



PACIFIC SWIMMING COMMITTEE REPORT

To be submitted to boardmeeting@pacswim.org the Sunday prior to the next BOD meeting

Pacific Swimming Senior Committee Report for Pacific Swimming House of Delegates Spring 2024

Active Committee Members:

Asher Green
Ben Chung
Jon Hiett
Ellie Burkhardt
Kevin Zacher
Brooke Bennett
Don Heidary
Kat Matheson
Erik Scalise
Justin Ely
Annie Stein
Aly Cutforth

Guests: Veronica Hernandez, Lehla Irwin

Liaison to the Board: Asher Green

Dates of meetings: 26MAY24, 24JUNE24, 29JUL24, 26AUG24, 23SEP24

Date of next meeting: 28OCT24

Action items completed:

- I. Passed a surcharge for Senior meets to help with their profitability.
- II. Approved \$700 from Senior budget and recommended \$3000 from Pacific Swimming to support the Donner open water meet.
- III. Aly Cutworth volunteered to serve as Senior Committee representative on the DDEI Committee.
- IV. Met in person and laid out an "ideal" Senior meet schedule template to ensure a logical progression throughout the year. These are meets we'd like to see offered each year without implying that traditional meets are taken off the schedule. (See below)
- V. Passed (then postponed until 1January25) policies intending to better control Senior meet size and early closure due to capacity. Despite an obvious need for Senior meet reform, the policies have not been universally embraced.
 - a. Restrict Senior meets to 13-over swimmers.
 - b. Enforce Senior Open time standards for all ages.
 - c. Suggested that meet hosts may run split sessions (flights) when meets are large.

- d. Suggested that it would be permissible for two Senior meets to be held on the same weekend if there is sufficient demand.
- VI. Adopted Senior Committee Mission Statement: "The Senior Committee works to ensure that quality competitive opportunities exist for Pacific Swimming senior swimmers of all ability levels and supports swimmers who aspire to compete at the highest levels of the sport."

Action items in progress/pending:

- I. At an extended in-person May meeting, the Senior Committee developed a recommended Senior Meet schedule template. With so many Senior meets not being picked up by host teams, it is not clear how to proceed to implement this schedule. Increased surcharges are now allowed and we have some money budgeted to incentivize Senior meet hosting, but we might have a long way to go before we can provide an ideal annual schedule for our Senior swimmers. Our recommendation follows. The Senior meet schedule isn't restricted to just these meets but the committee feels that this schedule, at a minimum, offers Senior swimmers a functional template for opportunity and advancement.
 - a. Take 15-18 year olds out of Far Westerns and provide a Senior meet or meets for them instead.
 - b. Schedule the following (some of these meets are already established):
 - i. Senior Championship meet in February before CIF competition begins.
 - 1. Make it a "true" Senior Championship with high production values and buy-in from all the top teams.
 - ii. April long course Senior meet.
 - iii. Senior Open type of meet in early June.
 - iv. Another Senior Open type of meet in late June.
 - v. Senior Trials/Finals meet the weekend after Summer Senior Sectionals with a ceiling of Futures time standards.
 - vi. Senior Open in November before Thanksgiving.
 - vii. Senior Prelims/Finals meet also in November.
 - viii. Senior Prelims/Finals meet in December.
 - 1. Schedule this meet such that Sectional standards can be achieved.
- II. We need to refine the policies regarding Senior meets to solve the problems related to meet size while listening to and supporting the meet hosts.
 - a. We also need to figure out how to serve those Senior swimmers who no longer qualify for Senior Open meets.
 - b. We may need new time standards to reflect desired meet sizes.
- III. We need to figure out how to ensure that more Senior meets are picked up by hosts.
- IV. We have had very preliminary discussions regarding Senior level camps.

Announcements: none.

Questions for the Board/Larger Group: none.

Notes/other: Pacific Swimming has a multitude of outstanding coaches and high performing teams and swimmers to go with its tremendous history of Senior swimming. Despite our strengths, the Senior program is facing considerable adversity.

Our Senior meet program is broken:

- I. Many are too large to provide a quality experience and/or close too early, or they are too small to be worth hosting.
- II. Not all Senior swimmers have the opportunity to swim in appropriate level meets.
- III. Traditional hosts are in danger of burning out and we don't have enough teams willing to host Senior meets, even ones that we deem as important.
- IV. We don't offer all the meets that our members want, so teams are filling their needs in alternative ways, like traveling out of the LSC for meets or running their own Super League. Pacific Swimming should provide a schedule such that these choices are optional and not necessary.

As a committee, there is a number of things that we can improve to move things in the right direction:

- I. Improve engagement with Senior stakeholders – athletes, coaches, officials, meet hosts, administrators, etc – to better acquire data, opinions, ideas, and action plans, and to better share information and intentions.
- II. Figure out how to best actualize Senior Committee recommendations, plans, and intentions; how to move from ideal and theoretical to real world implementation.