

Minutes of the AG Committee, April 28, 2013

Members present: Amelia Dacruz (TIDE), Lisa Liston (LY), Steven Phillips (VAST), David Schreck (NOVA), Craig Bialorucki (ODAC), Mike Julian (PSDN), Peter Maloney (TSU), Harold Baker (WAC), Maureen Tolliver, Tim Moussetis (SEVA), Scott Baldwin (HOKI), Jessica Simons (CYAC)

Guests: Justin Smith (BAC), Art Anthony (TAC), Sonny Grissom (TAC), TJ Liston (LY), Ted Sallade (PSDN), Bob Herlinger (RAYS), Delwyn Jones (RAYS), Mike Clesner (RAYS), Dave Henderson (SEVA), Kevin McHaney (BASS), Josh Fulton (TIDE), David Strider

Amelia called the meeting to order at 7:30AM. She reported statistics from the 2013 short course Age Group championship meet. There were 656 total athletes, 586 with individual swims, 2927 individual splashes, and 415 relay splashes. The previous year there were 714 total athletes, 655 with individual swims, 3470 individual splashes, and 456 relay splashes.

Discussion moved to the region and district meet formats. Amelia had received feedback from 4 people with 2 of them in favor of the new formats and two of them opposed. Those who did not like the district meet format said that the inability to move forward to another meet took away some of the championship meet atmosphere, and ended the season early for swimmers who didn't get to experience the excitement of the region meet and another opportunity to go faster. Amelia expressed concern about simply reverting back to the old format without giving the new format more time to be worked out into a system that works. Lisa liked the grouping of the 12 & unders and the 13 & overs together in the new format better than grouping swimmers by time across the ages. Ted felt like the new format might work better in some areas of the state, but in the central district the three session days for three full days was lengthy for 12 & under swimmers and not best for swimming in general. North, Southwest, Southeast felt more positively about the new meet formats in their areas while the Central district had more issues with the new format. Kevin McHaney pointed out that the 9-12 year olds trying to make AG Champ cuts had less competition in the district meet than they would have had in a region meet where more swimmers from other teams would be competing against them. Much discussion. Fit and starts on a motion to return to the old format. Which method can be tweaked to best serve the swimmers? Should we add another region, can we move teams around, can different facilities be used, should there be another qualifier meet ahead of these meets, or a meet behind all the meets – many different items were discussed. The group was evenly divided in their support of the new format or the old format. Eventually it was decided that a subcommittee (or TASK FORCE, as it were) be formed to develop several options for everyone to look at so that a final decision can be made by the end of the summer. The task force will be led by Scott Baldwin and formed no later than May 15th, with options to be presented by long course AG Champs.

Short Course Age Group Championship times were felt to be good. The tightening of the standards made the meet numbers good and the standards will remain the same through next short course season. A motion was made to keep the time standards for Age Group Championships for two years. Passed unanimously.

Long Course Age Group Championship time standards that are posted on the website need to be corrected as a few do not meet the A time standard minimum. Craig will get the corrected standards to us by tomorrow.

Jessica asked that we change the wording of the distance event on Thursday evening so that swimmers who are unexpectedly delayed getting to the meet are not penalized and will be able to swim in an open lane if they are not seeded into the event. So moved, seconded, passed.

A motion was made that we not participate in short course Zones in the spring of 2014. Seconded. Discussion included whether our lack of participation would impact VSI's ability to be awarded the bid for sectional/zones meets; is there going to be an age group sectional-type meet run by VSI or some host team; how is our LSC impacted by the age group meet now run in Florida that many VSI teams are now supporting; do we philosophically want to financially support and honor swimmers on a Zone team that does not represent our fastest swimmers.

The motion passed.

There was discussion about the upcoming meet schedule and who will be hosting the AG Championship meets in 2014.

The Age Group committee reiterated that they would like the officials to run chase starts during the long course season when necessary and be prepared to run them at Age Group champs if it improves the timeline of the meet.

A motion was made to make the 400 IM and 200 fly, 200 back, and 200 breast at AG Champs for the 11-12 year old swimmers a timed final event, with the top heat swimming at night. Seconded. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn and resubmitted to say that the 400 IM for the 11-12 year old swimmers at both the short course and long course AG Champs will be a timed final event with the top heat swimming at night. Seconded. Approved. The 400 IM will move to Friday of the meet while the 200 IM will move to Sunday.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Liston