

Disability Committee Kick-off Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2020 7:00 pm via Zoom

- I. Welcome – Introductions
 - a. Attendance
 - i. Jessie Johnson SWIM
 - ii. Ainara Garcia CAT
 - iii. Kent Easty
 - iv. Karen Alexander
 - v. Aaron Egbert
 - vi. Ann Ryan Alexander PALM
 - vii. Lindsay Burbage SMRT
 - viii. Chris Wolford
 - ix. Aimee Onoszko
- II. Committee Overview
 - a. Committee is brand new. We need to find ways to reach out to swimmers and coaches to raise awareness and provide a service for disability swimmers in our LSC.
- III. Where to start
 - a. Connecting with Athletes
 - i. Athletes on the call mentioned reaching out to organizations in their communities that currently have programs such as Clemson Life and Special Olympics. Jessie also mentioned that hosting a virtual meeting/webinar with disability swimmers or coaches sharing their experiences would be helpful.
 - b. Coaches
 - i. Aaron spoke about the US National team which his son is a member. Nathan Manly (head coach) and Erin Popavich have videos on YouTube that are really good on how to coach swimmers with disabilities; educating on how different ways they learn and how to adjust coaching styles to accommodate the different learning needs.
 - ii. Chris mentioned that USAS has an on-line course (\$40) for coaches that educates on coaching disability swimmers. Incentivizing teams to create an environment and space to participate might be an easy way to get clubs involved.

- iii. Aaron and Karen discussed raising the awareness of classifications of swimmers to coaches.
- c. Resources from Southern Zone and USAS
 - i. Aimee has reached out to the Zone Director for the Southern Zone and USAS for resources and ideas to get the committee going.
 - ii. Aimee mentioned free webinar trainings were recently offered but was not able to attend.
- IV. Next Steps
 - a. Regular committee meeting time
 - i. Monthly preferred for now.
 - ii. Tues-Thursdays around 8:00 pm works best
 - b. Para swimming official's clinic
 - i. Kent, Aimee M., Aimee O., and Bill Weiss are interested in attending.Dates are TBD
- V. To-Do's before next meeting
 - a. Athletes – Find out what organizations are active at your high schools and/or community such as Special Olympics
 - b. Chris – Talk to Mike Lane (Coaches Rep) to see if they would sponsor coaches that are interested in taking the USAS on-line course.
 - c. Kent – Talking to Bill Weiss about opportunities/experiences for officials and resources he may know about within GA Swimming.
 - d. Aaron – Talking to Zone special Olympics/National team
 - e. Karen – Get a list of the classifications and see if recordings of the above-mentioned webinars in c.ii. are available.
 - f. Aimee – Gathering info from Southern Zone and USAS.

Next meeting Wednesday, September 23, 2020 @ 8:00 pm