



To Develop, Improve, and Support Competitive Swimming in the Inland Empire

November 3, 2024

RE: General Chair Report to Fall 2024 HOD

Inland Empire Swimming HOD:

I had the honor and privilege to attend the 2024 USA Swimming Annual Business Meeting and Workshop in Denver Colorado.

I attended sessions:

- Strategic Planning
- Parliamentary Proceedings and Good Board Meetings
- USA Swimming Program Services
- Communication Planning and Plans

Growth is constrained by cultural shifts, competition from other sports, and lack of visibility in the community.

- Barriers to growth include increasing facility costs, limited water time, and post-COVID engagement challenges.
- To foster growth, it is essential to highlight the value proposition of swimming compared to other sports, improve marketing efforts, and build stronger community connections.
- Relationship building with facilities and creating partnerships to secure more pool time is critical to scaling programs and ensuring long-term growth.

Retention is highly influenced by athletes' experiences, parental involvement, and the overall team environment.

- Key drivers include a strong team commitment, positive experiences, and maintaining swimming as a priority activity.
- Challenges include balancing swimming with other activities, overcoming financial barriers, and effectively communicating the long-term benefits of the sport to athletes and their families.
- To address retention, focus should be placed on delivering quality, value, and engagement, as well as supporting parental education and creating a fun, motivating atmosphere for swimmers.

Performance hinges on managing expectations, creating cooperative environments, and supporting both athletes and coaches.

- Challenges in this area include limited facility access, infrastructure shortcomings, and financial constraints, particularly at developmental levels.
- There is an expressed need to improve coach support and education while fostering senior athlete commitment.
- Key recommendations include enhancing coach pipelines, improving access to high-quality coaching, and addressing the post-pandemic performance gap, particularly among younger swimmers.

Zone HOD Updates:

Elected new Coach Director – Scott Shea

Selected Meet Hosts (<https://www.gomotionapp.com/team/wzone/page/events#/team-events/upcoming>)

- 2025 SC – Southern Utah (prior)
- 2026 SC – TBA
- 2025 AG – Elk Grove, CA
- 2026 AG – Mt Hood, OR
- 2025 SR – Clovis (prior)
- 2026 SR – Colvis
- 2026 OW – Island Swimming (Maui)

News from USA Swimming

- New marketing material toolkit: <https://www.usaswimming.org/coaches-leaders/team-leaders/marketing-toolkit>
- USA Swimming continues to roll out more education within the USA Swimming University
 - Coach Certification - <https://www.usaswimming.org/coaches-leaders/coaches/coach-certification-program>
 - Head Coach training - <https://www.usaswimming.org/news/2023/11/09/usa-swimming-launches-head-coach-certification-program>
 - Officials Clinic (Stroke & Turn, Admin Official and Starter)
 - Coach Community Webinar Post event.
- Summary of Action Taken by USA 2024 HOD. – [See Next Page](#)

News from Inland Empire Swimming

- We welcome 3 new Board Directors Athlete Representatives
 - Lindsay S– Velocity Swimming
 - Elle K – Vandal Aquatic Club
 - Ava S– Vandal Aquatic Club
- We also welcome a new
 - Sr. Chair: Candi Eslinger (EAST)
 - Coach Rep: Emily Renzini (SHARK)
 - Ag Chair: Julia Merrill (TCCC)
- We bring our 2nd Year of our Athlete Council which consists of 2 or more athletes from each team/club in the LSC. – If you want to be involved, please contact the LSC administrator [at IESOFFICE@IESWIM.ORG](mailto:IESOFFICE@IESWIM.ORG)
- Collaborating with our host club/team to comply with what is referred to as the 4-hour rule. See separate document prepared by the LSC with some FAQ on this.

