

All Stars 2017 ~ Team Iowa
Age Group Vice Chair Report
Submitted by Frankie Hanson January 20, 2017

Team Iowa Selection Stats:

80 swimmers from 18 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 18 teams from the LSC included:

ACAC, BLAST, Blaze, CAST, CIA, DASH, DEC, DMSF, DMET, EISF, ICE, IFly, LMST, PSC, RIP, SEA, USSD, WAUK.

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 added 3 new athletes in the fifth spot of events to reach our allowed amount. Team Iowa had unfilled spots in the following events: 10u girls 100 fly (1) and 13&14 boys: 200 breast (2), 100 fly (1), 200 back (3), 200 IM (2), 100 back (1), 500 free (2), 400 IM (2) and 200 fly (5). Many of these openings were due to the fact the applicants had not swum the events during the qualifying period. The head coach was a part of the decision making process and gave input for the filling in of the last few spots on the team.

On December 1 (the application deadline) we had 113 applications.

On December 13 (one day after the withdraw deadline) we had 102 applications.

Athletes withdrew for a variety of reasons: injury, attending Foxjet or a meet in Indiana, the thought one child would make the team, but not the sibling and a few gave no reason at all.

One athlete withdrew after the team was built and confirmations were sent to the families. This athlete's parents were notified of the ISI policy of withdrawing at that time and the \$100 fine was paid.

Athlete breakdown by age and gender

15 ~ 9&10 boys	11 ~ 9&10 girls
14 ~ 11&12 boys	17 ~ 11&12 girls
8 ~ 13&14 boys	15 ~ 13&14 girls

All Stars Application

The All Star application was done solely online through the website JotForm. This site allowed us to gather contact information, event selection, agreement signatures, provide confirmation the application was received to the applicants and convey important information and dates regarding the selection process and meet weekend. The applications were available to ISI via pdf or excel spreadsheet.

On October 4, coaches and club contacts were notified of the All Star application procedure.

On October 25, the online application became available. Our goal was to have the application available on October 1; however the meet invite was delayed. (October 11 we received a Save the Date email. On November 21 we received the final meet invite and event file.)

The qualifying period was September 1 – December 11, 2017.

The application deadline was December 1, 2017.

The withdraw deadline was December 12, 2017.

The applicant list was emailed to ISI on December 13, 2017.

The top times of the applicants was given to the AGVC on December 15, 2017.

Families were notified via email on December 19, 2017 in regards of team selection.

The Team Iowa swimmer kit pack deadline was December 31, 2017.

INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS for 2018:

We did have a learning curve to the application template.

1) For the team club name for the applicants, a drop down selection list would be preferred. For example, when the roster was placed in an excel spreadsheet a team could be listed many different ways such as: Riptide, DC Riptide or Dowling Catholic Riptide. Another example DASH, D.A.S.H and Dubuque Area Swimming Hurricanes.

2) Families were not able to edit their application once it was submitted; however the admin could make the changes and send an update from JotForm PDF application to the family. (We need to include this information in the 2018 application process notes to families.)

3) The system allowed for duplicate applications. We had 3. One family did it twice forgetting they had completed an application when it first became available. Another sent it twice because they had an error receipt upon the first submission (both applications were received). And the third family had event selection updates and resubmitted versus requesting an edit to their original one. We don't believe the system can be set up to stop duplicate applications.

4) One application was received a day after the deadline. Each application was time stamped through JotForm. The athlete who applied after the deadline was notified their application was not accepted. We also had 2 other requests to apply after the deadline via email. They were informed the deadline was being adhered to. We learned how to "disable" the link and still have access to the information. In order to make edits for families, the link had to be reactivated to do so.

Updated best times deadline

ISI sent our meet entry file the day before the meet deadline which included the updated times since the qualifying period. (If a swimmer had a better time prior to the qualifying it was not used. Only times from September 1, 2017 and on were sent in to the meet director.)

Relays

Relays were built using the team manager system by ISI after the 80 athletes confirmed they had received their individual events for the meet. The head coach approved the relays as-is prior to the start of the meet.

Team Iowa Gear:

The team colors were silver/charcoal, blue and bright orange.

Each athlete received a hoodie, a team shirt (new this year), 2 silicone caps (new this year) and 1 latex cap.

The swimmer's team kits were mailed to the AGVC in advance and handed out at the team meeting the Friday of the meet weekend.

We had VERY minimal ordering errors for our families. Splash Multi Sport was in touch with the coaching staff and receptive to the notifications to rectify the orders.

Splash was able to notify the two families ahead of time, who did not order the swimmer's kit online prior to placing our team order.

RECOMMENDATION: On the team cap, fill in the orange star so it "pops" more in the water.

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. South Dakota is considering hosting. (Iowa host in 2019?)

Meet Operations:

~ The award ceremony did not take place for each individual event due to the timeline constraints.
~ Team Iowa swimmers did not miss an event.
~ On Sunday, Colorado left for home before the meet started due to the incoming storm. Team Iowa swimmers left after their individual events if they wanted too. Alternates for relays were found.
~ An ISI ~ Team Iowa ~ All Stars 2017 Facebook group was created to communicate with families attending the All Stars meet. All 80 families were represented within the group. Members of the group were able to post in the group as well. The coaches discussed this option, as there was one post that would have been better communicated to the head coach vs. the Facebook group.

Coaching Staff:

This year we had 4 coaches on staff.

RECOMMENDATION for All Stars 2018: keep 4 coaches on staff and have different genders represented.

Coaches were asked to sign a coaching agreement along with job duties prior to the start of the meet. They were also informed of the breakdown and amount of stipends prior to the meet. Stipends and food per diem were paid to the coaches at the start of the meet; however they were not in full. The amount given reflected last year’s budget and not the current budget. The difference will be paid to the coaches in late February when the ISI treasurer returns to the US. One coach did express concern over the delay of receiving their final amount of the stipend (\$100) and their mileage.

The coaching staff was informed to request via email their reimbursement to the ISI General Chair, the ISI treasurer, the ISI admin and the ISI Communications and Logistics Coordinator.

RECOMMENDATION: Review with the ISI board who is available to write checks on behalf of ISI when the treasurer is not.

Lodging:

The coaching staff stayed at the Hilton Garden Inn, which was approximately 5 minutes for the pool. Team Iowa had two hotel blocks of 40 rooms each at the Hilton Garden Inn and the Marriott (15 minutes from the pool).

RECOMMENDATION: If All Stars 2018 is in the same location: reserve the same hotels for team Iowa and consider the Radisson, which would be closer than the Marriott.
Make the room reservation block in the spring of 2017.

Final thoughts Team Iowa for 2018 All Stars...

Research ISI locations to host the 2018 or 2019 meet to host within our LSC.

Create a parent and swimmer evaluation to send to the Team Iowa All Stars participating families for their feedback and insights on the application process, meet operations, venue, coaching, accommodations and communication.