

2015 USA Swimming Convention Allison Beebe

September 30, 2015 Senior Committee Meeting

Winter Juniors:

- Survey was distributed to head coaches regarding short course vs long course for meet format.
- Many people wanted a long course site and a short course site or to go short course prelims/ long course finals.
- Neither site willing to go short/long.
- Ga Tech willing to go long course.
- Even though the survey showed that many coaches wanted a long course site, because some teams had already booked flights/ reservations, the committee could not make the change.

2016 Meets:

- US Open will be August 2-6 in Minneapolis.
- LCM Juniors will be August 8-12 in Minneapolis.
- Futures- August 4-7- University of Texas, University of TN, and Maryland

Futures:

- Audience Feedback- post results on the USA Swimming website (not host team website); general consensus from the audience was that meet was well received.
- 19 & Overs- no change for next year; 19 & overs are allowed in the meet
- LSC participation- 1611 athletes at the meet divided into 3 sites. The West site was larger than the other two sites.
- Tentative Sites for 2016:
 - University of Texas, Tennessee, and Maryland
 - Discussion of adding a 4th site (will the Texas meet be too big for a 3 ½ day meet).
 - Far Western LSCs had 406 athletes in Futures last year (all western teams on the coast plus Hawaii and Alaska).
 - Stanford is a potential 4th site for the Far Western LSCs.
 - Will this make the Austin site too small?
 - **Moved to add 4th site- seconded- approved**
 - **Senior Committee will work on lines for which LSCs will go to which meets.**
 - Strong sentiment from the audience to mix up sites and assignments- make sure this doesn't become the same teams that see each other at Sectionals 3 weeks earlier.
- "Dequalification"- Currently if a swimmer has a national cut, he/she cannot participate in Futures.

- Multiple situations this summer with young athletes that bought airline tickets for Futures, made Nationals 2 weeks before Futures, and were stuck with airline tickets to a meet where they were overqualified and could not swim.
- 2016- Dividing time standard is US Open.- M/S/A
- Motion- Move the dequalification to single events: If a swimmer has a US Open cut, he/she can still go to Futures but not swim that event. Motion passed.

2017

- Tentative June 26th - July 2nd for World Champ Trials- Indianapolis
- August 2nd-6th is US Open
- Junior Nationals- August 8th- 12th
- Futures- we will wait until next year to see how this year works when being put on the same weekend as US Open.

Club Excellence

- Task Force report- Task Force created to decide if program is geared more towards large teams.
- Still a work in progress- USA Swimming staff is working on a new scoring system to give more weight to times closer to WRs, as there is not a big difference in scoring between a bronze time and gold time.

Time standards for US Open and Juniors passed (see attachments).

Junior Team Program (Mitch Dalton)

- Handouts on Elite Athlete Programming Flowchart and Developmental Athlete Programming Strategies (2016 Quad)

New Legislation Review: Nothing to review

2016 Olympic Trials Update: Mike Unger not present

USA Swimming Analytics Project Update: Larry Herr

- Preface: None of the technology studies and analytics can be done without money.
- Our rate for medals at A Championship meet is declining. Harder to get money from the USOC because of this.
- We spent over \$500,000 on SwimToday, and our growth rate is going down.
- Over 90 million times in SWIMS. Is there an outlying event? Stats show us that we are actually really well balanced with swim events.
- There are more age group NAG records, but the same number of kids breaking records is no different than 20 years ago. Those kids are just breaking and rebreaking their records more often.

- Right now we are at 1400 swimmers with Trial cuts. There is a good chance that we will hit 2000 swimmers. We currently have over 700 kids that are within 1.5% of a cut.

2015 USA Swimming Convention Steering Committee- Club Coaches Forum

Steering Committee- Why are meetings closed?

- They have always been closed
- Coaches in a small group will speak more freely
- They have an open forum to answer questions that coaches may have about those meetings.