No.	Description	Location	Action
R-1	To make the current composition of the House of Delegates permanent.	Article 6 Corporate Bylaws	Adopted
R-2	To define officiating terminology.	OFFICIAL GLOSSARY	Adopted
R-3	To reflect current practice and allow the Starter judgement in the use of the command, dependent on the level or experience of the field. To reflect current practice of using a 'stand' command as procedural and remove implied reference to it as a rule.	101.1.2 101.1.3 102.12	Adopted
R-4	To allow for mixed relays at novice and developmental level meets to be of any gender composition as determined by the host club, and to encourage maximum participation in relays at novice and developmental meets.	101.7.3	Adopted
R-5	To provide additional competition opportunities for still-developing 13-14 year old athletes by adding the 50s of strokes as eligible competition events.	102.1.2	Adopted
R-6	To provide a minimally invasive method to support regularly occurring finger and toe injuries, and adopt a rule that has been an interpretive decision by USA Swimming, as well as a current rule for World Aquatics.	102.8.1	Adopted
R-7	To clarify the required height of the backstroke flags for National Championship events.	103.17	Adopted
R-8	To allow athletes who leave a club for a period (e.g., High School) before the end of the registration year to register upon returning to the club in the current registration year and have times achieved at observed meets during the period their registration lapsed eligible for entry into the SWIMS database.	202.8	Defeated
R-9	To clarify that each Zone may govern their Senior Zone Championship to the benefit and needs of their zone, including meet dates, qualifying and eligibility standards, and participant requirements.	205.7	Adopted
R-10	To update the Rulebook to reflect the current process and to remove language for items that no longer apply.	205.9	Adopted
R-11	To conform with requirements of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.	304.3.2	Adopted
R-12	To clearly define the roles and duties of the Coach Advisory Council.	501.1 501.1.2 501.1.3 501.1.4 501.1.5 501.1.6	Adopted
R-13	To reflect current practice with the distribution of Rulebooks.	503.2	Adopted
R-14	To provide greater flexibility for local meet directors with regards to the use and application of wetsuits at non-championship level events. To add consistency to the Zone Open Water Championships as it applies to the Junior National Championships. To update Open Water National and Junior National Championship awards to reflect current event format.	OFFICIAL GLOSSARY 701.1 701.4 704 705	Adopted
HK-1	To be consistent with World Aquatics terminology.	OFFICIAL GLOSSARY 101.3	Adopted
HK-2	To be consistent with World Aquatics terminology.	101.6	Adopted
HK-3	To change all references from mixed gender to mixed competition category for consistency.	101.7 102.1 104.2.2 705.6	Adopted

		705.7	
HK-4	To add clarity to the use of alternates in Finals heats.	102.5	Adopted
HK-5	To remove unnecessary wording.	102.8.1 F	Adopted
HK-6	To correct the title of the Committee Chair.	102.10.5 A	Adopted
HK-7	To remove the reference to the horizontal plane requirement for breaststroke starts and turns.	105.5.1 E (4)	Adopted
HK-8	To correct the title of the Program & Events Coordinator and the President/CEO.	202.4.11	Adopted
HK-9	To update the current committee structure to reflect that the times and recognition functions are a part of the Registration/Membership Committee.	202.6.4	Adopted
HK-10	To correct the title of the President/CEO.	206.3.1	Adopted
HK-11	To correct the title of the Committee Chair.	501.1.3	Adopted
HK-12	To correct the title of the Committee.	607.1	Adopted
HK-13	To correct reference to the President/CEO.	705.3	Adopted
HK-14	To remove unnecessary wording describing the President/CEO.	705.4	Adopted
HK-15	To use consistent language in referencing the Rules & Regulations Committee Chair.	Multiple Occurrences	Adopted
HK-16	To change FINA to World Aquatics and to use gender-neutral references.	Multiple Occurrences Required LSC Bylaws	Adopted

Increase the Annual Club Fee [Effective September 1, 2025, for the 2026 registration year]

- The annual fee for existing club teams will increase to \$225 per year.
 - The additional \$155 increase over the existing annual fee will be utilized in the Sport Development budget.
- The club fee for new club teams to USA Swimming will be \$750 for their first year.
 - USA Swimming Staff may determine reduced fees for new clubs based on outreach membership and, or geographical isolation.
 - A quarterly report will be submitted by Sports Development and posted on the website to outline the services provided.

Please look to our website for my contact information and if there is something we as LSC can do better or something new or different let me know. It is through innovative ideas that we will continue to grow and continue to be the best LSC for our Membership.

I am truly proud and honored to be the General Chair of this LSC.

Jeff Sutton