and they had 234 entries with 204 actual swims for the 1K, 1K, and 3K(13-14 year olds).The
2. Senior Meet had approximately the same number of swimmers as last year 1185 (2014), and 1170 (2015) but the number of splashes went down from 6200 to around 5654. However there were a lot of swimmers who were close to times so last year time trials were around 500+, whereas this year there were 626. It may be they are attracting more swimmers. Coaches liked the 2 pool concept and this seems to fit the needs of the target group.
3. 2017 Age Group Championship (August 9-12) will be at Roseville, CA in the Summer Saunders Pool, supported by Sierra Nevada
4. 2017 Senior Meet will be at Clovis again.

**Western Zone’s Official’s Caucas**

1. Discussion of the Mentor/Mentee program for Officials. Each LSC can nominate (and should) nominate two officials to go to Age Group, and another two to go to the Senior Meet. There is housing that is provided in a block of rooms, but you have to stay in those blocks of rooms.
2. There is also the second program which takes a pot of money designated for reimbursing expenses for the officials working the meet. The money is divided among all the applicants to that program.
3. Discussed getting out information to let Mentors know what te expectation is for them, and also information regarding expectations for the Mentee.
4. Really need to find ways to attract officials to cover the Senior Meet (2 pools and basically 30 officials to cover that meet). There were many more to Age Group because parents will come to see their swimmers (85 last year).
5. Task Force set up to determine what the expectations are for the Mentors and Mentees.
6. Task Force set up to see how to adjust how financials are applied because in many cases the officials cannot commit until late when they know their swimmer made it and also those who will be rooming with their child, etc.
7. Debbie Baldwin reelected Secretary, Deena Culpepper elected Western Zone Swimming Championship Coordinator, Dave Coddington reelected Non-coach Director.

**HOD**

1. Membership: slight drop in athletes from 2014 (2013 was the high). Outreach increased by about 1000. Both Coach and Officials membership has increased.
2. USSIC (United States Swimming Insurance Company): Founded in 1988 during insurance crisis, as an offshore insurance company and for 26 years insured only United States Swimming and covering all United States Swimming issues. Paid out all liabilities including all the sexual abuse cases. $5 million was laid out by USA Swimming, and all this has been paid back. We have paid out $36 million in premiums, and the company has assets are presently $21 million. With the present changes in legislation it has become more advantageous to purchase the insurance from outside and we did so starting in the year 2014. In the meantime USSIC is now moved to “run-off mode”, which means it will continue to cover any issues that arise from anything happening previous to 2014. USSIC has been moved from after offshore back to the US in Washington DC, as of last December.
3. USA Swimming Foundation: Missy Franklin is the newest ambassador for the foundation and has made it her charity of choice. In their Saving Lives program for 2014 800,000 swimmers took lessons with 13% getting scholarship aid. 18,000 joined a USA swimming team from the program. In the Building Champions side $600,000 was given directly to athletes from the National Team for their support. There are 3 branches of giving from the foundation: Saving Lives, Club Development, Direct National Team Athlete support.
4. Credentials: 586 Credentials available, 472 Credentials were distributed
5. USA Swimming State of the Sport Report:
6. Build the Base: 62% retention for 12 and under swimmers, 90% retention of 13 and over swimmers. USA Swimming is partnering with other City, and Parks and Recreation programs in urban centers to promote swimming. Diversity swimmers have increased. One big obstacle to expanding swimmers is the difficulty in finding water. The USA Swimming’s Facility Department has focused on helping cities, clubs, etc. build new or refurbish old pools. Have more investments to Club Development and to education of coaches. At this point the leap program has 48 LSCs at level 1, 7 at level 2, and 3 to level 3.
7. Promoting the Sport: Collaborate with NBC to create videos entitled Race for the Gold. Redesigning the website which should be launched be the next summer Olympic Trials, which NBC will broadcast. Worked on project Swim Today which promotes that swimming is the funnest sport. Piloting Swim Jitsu which is an obstacle course in the pool to promote swimming and fun in the water.
8. Achieving and Sustaining Competitive Success: Increasing international competition as we are approaching the Olympics. Increased investment in the Junior National Team Programs, including increased entrance in international competitions. Focusing on developing Team Culture. Women’s Olympic Team coach will be David Marsh, and the Men’s Olympic Team coach will be Bob Bowman.
9. Challenges: Participation in youth sports has dropped across the US in all sports including swimming. College Swimming has been changing. In the last 3 years USA Swimming as committed funds to support college coaches in the programs, and have partnered with NCAA as full partners in swimming. Safe Sport continues a major focus. Also focused on water quality issues and are keeping the open water Olympic Team Swimmers posted as these issues are addressed in Rio.
10. 2016 Budget passed. We are headed to break even in 2015.
11. Zone Directors elections: Central Zone Coach Director- John Bradley, Eastern Zone Non-Coach Director – Mary Turner, Southern Zone Coach Director – John Roy, Western Zone Non-Coach Director – Dave Coddington.