Arena Pro Series

- Frank would like these to become more elite
- Choosing facilities are challenging- need to be athlete, spectator, and TV friendly.
- Timing of the meets are critical
- 2 meets in June to minimize travel time for kids 3 weeks before Trials

FINA put pressure on Rio to find an alternate site for open water. This is probably not going to happen, so Rio is working on how to re-route sewage and obstacles in the bay.

Frank would like to see people utilize the OTC more.

- There will be three National Team Camps- October, January, and March.
- Will be closed next year for a new HVAC system installation.

Explanation of picking the 2015 World Championship Team in 2014- This allowed less training interruptions in 2015, the year before the Olympics. It is not about having the best team at Worlds; it is about having the best performance at the Olympics.

WC Trials for 2017 will be in Indianapolis.

Nationals (World Champ Trials), Worlds, US Open, WUGS- order of events in 2017.

2018- Nationals will be August 5-9. Pan Pacs will be in Tokyo starting August 23rd.

FINA update (Mike Unger)

- This is our international federation and we want to work well with them, but there are also a lot of issues with FINA.
- International relations committee meets tomorrow to keep working on getting along with FINA while trying to stay pragmatic.

- Anti-doping is a very important topic, and it will bring the sport down if FINA doesn't send a consistent message.
- We need to keep a constant communication stream with FINA.

Trials Update (Mike Unger)

- October 13th- USA Swimming will open up ticket sales to families for four day tickets.
- Ticket sales are way ahead of where they were in 2012.
- 1390 swimmers already qualified.
- Steering is working on how to manage warm ups.
- University of Nebraska will open its 50m pool for swimmers not competing that day.
- Hotels- if you do not have rooms, call Dean Ekeren.
- Days 1 and 2 are the long days- 400s will be tiered. The top 5 heats of the 400s will swim during prelims, and the next wave will start after prelims finish. Only top two heats will be circle seeded for the 400s.
- We will use 10 lanes in the morning with outside lane lines.
- Athlete seating- we have the same seats as last time. They will do a better job of having seating in the warm down pool area.

Discussion on funding for athletes

- There is an APA task force.
- Tiered funding structure currently used- will re-evaluate after Rio.

Change for 2016

- Whatever athletes are picked for relays must be on that relay or else the relay is disqualified. This means we will have to swim 3, 4, 5, and 6 or else the relay will be disqualified.
- Athletes want 6 athletes to be picked. Steering understands this, but has to balance knowing that we need to make it back at night with 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- Selection process will be communicated on December 1. No decision has been made yet on how many relay only swimmers will be selected.

Rio

- Finals will begin at 10:00 PM. It will be common for most athletes to get to bed at 2:00 AM.
- San Antonio Camp- morning swim will be 10-12. Night swim will be 7-9.
- Puerto Rico Camp- morning swim will be 11-1. Night swim will be 8-10.
- They are expecting for anything and everything to go wrong in Rio, and they are preparing for those challenges ahead of time.
- Swimmers will be on the top floors of hotels. Fans will be used to help with noise. Food will be ready for athletes late at night. We will have cars to get kids from late night drug testing back to the hotel as quickly as possible.

- Impact coaches meeting in Mesa the day after the Pro Series meet. If you think your athlete might make the team, you need to be at the meeting.
- Venue in Rio- originally supposed to be 20,000, and now it is 12,500 seating for spectators. Tickets for families will be difficult.
- Home coaches are encouraged to attend San Antonio camp. They are not allowed to attend the Puerto Rico camp.
- They will keep the athletes a day later in Omaha for outfitting, processing, etc... This will reduce distractions at camp.

Q&A from Audience

How do you choose coaches and managers for Olympics?

- Managers- Lindsie Mintenko and Stacy Michael-Miller select/ Frank approves
- Frank chooses head coach and assistants:
 - Have the right head coaches in place
 - Balance between getting coaches experience and respecting those who had kids make teams.
 - This summer- 37 different coaches were on staff.

National team staff and USA Swimming staff- priority has always been athletes first. Frank wants transparency at USA Swimming. He wants people to feel comfortable contacting him.

