

Western Region Section * Emergency Meeting * November 25, 2025

Via Zoom @ 1:00 pm Mountain Time

Summary

The meeting primarily focused on addressing the current conflict between Washington State law as implemented by King County, and USA Swimming's policies as required by the Executive Order regarding gender designations in competitions. Discussions focused on potential solutions for hosting the Pacific Northwest Sectional Meet on the original dates of March 19 – 22, 2026, if it is not possible to arrive at an acceptable resolution with King County before December 5th. The group also addressed concerns about managing timelines for the Four Corners Spring Section meet at Carmel High School, IN. due to scheduling conflicts with school activities.

Meeting Notes

Explanation of current conflict between King County and USA Swimming Policies

Section Chair Shawn Smith explained that a conflict exists between King County's implementation of Washington State's anti-discrimination law regarding gender identity, and USA Swimming's compliance with an executive order that requires male and female gender designations in competitions. The King County Aquatic Center's usage contract requires meet hosts to comply with the King County policy. Chad Winkle, PNS General Chair, shared that the PNS task force, assisted by legal counsel from USA Swimming, has been working with King County to find potential solutions for swimming competitions, but no resolution has been found yet, as of the time of the Section meeting.

A proposal was made by the Section Board to give Chad's team until December 5th to find a workaround that would allow the Northwest Sectional meet to proceed at KCAC as originally planned.

- Northwest teams present at the meeting voted on this proposal, which passed with 77% of the votes cast.

Contingency Plan for NW Section Meet

The next item presented was the creation of a contingency plan for hosting the NW Section meet, should a resolution not be available by December 5th. The availability of Idaho Central Aquatic Center on the original weekend, March 12 – 15, was shared with those present, along with the need for a meet host, as Bellevue Club, the original meet host, would not be able to host the meet except at KCAC.

- Phoenix Swim Club made an offer to host the meet in Phoenix on alternate dates: March 26 - 29.

Shawn thanked PSC for their support and shared with those present that running the meet in Phoenix would create a conflict for local AZ teams, as the meet would only be open to Northwest teams, plus the host club.

- Vandal Aquatic Club then offered to either host, or co-host with Sawtooth Aquatic Club, the NW Section Meet in Boise on the original dates, March 12 – 15.

After asking for any other hosting options from the floor, Northwest teams present at the meet were then given the opportunity to choose between the two options presented, as the contingency plan:

1) Hold the NW meet in Boise on the original dates, March 12 – 15, co-hosted by Sawtooth Aquatic Club and Vandal Aquatic Club, or 2) Hold the NW meet in Phoenix at later dates, March 26 – 29.

- NW teams present voted by 76% YES to hold the meet in Boise on the original dates, as the contingency plan.

Chad emphasized that contacting King County directly would be counterproductive and encouraged attendees to allow the PNS task force to continue its work directly with King County.

Four Corners Section Meet - Schedule Challenges

The meeting then discussed timeline challenges faced by the hosts of the Four Corners Section Meet, March 26 – 29, at Carmel High School's facility in Carmel, IN. Shawn presented a draft schedule for the meet, highlighting potential issues with early warm-ups disrupting school activities. Four Corners teams were then asked to vote on the following proposals:

- Adjust Prelim start times on Saturday and Sunday up to to 30 minutes earlier than those on Thursday and Friday – this proposal passed with 74% of Four Corners teams voting YES
- Adjust Finals start times on Saturday and Sunday up to to 30 minutes earlier than those on Thursday and Friday – this proposal passed with 78% of Four Corners teams voting YES

Shawn indicated that the Four Corners meet announcement would be written to allow for additional flexibility in start times, should potential option become available to begin each session at times closer to traditional start times.

Shawn thanked everyone present for their time in addressing the matters presented and the meeting closed at approximately 1:40 pm Mountain Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Broyles, Secretary