

## Report on USA-S Convention

September 14 – 17, 2011

As Age Group Chair I attended the following committee meetings to obtain up to date information and to ensure our LSC participation where warranted. My observations and needs are reported below.

- Make a Splash programs- participation at the team level as part of an integrated approach is highly encouraged. Rowdy Gaines and other are going to be available to visit for education and outreach opportunities to the LSC, possibly districts / regions as well.
- DECK PASS- I brought back flash cards for each of the teams to encourage the student reps and coach's discussion. This is going to be a great program and should greatly heighten the enthusiasm of the sport in this upcoming Olympic year. It should also offer opportunities for this LSC to shine as we encourage participation and use the badge development opportunities during our meets and awards.
- LEAP program- 2 points of importance in participation:
  - o Virginia should be able to easily secure level 2 with a little effort to write down what we are already doing.
  - o Everything on the USA swimming website will be check listed for ease of use.
    - At least 2 more items will be added to the check list
    - This should be a LSC link back to the USA swimming website for simplicity.
- **Safety Education**- despite the fact that this was not elected to be guidance we are free to use it at the LSC and team level as we see fit:
  - o Training and instruction for Deck Marshalls prior to a meet
    - Prior to assignment the person should be interviewed for awareness and observational availability. They should not be too distracted during the meet.
    - Training should be made by the Meet Ref about specific meet challenges and awareness needs prior to the start of each session. Briefing might take place during the timers meeting or just before.
- **Athlete Protection**- A module is or will be offered and should be taken by each officials position annually. The guidance to put a POC person for each meet was not accepted but can still be instituted by the LSC or teams. This POC would be where questions or concerns are directed and answered during a meet. In the event that a situation could not be handled during the meet the item the POC would ensure the item move up to the LSC level, then to USAS level quickly as warranted.
- **Zones Workshop for Age Groups**- Three areas of approach were discussed
  - o Perspective of Teams for money management
    - Do they use meets for \$\$
      - Generally makes up less than 10% of budget.
      - How to make them more profitable:
        - o Dual meets- makes them shorter and quicker (see contradiction below)



- Blind Relay- Teams are picked according to age group- order pre-assigned
  - Sr. Athletes Officials hold up cards for stroke selection prior to each swim.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia DaCruz

Age Group Chair- Virginia Swimming, Inc.

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