

Eastern Zone Spring Meeting – Report of AMS Attendees
Virginia Beach, VA
May 8-9, 2015

Attendees:

Brian Blackwell, SVSC, Zone Head Coach, ZBOR Member
Patrick Lersch, USCS, At-Large Athlete BOD Member, ZBOR Member
Mike Kristufek, WHAT, AMS Coach Representative
Scott Wilshire, MLAC, General Chair

Agenda:

Friday, May 8th, 2015

5:00 pm – Budget Committee Meeting

6:00 pm – Technical Meeting

Saturday, May 9th, 2015

8:00 am – General Chair Meeting

9:00 am – Eastern Zone General Meeting

1:00 pm – Diversity Chair Meeting

1:00 pm – Athlete's Meeting

Budget Committee

- Funds are on deposit with USA Swimming. Budget request form to be posted on EZ website and will require 2 of 3 (preferably 3) signatures: Budget Committee Chair, EZ Director, Secretary/Treasurer.
- Approval of spending to be submitted in advance.
- Financial Report (Attached)
- Policies to be developed – Reimbursement policy, guidelines addressing size of EZ Fund – discussion regarding targeted funds, adjustment of LSC contributions, reimbursement or requests for increases.
- Budget period – September – September.

Technical Planning Meeting

- See Agenda and Report (attached)

General Chair Meeting

- EZ Athlete Rep to be added to Budget Committee
- Robert Broyles – VP Administration
 - o On-line registration to be implemented for 2017 registration year. Registrations will be by clubs (not parents) through vendor (e.g. Team Manager). Clubs will reconcile errors and correct. Registrations will be held in a holding tank to allow reconciliation of errors prior to LSC Registrar downloading.
 - o Zone Workshop – April 2016 in Denver for General Chairs, Times, Registration, Safe Sport. Preference for all four to attend – will roll out

on-line registration. All Zones will be included. 2017 Workshop will be individual Zones.

- o Rule changes due by 5/15, Rules Committee meeting June 4.
- o Proposal by athletes proposing of the 3 LSC votes, 1 goes to Athlete. Additional review/discussion expected.
- o Over the coming year, outside consultants will be evaluating Zone/LSC structures and proposing recommended changes.
- **ACTION (Luke) – Post link on AMS Website to ZBOR page.**
- Connecticut Swimming has very good section on its website addressing recruiting.
- Work to be presented to USA Swimming staff next week on transgender athletes.
- Discussed PA Act 153 and its potential impact on LSC, other states considering similar legislation.

General Meeting

- Finance Committee. Proposal to add Ty Seymore to Committee – M/S/A
- Proposed finance policies to be out late June/July.
- Financial Report (attached) approval – M/S/A
- Zone Director's report (posted on EZ website)
 - o Encourage LSCs to focus efforts/presentation on Build-Promote-Achieve format.
 - o Reminder of funding available for Swimposiums.
 - o Sponsorships – ATT and Marriott signed on, awaiting staff change at Mutual of Omaha to complete.
 - o Fall Regional Coaches Clinic August 14-16th to be held in Norfolk VA
 - o The Last Gold movie – USA Swimming looking at rolling this out more broadly.
 - o **ACTION (Luke) – Post link on AMS Website Homepage to USA Swimming Foundation. Beyond the current Partnership link.**
 - o Suggest including USA Swimming Foundation page in meet announcements.
 - o USA Swimming website to be revamped in 2015. Last update 2004.
 - o International Relations Committee (Greg Eggert)
 - US extremely well positioned in FINA – having representation on 19 of 20 committees.
 - Current FINA controversy around FINA president running for third term.
 - Swimming has moved from tier 2 to tier 1 – higher profile, more \$\$ available.
- Technical Planning
 - o 2015 AG Zone meet – Webster – March 24-26.
 - o Metro submitted an early bid for the August 2016 LC Zone meet to be held at Nassau County Natatorium. Their bid is time sensitive to ensure facility can be reserved. Lengthy discussion on process to consider this out of fairness to other LSCs wishing to bid on this meet. Agreed that for

this meet only, bids will be due by May 18, published to LSCs on May 19, with votes due by May 22, 12:00 pm. M/S/A

- o Lengthy discussion on timing of 2016 LC Sectional meets, currently scheduled for Easter Weekend. Proposal to move meets 1 week later to March 31- April 3. M/S/A
- o Southern Long Course Sectionals will be March 31st-April 3rd at Richmond, hosted by Poseidon at the GRAP(same pool as what summer Zones is) As it is an Olympic year there are 2 long course sites split north and south and 1 short course
- o Short Course Sectionals will be March 31s-April 3rd at Ithaca hosted by Niagara and Syracuse Chargers.
- ZBOR Report
 - o Place link on LSC website. **ACTION Luke**
 - o Guidelines presented for submitting BOR petition – to be posted on EZ website. Draft guidelines attached with one change on timing requirements for payment of submittal fee.
 - o A complaint can be filed to the ZBoR via a link on the EZ swimming website.
 - o A complaint must be submitted within writing within 90 days of the date that the incident occurred or it cannot be considered for review.
 - o The party filing a case for review must submit a \$100 check to the EZ for the case to be reviewed. When questioned as to why the \$100 fee for a submittal, the response was in order to deter frivolous claims.
 - If the complaint is found to be valid, the check will be destroyed.
 - If the complaint is found to have no merit, the check will be cashed.
 - If the complaint is forwarded on to USA Swimming National BoR, the filing party must submit a \$250 check to USA Swimming and the \$100 check to EZBoR will be destroyed
 - Only parties mentioned in the case will be notified of a final decision, which will be provided within 30 days after a verdict is reached.
- Athlete Report
 - o Lots of discussion about northern VA teams leaving to PVS. VA is worried about losing their northern region completely. VA clubs can no longer get adequate practice time in the northern pools either. Northern district/regional meets have had to be moved to southern Virginia, which greatly decreases the number of younger swimmers participating in championship meets.
 - o Gabrielle Werner, who is on the Operational Risk Committee, filled us in on how the committee is discussing water depth, diving regulations, and pick up times.
 - o Paul Stockett from Middle Atlantic created an Athletic Incentive Safe Sport Program for his LSC. It is aimed at spreading the word about Safe Sport and encouraging the Athlete Safe Sport Training. The incentives are based on the percentage of 15&over athletes that complete the training for

