

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 20, 2011

I. INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

The following members attended this evening's conference call: **Jeff Roddin (Chair), Sandi Rousseau (Vice Chair), Tyler Blessing, Ken Brisbin, Michael Heather (ex-officio), Michael Moore, Patty Nardozi, Ed Saltzman, Robin Segnitz, Jody Smith, Chris Stevenson (ex-officio), Jeff Strahota, and Lisa Watson.**

II. UPCOMING NATIONAL CHAMPIOSHIP MEETS

A. Mesa (Liaison: Jody Smith)

Jody recently did the site visit to Mesa. She reported that it was a great visit and things seem to be running smoothly. The meet hosts are now focusing on getting volunteers for the various positions and working with the National Office. Jody reported over 1000 entries as of Friday. Sandi asked if there were any potential problem areas- Jody responded that prime concerns right now are recruiting volunteers and making sure that hospitality for Gold Medal sponsors is sufficiently staffed with adequate supplies. The National Office will be putting out the scheduled newsletters, with Mesa providing content as well. Jeff commented that the National Office now has a specific timeline of what should be done each day once the entry deadline has passed until the meet begins. Jeff asked Jody to look over the Facility checklist from the site visit. Our committee will continue our tradition of guessing the number of entries for Nationals with Mesa. Lisa will poll our committee and ask each member to respond to her with their guess: she will tabulate the results.

B. Auburn (Liaison: Debbie Cavanaugh)

Debbie was not present on the call to give a report. Jeff reported that Auburn preparations seem to be on schedule. Sandi has been working with SWIMMER magazine for the information to be included in the upcoming issue. She reported that everything was finalized except getting the sanction number.

III. PROJECTS

A. Update Nationals Evaluation form to match new contract
Robin is working on this.

B. Conflict of Interest policy during bid review process

A subcommittee of Jim Clemmons, Lisa Watson, Robin Segnitz, and Patty Nardozi has been formed and is currently working on this. Jeff also would like this subcommittee to address the subject of National Office accountability as well.

C. Update budget for bidders

Tom Boak is working on this and it is near its final version.

D. Seed Time Updating For Nationals

Jeff questioned whether our committee should pursue this topic: Swimmers want to have that capability after they have entered the meet, but it would need to be done prior to the seeding of the meet (and printing) of the Psych sheets). Sandi stated that we should allow swimmers to use the honor system in making a change, rather than requiring documentation, which may not come in from a recent meet until well after the entry deadline. Tyler asked about allowing swimmers to change seed times or events up until the deadline. Tyler will discuss the various examples that swimmers might edit their entries with Jim Matysek: such as updating their seed time, changing an event or changing the designated 6th event, as well as the possibility of adding events.

E. Relay Only Swimmers

The committee discussed the possibility of allowing swimmers to register after the deadline if they are only swimming in relays. This would require a rule change, so likely would not be submitted to Rules until 2012. Ed suggested we put in strong language that makes it clear this is ONLY for relays. Surcharge for Relay Only swimmers was also discussed. The benefit would be the opportunity to increase participation and revenue for the meet, particularly for the host team. A subcommittee of Ed and Lisa will look over this topic and present a proposal to the committee at the Convention. Mike mentioned that Jim Matysek would certainly be a good source of information: since he is an employee of USMS, he would be expected to carry out the wishes of this committee.

F. NQTs

- 1. Currently we only have an unwritten policy, which operates under the honor System. Jeff suggested that it would be good to have a written document in place. Jeff Strahota thought that ‘bonus cuts’ might be a better term. Ed mentioned that the meet host still has the capability to question times that don’t appear to be correct. Ed suggested that we have a list of Frequently Asked Questions about NQTs that is attached to the online registration form: when the swimmer registers, he/she will first be taken to the page of these FAQs before being allowed to register for the meet. Jeff Roddin suggested that we put this as a topic on the Discussion Forum for all committee members to comment on. Sandi will start a thread for this topic on the Forum.**
- 2. Study effects on distance events-this will be discussed at a later time**

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. LMSC Chair solicitation mailings

- 1. Memo encouraging LMSCs to bid for Nationals- In the past, Jeff would send out a form letter to LMSC Chairs and Facility Directors, encouraging bids. More recently, with internet capabilities, Jeff would send the memo to Tracy Grilli, who would then send it to Chairs. Ed said we should send it to Facility Reps and tell them to contact their LMSC Chair. Jeff commented that our current facilities list is about 2 years old. Barry has that list. Sandi**

suggested that we ask Barry to update the list and send it to our committee for review: then it could be sent to the LMSCs.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee time at Convention

Jeff noted that we have about 45 minutes less time allotted for our meetings at this year's Convention. Lisa suggested that we might need to find additional unscheduled times to meet, which is what we've had to do from time to time at prior conventions.

B. It appears that some US sites may bid for the Pan Am Games in 2013. Jeff has been asked by potential bidders if our committee would skip a Summer (LC)Nationals that year if a US site is the winning bid. Jeff suggested to the committee that perhaps in that situation, we could solicit bids from a different part of the country rather than cancelling Summer Nationals. Lisa commented that the HOD had voted to do this for 2011 if there was a successful US bid. Since that didn't happen, we were able to have 2011 Summer Nationals. Lisa applauded Jeff's idea, stating that this would be a preferable solution to having to cancel Summer Nationals.

C. Greensboro (2012 Spring Nationals host) wants to send their head referee to Mesa for experience. Jeff commented that the Greensboro hosts had thought that the trip would be paid for, and were unhappy to learn that wasn't the case. Ed stated that there is money in the Officials Committee budget to further supplement their staff- that could possibly be used to help send the Greensboro head referee to Mesa, as long as he worked the meet. Ed agreed to mediate this situation.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 28 at Mesa, time TBD.

Respectfully submitted by: Lisa Watson