OIOC

Review of Meets

David Marsh- Review of Worlds

Croatia

- One of the best training camp venues
- Lots of the athletes used the Adriatic Sea to warm up
- Head coaches- Dave Durden and Dave Salo
- Lots of kids got fitter during the camp
- Had a nutritionist and strength training coach.

Meet

- When men's relay did not make finals in the 400 free relay, the whole team was shocked. The prelim guys looked great in training camp. The team had to fight their way back into the meet.
- Trainers and managers were a giant part of turning things around.
- The atmosphere of the group kept things positive.
- Odd- the silver medalists lifted the group up. When you are in the middle of a dog fight, you take what you can get.
- Katie had a great meet, but she didn't really create a lot of positive momentum. She is not someone who needs a lot of fan fare. After Katie's 800, Bruce was speechless. He was shocked.
- Selecting the meet the year before doesn't give us the best team in 2015, but that wasn't the purpose. Lots of kids got international experience in the three meets, and that is good going into 2016.
- Those who did not do well got the message that they needed to get to work.

Lindsey Mintenko- World University Games

- This was her first WUGS.
- Team won 34 medals- USA record
- Transportation was a challenge- 1 bus for 1000 athletes to get back and forth to the pool and one elevator for 30 floors.

Jason Turcotte- Pan American Games

- Toronto- easier travel for the athletes- not a huge time zone difference.
- Stacy Michael- Miller was an outstanding manager.
- USOC event- made for a great atmosphere
- Little bit of trouble the first night- overswam their races on the first day but got better.
- Big breakthroughs for some people like Katie Meili, Kelsi Worrell, Sean LeHane
- US won the medal count, even though countries like Brazil and Canada had their A team

Bill Rose- FINA Jr Worlds

- Singapore was the cleanest city he has visited. In 7 days, they only found 6 wrappers on the ground.
- Great hotel, beautiful facility.
- The 18 & Under swimming world is on fire. Americans did very well. The kids won the team title.

National Team- Frank Busch

- Repeat of speech from steering committee
- We need to reinforce the culture of Team USA- start this early.
 - Things continue to change because of the cultural changes in society. We need to learn how to sell the concept of work to athletes, which is much different from how to sell that concept a decade ago.
 - We need to teach athletes how to be on a team- what it means to be part of something bigger than yourself.
 - We need to expect our coaches to be leaders and role models. Address negative things on social networks- successful people do not wish ill will on their competitors.
- Duel in the Pool is set up
- Three training camps at the OTC for National Team members.
- Fall 2016- instead of Arena Pro Series, there will be a dual meet between National Team and Big Ten All Star team
- Logistical issues with Rio (See Steering Committee coaches report)

October 2nd- Coaches Meeting

How do we get better?

- Club set up- not good to have newest coaches with youngest kids.
 - We need to have an excellent coach with your 10 & Unders
 - More experienced coaches educate least experienced swimmers.
 - More experienced coaches educate least experienced parents.
- Lots of clubs have bought into the cycle of less work (not less yardage, less work).
- Change words- instead of “test sets” coach calls it “analytics”
- Parents have changed- what do we do about it? How does this affect the future of swimming?
 - You have to be a sales person.
 - You have to have daily communication with your staff to let them know what you want them to sell.
 - Today’s generation needs to know why, so education is important.
- Purposeful mentorship is critical. Too many young coaches get thrown to the wolves and they do what they did as swimmers.
- Educate the parents on the “process” of swimming- this is a 10-12 year process.

We have had a lot of outstanding swimmers through high school that falls off the radar in NCAA swimming. How does this change?

- Do we look at keeping kids in club swimming?
- Can the US subsidize online learning to replace NCAA scholarships to help keep those targeted athletes on the right path?

The US has a lot of talent. Other countries are being much more aggressive. They identify top 2-3%, give the coaches resources, provide more information and more motivation- Focus is on the kid that can do something at the international level.

Mike Unger- A lot of the other countries have a sense of urgency that the Americans don’t have.