



2025 CENTRAL ZONE EAST SPRING SPEEDO SECTIONALS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY NATATORIUM – INDIANAPOLIS

MARCH 27 – 30, 2025

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES: THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

Planning Committee Members – Those present are highlighted:

- Anissa Kanzari, Administrative Advisor
- Cindy Dial: Outgoing Section Chair
- Ed Merklings: IU Natatorium Director
- Erin Crabtree: Incoming Section Chair
- Jeff Cooper: Michigan
- John Gibson: Indiana
- Kyle Goodrich: Ohio
- Arlene McDonald: Co-Meet Director

Discussion Topics:

1. Reflections on 2024 Spring (Indianapolis) and 2024 Summer Sectionals (Ohio State)
 - There seemed to be more college athlete participation this year; in all likelihood that will decrease in the non-Trials years of the Quad.
 - The summer meet seemed to be on the smaller side.
2. Meet Announcement Review/Suggestions
 - The following permanent changes were determined:
 - a) *Prelims start time to be changed from 9:00 AM to 8:30 AM. (This has been the trend for the last few years based on entries.)*
 - b) *Move the 400 Freestyle events (#24 & #25) to the end of Saturday's preliminary session. (This has also been the practice for the last few years.)*
 - There was a coach suggestion from 2024 to build breaks into the meet when the Instructional Pool is closed from 8:30 – 11:00 on Saturday morning for University programming to eliminate overcrowding in the diving well. *The decision was made to revisit this at the October call; Arlene to send out the session reports from 2024 in advance of the meeting. (Sent via email on August 30.)*
 - Recommendation - Modify the Eligibility Section: Use verbiage consistent with other USA Swimming supported competitions. Qualifying times must be in SWIMS and achieved at a USA Swimming sanctioned, approved, or observed meet; an athlete must be a Premium or outreach member at the time of the qualifying swim. *This recommendation was unanimously approved by the committee. Anissa has sent the verbiage to Arlene; she will include it in the next draft of the Meet Announcement.*
 - Recommendation - Disability Swimmer Entries to go through OME instead of an email to the Entry Chair and Meet Director: *This was done at Ohio State this summer. Disability athletes would be entered at the Sectional Cut using the Custom Times feature. Then instead of putting the meet name (where the time was achieved) in the OME text field, the entry person would type the swimmer's time and the disability classification. This process was agreed upon by the committee. The verbiage in the Meet Announcement will be modified to reflect this change.*
 - Recommendation: Disability Swimmers to Positive Check-In for Finals: *This was endorsed by the committee since some Para athletes do not wish to swim in Finals. The positive check-in period would be*

the same as the 30-minute scratch period for finals for other athletes. The Meet Announcement will be revised to reflect this practice.

- *Consideration - Order of Finals to change to A, B, C, D, Para instead of C,B,A,D, Para because of alternates not being able to move up: The present C,B,A,D, Para format was designed for efficient timelines for awards breaks. The A finalists stage for awards during the D finals with awards immediately following the D heat or Para heat if there is one. The committee determined that to make this change, we need more feedback from Section coaches. We will include this question on the fall 2024 Intent to Participate form.*
- *Consideration - Time Trials – Do we want to add a limit for the meet or keep it at cannot exceed 3 events per day as the limit? It was determined that we needed to reserve the right to limit time trials in case timelines dictate. This statement will be added to the Meet Announcement: Time trials may be limited to two per athlete for the meet based on published pre-scratch timelines.*
- *Consideration - Do we want to continue to use electronic forms or switch back to paper forms? There was general consensus that we would keep the electronic forms.*
- *Question - Unpaid Fines Section: Does this need to remain – are there other unpaid fines except for buying back into the competition? If that is the only one, the payment must be made prior to the swim, so there should be no unpaid fines. There could be other fees – ex. any that might be associated with a protest. Therefore, the decision was made to retain that statement in the Meet Announcement.*
- *Recommendation - Change the virtual Technical Meeting to 8:00 PM Eastern to allow for coaches to finish practices: There was universal agreement to make this change. The Meet Announcement will be modified to reflect this new time.*

3. Time Standards Review

- *In-Section Qualifying Standards: These were revised last year; the consensus was that we need to focus on modifying the bonus standards. Erin to connect with Jeff to offer any recommendations at the October meeting. Arlene to send out the meet back-up from 2024 to the committee. (Sent via email on August 30.)*
- *Out-of-Section Qualifying Standards: These will remain USA Swimming's 2025 Maximum Sectionals Time Standards.*
- *Bonus Standards: Erin will contact Jeff to start work on these revisions to present at the October meeting. The consensus was that the 200 Free and 200 IM bonus times need to be faster; there may be others for consideration.*

4. Planning for 2025

- *In-Section Intent-to-Participate Process: Keep the same timeline as in previous years. (Last year's deadline was Friday, December 22.) The online Intent-to-Participate form for the 2025 meet will open on October 20, 2024, with a December 20, 2024, deadline. The link to the online Intent-to-Participate form with instructions will be sent out to last year's participating teams and East Section LSC offices the week of October 7. Arlene will set up the online registration form and send to Cindy and Erin to distribute. We will include the questions about order of Finals as outlined above.*
- *Out-of-Section Participation: The consensus was to follow the same process as before with the previous year's teams getting first consideration (Tier 1) for the out-of-section spots. Arlene has already sent out an inquiry to last year's teams asking for a response no later than September 10. To date, we have received confirmation from the following teams:*
 - a) Lakeside (KY)
 - b) Dynamo (GA)
 - c) SwimMAC (NC)
 - d) *To date, Arlene has not heard from the following 2024 Tier 1 teams and will send a reminder prior to September 10: Riptide (MN); Scarlet (NJ); and Alto (PC).*
- *Relay-Only Athletes and Cap: Tabled to next meeting.*

- Fall Planning Timeline: *The consensus was to keep the same cadence as last year. Arlene will revise the Planning Calendar to present at October meeting.*

5. Review of Next Steps & Tasks

- Arlene to send 2024 meet back-up and timelines to committee. (Completed – Sent via email on August 30).
- Erin to contact Jeff to start revisions on time standards with focus on the bonus time standards to present at October meeting.
- Arlene to initiate revisions to the meet announcement and coordinate with Anissa to have those modifications ready to present for the October meeting.
- Arlene to revise Participant Planning Calendar for review at October meeting.
- Arlene to draft communication to in-section LSCs about Intent-to-Participate process for the meet to submit to Cindy and Erin.

6. Date & Time of Next Planning Meeting: **Wednesday, October 2, at 1:00 PM Eastern Time**