a club; 25% receives \$50 for the club, 50% receives \$100, and 75% receives \$150.

- I have a packet, which Paul made, that describes the Program in detail. I will bring it to the next BOD meeting.
- Diversity/Inclusion
 - o Diversity Camp to be held June 25-28 at the University of Maryland.
 - o Diversity focus – Break Barriers, Think Outside of the Box, Build the Base.
- Officials
 - o 3 eligibility protests prior to the start of recent meets. Policy to be developed addressing how to equitably address prior to meet start.
 - o Considering guidelines on covering costs for officials for Zone meets.
 - o **ACTION (BOB M): Provide input to Bob Vincent for LSC officials who could be Zone Meet Referees.**
- Nominations
 - o Zone Director: John McIlhargy (Metro), Mary Turner (VA), Mary Flekenstein (Metro) – declined the nomination.
 - o Technical Chair: Tristan Formon (NJ)
 - o AG Coach Rep: Edgar Perez (Metro)
- Committee Reports
 - o AG Development – Working progression document. Legislation to Rules Committee to consider ban high tech suits for 12&U – pending review. IMX meets doing well. May look at moving Greenville meet to another area as it was the lowest performing meet. Shared services – LSCs can run combined AG Championship meets.
 - o Operational Risk – Legislation being developed for start certification for backstroke starts/backstroke platforms. Additional discussion on Act 153.
 - o Membership – 2016 – option not to print registration cards. Officials are now out of OTS. LSCs encouraged to not print cards. 2017 all registration will be done by Clubs with presentation at 2016 USA-S Convention. Clubs will be responsible for correcting files and be placed in a holding tank before being completely imported.
 - o IRC – Toured Pan Am Games facilities in Toronto – very nice facilities. Decision to be made by June 10 regarding use of Lake Ontario for open water events or shift to alternate site.
 - o Diversity and Inclusion – NCAA has issued policy on transgender athletes. USA Swimming to follow state and federal law.
- New Business
 - o Task force assembled to develop guidelines/plan for EZ Hall of Fame. General Chairs asked to develop list of candidates for inclusion.
- Next EZ Meeting – bidders were VA (Virginia Beach) and Metro (Atlantic City). Voting selected Atlantic City. Dates TBD.
- Max Ritter Award presented to US Anti-Doping Agency – citing international sportsmanship and impact on sports in general.

Diversity Workshop

- CD provided with Diversity resources. To be provided to Dana.
- Diversity Camp – June 25-28 at University of Maryland. There will be tracks for athletes, coaches, and Diversity Chairs.
 - o Friday workshop – LSC progression, best practices – goal to come away with LSC action plan.
 - o Saturday – Tour Washington DC
- General Discussion
 - o Niagara – Buffalo Racers – provides \$100 scholarship for suits, meet entry. Up to \$30 for a female suit and up to \$20 for a mail suit and the remainder to entry fees ((www.buffaloracers.org))
 - o Nationally – 54% of athletes are not checking ethnicity on registration form. This makes tracking diversity trends difficult. While people cannot be forced under law to complete this section, LSCs should encourage this. General discussion on providing incentives to get clubs to complete this. Niagara posts its statistics on its website.
 - o Water safety days – good way to provide outreach to communities. NE Swimming has done for 4 years. Maryland has as well and Potomac Valley.
International Swimming Lesson Day is May 15th and World’s Largest Swimming Lesson is June 18th
 - o Maryland has a grant program with rotating areas of focus. Will be focusing on Diversity.
 - o NE Swimming – provides opportunities for clubs to get \$\$ back based on meeting certain criteria. NE also has policies to fund diversity swimmers for higher level meets.
 - o NE Swimming does an Equipment Drive at its annual HOD.
ACTION: (ATHLETES) – consider this in coordination with Diversity Committee.
 - o Resources: Goggles for Guppies, Women’s Sports Foundation.
 - o Use of grants – Niagara uses a local college to research and write grant applications as part of class projects.
 - o To help sell ideas need to know the city stats to help sell grant proposals
 - o **ACTION: Luke or Laura place Diversity policies on Diversity page so that people have 1 stop shop for how they can help increase diversity.**

Attachments are Posted on the EZ Website

EZ Director Report

EZ Financial Report dated May 9, 2015

EZ Technical Spring Meeting Report

EZ Board of Review Basic Guidelines - Draft