



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

April 12, 2025

RE: General Chair Report to Spring 2024 HOD

Inland Empire Swimming HOD:

We have a highly active and involved LSC. With many members involved with their club, the LSC, and USA Swimming. We strive to ensure the actions of the LSC and the programming we support are athlete-focused and coach-driven. Based on this focus, the LSC has:

- Made changes to our two (2) short-course championship meets.
- Offering programming/education that we are offering at Moses Lake.
- Update to how we partner with clubs in hosting our championship meets.
- Reviewing and updating the process to review bids for our championship and non-championship meets.

This Spring, we as an LSC will elect new leadership. Our governance committee has reviewed the openings and made a recommendation. If you are interested, you may still be nominated to fill one of the openings from the floor of the HOD meeting.

- **Admin Vice-Chair:** The Admin Vice-Chair has many duties and responsibilities. The main duty of the IES Admin Vice-Chair is to assist the General Chair, mainly with the administrative matters of the LSC, as directed by the General Chair. They shall conduct meetings in the absence of the General Chair. The Administrative Vice Chair shall aid in the development of policy and the coordination of the activities of the officers and committees within the division internally and with other divisions and committees. The admin vice chair also serves as the Inland Empire Swimming Technical Planning Chair. They shall chair and have general charge of the business, affairs, and property of the Technical Planning Committee, which is responsible for long-range planning regarding the swimming programs conducted by IES, the continuing review and development of the IES philosophy and for advising other committees and divisions regarding the implementation of that philosophy in the context of IES's swimming programs. The IES Technical Planning Chair also plans, administers, and manages the LSC's competitive meet schedule. In addition, they consult with appropriate LSC officers in approving the LSC's meet sanctions and announcements.
- **Finance Vice Chair:** The Finance Chair provides financial advice and budget review to the LSC. The IES Finance Chair prepares and recommends the annual budget and is also a member of the Budget and Finance Committee. The IES Finance Chair is the Chief Financial Officer of the LSC, is responsible for the LSC investments, and plays a part in putting together the LSC Marketing and Fundraising plan. The Finance Chair is responsible for our audit, and also for the LSC's internal financial controls.
- **Age Group Chair:** The Age Group Chair is responsible for the oversight and direction of the LSC's Age Group swimming program. The Age Group Chair is responsible for the planning and

coordination of regular season age group meets and the series of age group championship meets. The Age Group Chair also plans for the needs of the Age Group level of our sport and generates, evaluates, and communicates ideas, which will assist IES Swimming in planning and developing quality age group swimming programs. The IES Age Group Chair is also involved in, but is not limited to, Adaptive Swimming, Camps/Clinics, Technical Planning, Time Standards, and the IES Zone Team

- **DEI Chair:** The LSC DEI Chair is to lead the LSC to increase diversity, implement equity, and promote inclusion at the team and LSC level by providing consultation to teams, creating opportunities through diversity-themed camps, and actively advocating for DEI at the LSC Board of Directors meetings. This is done by providing DEI education within the LSC and serving as chair for the LSC DEI committee. In addition, they shall serve as the official representative of the LSC to Zone and USA Swimming on DEI activities, meetings, and committees.

This Spring HOD, we as an LSC will also review the meet schedule for the 2026 calendar year. Prior to this HOD meeting, your LSC Technical Planning Committee and Coaching committee have reviewed the bids and will be presenting their combined recommendation to this body.

- We are a small LSC spread over a large geographic area.
 - Hosting multiple meets on the same weekend can reduce the financial viability of all meets.
 - Except for championship meets, most clubs follow an East/West division in attending meets.
 - Need to provide opportunities for all athletes with different needs.
 - Our Policy and procedures manual gives preference to clubs/meets held in the prior year.
 - Explore opportunities to allow athletes to compete in their home pool.

Highlights Since Fall:

- Supported and hosted two LSC-sponsored 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 remarkable 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.

Planning and details for LSC Summer Zone Travel Team are underway and many of the details have already been shared. Each year, the LSC plans and budgets to provide financial support for our Zone Level and above athletes, coaches, and officials. This amount varies year to year based on the number participating and the income received from meet fees.

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 questions or concern to the correct person.

News from USA Swimming

- New marketing material toolkit: <https://www.usaswimming.org/coaches-leaders/team-leaders/marketing-toolkit>
- 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.
- New Focus on supporting Clubs/Team/Coaches - Team Services areas of:
 - Team performance and business operations
 - Governance
 - Coach/parent education.
 - Athlete development
 - Inland Empire contact – Beth Winkowski bwinkowski@usaswimming.org
- USA Swimming continues to roll out more education within the USA Swimming University
 - Training clinics/tests for Officials are now online for: (free for members)
 - Stroke and Turn
 - Administrative Official
 - Starter
 - Deck Referee
- Rolled out Coaching Network for <https://www.usaswimming.org/coaches-leaders/coaches/coaches-community>
 - 10 &U
 - 11-14
 - Sr Group
 - Team Leaders
- 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
- The USA Swimming Workshop for this year will continue to be combined with the USA Swimming Annual Business Meeting/HOD meeting in late September.

News from the Western Zone

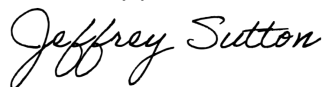
- Check the Website for updates on meets as some locations have changed for 2024 and 2025.
<https://www.teamunify.com/team/wzone/page/events#/team-events/upcoming>

News from the LSC

- We have refined how we bid on our 3 LSC Championship Meets.
- 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
 - Planning for our clubs/parents
 - Best value and experiences of the 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 championships 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 at 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