

All Stars 2016 ~ Team Iowa
Age Group Vice Chair Report

Team Iowa Selection Stats:

(The Team Iowa head coach also provided input to this report.)

80 swimmers from 20 Iowa teams were chosen to represent Team Iowa (80 was the athlete limit for the meet set by the host team due to the limited crash area space available)

The 20 teams from the LSC included: ACAC, BLAST, Blaze, CIA, CRAA, DASH, DEC, DMSF, ICE, IFly, Lifetime Fitness, LMST, NIS, PELLA, PSC, RIP, UN-WC, URCH, USSD, WAUK.

Initially 92 athletes framed the team to fill the top 5 spots for each event offered at the meet. Due to the maximum number of allowed athletes, the top 4 from the ISI rankings in each event were used to create the 80-person team. With these 80 swimmers, we had 28 empty spots in events. We were able to fill all but two spots. (This means these 26 open slots were filled by swimmers already on the team that did not have a faster seed time than the top 5 applicants on the ISI rankings.) Only 2 slots of the individual events went without a swimmer for Team Iowa.

12 ~ 9&10 boys	13 ~ 9&10 girls
15 ~ 11&12 boys	13 ~ 11&12 girls
14 ~ 13&14 boys	13 ~ 13&14 girls

Parts/Details of the Selection Process:

All Stars Application

~ Wording for the All Stars 2016 application was not approved by the AGVC prior to being emailed to the teams. Team selection due to the new athlete limit needed to have wording that simply stated "Can you commit to the entire meet and are you willing to swim all the events chosen for you?" versus asking for event preferences and only being considered for some events. This change in wording needed to be clear due to the athlete limit (which was due to the crash area space as dictated by the meet invite).

RECOMMENDATION: The AGVC approves the application prior to sending to the teams.

~ One swimmer brought to our attention they applied to ISI for the All Star meet (email documentation was forwarded and had the correct application email address listed on it). However, they were not on the roster for team selection and would have made the team. This swimmer was not selected to the team and did not swim in the meet. At the time of this report, the ISI Admin is trying verify the claim.

~ Many families voiced they were unsure if their application was received as they did not receive confirmation of receipt.

RECOMMENDATION Applications be sent to the AGVC and the AGVC emails a response to all applicants' a confirmation receipt of the application.

~ Application sent to the Iowa LSC teams: was approximately one month prior to the deadline.

RECOMMENDATION: Send the All Stars application, to all ISI teams within two weeks of receiving meet invite from host team (ideally October 1). Also, the AGVC will look into the possibility of having the application become an online form with automatic confirmation of receipt.

~ Application deadline – was appropriate when the application was sent out to teams: Thursday, December 10.

RECOMMENDATION: Move the deadline to December 1 to allow more time to select and determine the team. (Other LSCs determine their teams in September/October.)

Updated best times deadline

~ The best times qualifying period for team selection as not on the application and it did not match the deadline for submitting the application. The qualifying period was September 1 – December 20. The last week of the qualifying period was not necessary. Waiting an additional week to finalize the team only affected 1 swimmer making the team out of 80.

RECOMMENDATION: Move the updated cutoff times used for the rankings and final team selection to a week earlier (which would have been December 13, 2015) so families may be notified of team selection before December 20 and to include the qualify start and end dates. Seed times would include the most current best times ISI has received by the meet entry deadline date.

Relays

~ All relays were requested by the coaching staff from the database prior to submitting our team entries. Only 9&10 medley relays were provided to the coaching staff.

RECOMMENDATION: The AGVC needs access to the ISI database to build and confirm the relays as well as submit the team's entries to the meet entry chair.

Team Iowa Gear:

~ The logo was a big hit with the swimmers and families.
~ Team gear was mailed in advance to the hotel and easy for the coaching staff to pick up.
~ We had minimal ordering errors for our families. Splash MultiSport was notified of the errors on Friday of the meet (one sweatshirt was missing a name because it was not provided by the family, one paid for stocking hat was missing). SMS was in touch with the coaching staff and receptive to the notifications to rectify the orders.

RECOMMENDATION: Ideally, teams should pick their team colors ahead of time to avoid overlapping in look as many teams were red, white and blue. Our gear was similar to the Midwestern LSC. The AGVC and the Team Iowa apparel vendor will coordinate with the other LSCs in the fall team color selections.

Venue:

The venue is not ideal for a team selection meet due to the numbers of athletes and spectators and the poor air ventilation/quality. However, the host made the most of the situation. They communicated well about rotating out of the stands so all spectators could watch their swimmers compete. The host team also set up a live streaming video of the meet in the crash area. If the other option was no meet, then this venue works. However, Team Iowa was unable to sit together as a team (as they had at ZONES) or communicate easily with the coaching staff. By the end of the meet many coaches and athletes had "pool cough" and other symptoms.

RECOMMENDATION: For Team Iowa to work with other LSCs to find another venue.

Meet Operations:

- ~ The award ceremony did not take place for each individual event due to the timeline constraints.
- ~ Only one Team Iowa swimmer missed an event.
- ~ Only one Team Iowa swimmer was pulled from a relay due to illness.
- ~ An ISI ~ Team Iowa ~ All Stars 2016 Facebook group was created to communicate with families attending the All Stars meet. Seventy-nine of the 80 families were represented within the group.

Coaching Staff:

- ~With 80 swimmers 4 coaches are truly needed to coach effectively and efficiently with our athletes.

RECOMMENDATION for All Stars 2017: 1 head coach, 3 assistant coaches and at a minimum one coach of each gender.

- ~Coaches were not provided with a job description or stipend details until a couple of days prior to the meet.

RECOMMENDATION: Provide the job descriptions and stipend information to the coaches nominated for the coaching assignment in 2017 in advance so they 1) they understand expectations laid out in the code of conduct and 2) if they can financially afford to attend the meet.

- ~The coaching stipends are under the industry standard of coaching salaries. An assistant coach is currently paid \$200 and works 3 days at the meet for at least 20+ hours. They are compensated at a rate of less than \$10/hour. The head coach is paid \$300 and makes less than \$15/hour.

RECOMMENDATION: Pay the coaches what they are worth to the LSC. This may be left up to the ISI Board for discussion: head coach: \$500 asst coach: \$3-400 depending on their roles.

Lodging:

- ~ Our hotel was satisfactory. It was clean and well equipped for our needs; however was far from the venue.

RECOMMENDATION: If All Stars 2017 is in the same location: Hilton Garden or Radisson would be closer. Make the room reservation block now.

Final thought on building Team Iowa for 2017 All Stars...

It would be ideal for the AGVC have full access to all the steps from start to finish of building & creating the team starting with the application process to sending in the entries. As a coach in the trenches you need to start earlier in the process and are the one in the trenches at the meet. These are steps we already do in our daily roles as coaches with our club. Not having access of the team rosters until 2 days before the best times deadline and near the holidays makes it stressful for all involved.

ZONES is a different meet compared to All Stars as the time standards and procedures are more cut and dried.

RECOMMENDATION: A parent and swimmer evaluation is sent to the Team Iowa All Stars participating families for their feedback and insights on the meet, venue, coaching, accommodations, and communication.