



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

April 21, 2024

RE: General Chair Report to Spring 2024 HOD

Inland Empire Swimming HOD:

As you may have read or heard, the growth of the sport of swimming within USA Swimming has slowed and at least on the national trend coming out of COVID membership has not reached its pre-COVID numbers. Our LSC, Inland Empire Swimming, Inc., has not seen this trend in our overall numbers. A fact that we owe to the hard and dedicated work of our clubs/team at our grassroots level showing the value that the sport of swimming has for swimmers, families, and our communities.

This season has brought attention to what the LSC is and what the LSC is not. So, I thought it was due time in this forum to briefly talk about this.

What does USA Swimming say?

As an LSC, USA Swimming delegates the responsibility to conduct swimming programs consistent with LSCs objectives and those of USA Swimming and to sanction, approve, observe, and oversee competitive swimming events within the Territory and to conduct competitive swimming events within the Territory, its Region, and its Zone (as those terms are defined in Part Six of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations). The LSC shall discharge faithfully its duties and obligations as a Local Swimming Committee of USA Swimming in accordance with the LSC Bylaws, the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, and all applicable policies and procedures.

As your LSC we review and approve the yearly competition calendar and make policy and finance decisions supporting the LSC mission and vision.

- We support athlete attendance at Zone level and above meets.
- We support coach and official attendance at Zone level and above meets.
- We support official training and education.
- We send an all-start team the Western Zone Summer meets.
- We provide opportunities to board, coach, swimmer, official education and growth.

We do not:

- Limit club formation,
- Limit athletes, coaches, or official participation in a competition.
- Review matters/complaints covered by the USA Swimming Code of Conduct.
- Review Safe Sport Complaints filled with USA Swimming/Center for Safe Sport unless directed to assist by USA Swimming.
- Get involved in internal team/club matters.

While the LSC will not be directly involved we can listen and provide limited guidance, suggestions, or referrals for more information or support.

Highlights:

- Supported and hosted LSC-sponsored two Short Course Championship meets.
- Offered Official Evaluations at both Short Course Championship meets.
- Athletes broke several LSC records.
- Our LSC sent athletes, coaches, and officials to many meets above the LSC Championship level and have had great success.
- We continue to grow our successes with athletes qualified to attend Trials in June 2024.
- Continued into year 2 of the Athlete Council by the leadership of our Junior, Senior, and At-Large Reps. They formed several working groups to support several different topics for our LSC and will continue to build on these efforts into the new season.
- Support sending 2 IES Athletes to Western Zone DEI Camp.

Each year the LSC plans and budgets to provide financial support for our Zone Level and above swimmers. This amount varies year to year based on the number of swimmers participating and income received from meet fees. Last year, the LSC provided each athlete with nearly 700 in financial support. For our Senior Zone athletes, the actual expenses exceeded the combined IES financial support and parent payments. Details of this were provided directly to Senior Zone families last fall. Your IES Board of Directors has taken measures to better budget and plan for Zone travel. Some of these actions include:

- Team commitments to LSC Zone Teams made last fall.
- Revised qualification windows
- Update meet entries by clubs

If you or your club still have questions about this or other matters, please contact our IES Administrator, Jody, and she can answer your questions or direct your question or concern to the correct person.

News from USA Swimming

- New marketing material toolkit: <https://www.usaswimming.org/coaches-leaders/team-leaders/marketing-toolkit>
- State of Sport from Tim Hinchey, USA-S CEO <https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/governance/state-of-the-sport-2023.pdf>
- Updated legislation all passed USA-S HOD. All passed without change except R-9 which had some minor changes to allow for guidance/recommendation from the National Official Committee and Coach Advisory Council. <https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/rules-regulations/2023-proposed-legislative.pdf>
 - R9 legislation standardizing training for all USA Officials has been issued and is the rule within USA Swimming.
- USA Swimming continues to roll out more education within the USA Swimming University
- Rolled out Coaching Network for <https://www.usaswimming.org/coaches-leaders/coaches/coaches-community>
 - 10 & U

- 11-14
- Sr Group
- Providing Free Webinars on various topics; <https://www.usaswimming.org/coaches-leaders/connect-learn/programs-services#webinars>
- US Center for Safe Sport provided a clean audit of USA-S and Jr. National Meet
- Launch of National Practice Data and reporting within SWIMS
- USA Olympic Trials – Ticket Package, events, meets, etc. - <https://www.usaswimming.org/about-usas/resources/trials>
- The USA Swimming Workshop for this year will be combined with the USA Swimming Annual Business Meeting/HOD meeting in late September.

News from the Western Zone

- Check the Website for updates on meets as some locations have changed for 2024 and 2025. <https://www.teamunify.com/team/wzone/page/events#/team-events/upcoming>
- With the passage of USA-S legislation, the Zone will be allowed funding and support for an additional Zone meet. Currently, the SC Zone meet is in the trial stage and this change will help grow and support the long-term viability of this meet. This next year the Zone awarded a host with a date change.

News from the LSC

- We have refined how we bid on our 3 LSC Championship Meets. This year, 2025, there are no Championship Bids. Each year moving forward only one (1) of the three Championship meets will be open for general bidding.
 - 2025 – No Bids (Jr – MRA, SC- VAN, LC – TCCC)
 - 2026 – Jr Championship Open (SC- VAN, LC – TCCC)
 - 2027 - SC Open ((Jr – MRA, LC – TCCC)
 - 2028 – LC Open (Jr – MRA, SC- VAN)
- We welcome the new DEI Chair, Shelly Sobek to the board of directors, who will be filling out the remaining term through 08/31/25.
- We welcome and thank Mark Sowa, who agreed to on a short-term basin fill-in as the IEC Coaches Representative.
- We are still working to refine our championship meets. Technical Planning has made recommendations to our Coach Committee for their review and comments. Their (Coach Committee) recommendations will be presented to the full HOD body with the following Goals:
 - Best environment for our members (Athletes, Coaches, Officials, parents)
 - Best support for host clubs
 - Consistent planning for our clubs/parents
 - Best value and experiences of USA Swimming Championship Meet for the intended audience of each meet.
 - Opportunities for all LSC clubs to host/support and grow their ability to host swim meets be it Championship or other.

- We are looking for some additional members to fill our working committees. Please contact our Office Administrator if you have any questions or interest in any of these opportunities at iesoffice@ieswim.org
- **Athletes for IES Standing committees:**
 - a. Technical Planning
 - b. Governance
 - c. Safe Sport/Operational Risk
 - d. Officials
 - e. Finance
 - f. Equipment
 - g. DEI

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 new 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Sutton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Sutton