

Virginia Swimming, Inc.

Senior Committee Report

1. Eastern Zone Meetings:

- Cancelled EZ LC Age Group Champs and LC Senior Champs
- EZ LC Qualifying times will roll forward for 2021.
 - Qualifying period will remain January 1, 2019
- Meets for 2021 (Non-Olympic Year format)
 - SC 2020-2021 – two SC sectional meets
 - May 2021 – LC Super Sectional (CSAC in Richmond has a bid for the meet)
 - August 2021 – EZ LC Age Group Champs in Virginia

2. VSI Senior Champs Review

- **Participation** in the SC Senior Champs meet for last 5 years - Growth in number of athletes and entries as was the desired effect. Timelines were favorable allowing for more room.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Swimmers	536	540	552	589	653
Individual Entries	2364	2448	2315	2689	3125
Relay Entries	259	241	237	252	272

- **Dual courses:** Two SC senior champs meets before major format changes will be considered.
- **Bonus consequences:** The Senior Committee will review qualifying times. Drew will review times for AG Champs. USA Swimming has not yet stipulated what they will do with time standards for the new quad. Bonus swims may become more desirable. Delwyn Jones was concerned that he had Age Group athletes who could participate at Senior Champs than at AG Champs. This was driven by the bonus events.
- **Scheduled Breaks**
 - Recommend the meet invitation include scheduled breaks.
 - Making sure there is a 15-minute scheduled break (adjusted as needed) before and after relays and not alter the meet format with what we have currently with 400 IM/500 Free. Seeding 400 IM and 500 Free when it was a dual course meet will run in normal event order.
- **Options for future meets**
 - Changing to 15-16 finals heat to 16&U
 - Changing the meet entry deadline to the normal entry deadline (10-days prior to the start of the meet) with a Late-entry entry period for newly qualified swimmers in new newly qualified events.
 - Rotation of Senior Champs order of events – Jonathan Kaplan and Richard Hunter will review and report back to the sub-committee.
 - John Poorman offered to serve on the sub-committee
 - **Senior Champs Order of Events Sub-Committee: Jonathan Kaplan, John Poorman, and Richard Hunter**
 - Moving SC Senior Champs to late November/early December.
 - In 2001 and 2002, Senior Champs was in December. There are now more opportunities in the spring that makes this possibly a good option.
 - Addressed the gap for Age Group swimmers aging out in the spring
 - Moving the date of Senior Champs would still allow for teams to host a December meet, allows the LSC to provide racing opportunities for less accomplished athletes in January/February with a spring opportunity after the high school season for faster athletes.
 - The potential of moving senior champs to the late November/early December time frame will be investigated as a future approach.
 - Potential solution for the log jam of meets in February and March for most HS age swimmers.
 - Depending on our “return to play” we could potentially try this out this year. If so, a March meet would be needed to provide an opportunity for non-Junior National athletes.

- Athlete reps acknowledged this would be very different for the athletes but if we continued to have a March meet as well, it does have possibilities.
- Karen Sundahl and Greg Guilden have both offered to work on the sub-committee

Senior Champs Meet Scheduling Sub-Committee: Chad Onken, Jeff Kincaid and Jonathan Kaplan, Karen Sundahl, and Greg Guilden

3. **Virginia Senior Circuit** – We are exploring the interest and feasibility to having a circuit with meets in October, November, and January.

- The January meet would mirror our senior champs format.
- These would be smaller, more intimate meets.
- Discussion was tabled. Richard Hunter, Peter Maloney and Morgan Cordle with Steve Hennessy are willing to serve on a sub-committee to review a possible Senior Circuit.
- John Poorman offered to work on the sub-committee

Senior Circuit Sub-Committee: Richard Hunter, Peter Maloney, Morgan Cordle, John Poorman and Steve Hennessy

4. **Region Champs Format/Championship Progression**

- Timelines currently used have issues.
- Having a four district meet option will likely be more enjoyable experience for the athletes and families.
- Holistic review of the entire LSC for these meets should be examined.
- Looking at the order of events for each day of the meet instead of creating four districts may provide a timeline solution. Additionally, it was brought up that moving to 4 district level meets would render each meet to a less competitive environment with less than 300 swimmers at each meet.
- Facility set up for each meet, Region or District must be equal.
- Committee was informed that JRSSC is having issues with the 2nd day of the meet (Saturday) due to Fire Marshal concerns over the number of people in the building.
- Formed a sub-committee of Delwyn Jones, Megan Garland, Mike Salpeter and Ryan Woodruff with Ben Eichberg to discuss the Regional Champs options. Each district is represented on the sub-committee.
- Mike Wenert offered so serve on the sub-committee

Regional Champs Sub-Committee: Delwyn Jones, Megan Garland, Mike Salpeter, Ryan Woodruff, Ben Eichberg, and Mike Wenert

5. **Return to Play (RTP) Planning:** USA Swimming released a memo saying LSCs are not obligated to hold Championship Meets.

- Consensus was to hold a culminating event, but not a traditional championship meets.
- Offer something to look forward to is important. It may not be the same meet that we usually have.
- Prepare for multiple scenarios to account for “season” start and finish.
- Proposed for clubs to host SC or LC meets as they deem appropriate. Also meets that will fit the guidelines of group activities.
- Minimizing travel requirements for meets
- Athlete reps believe having a culminating meet is important to athletes. It is hard to work towards nothing.
- Retention of athletes will be important.
- Intra-squad Meets and Virtual Meets can be fun, but experience with virtual meets is limited.
- Mike Wenert asked about athletes without Senior Champs cuts.
- Emphasis was placed on gradual return to meets will be necessary, delaying sanctioning of meet for 2, 4, or 6 weeks to provide time for athletes to better prepared.
- Delwyn, Steve, Megan, Mike, Sara will all work on a sub-committee to craft draft schedules.

Draft Schedule Sub-Committee: Delwyn Jones, Steve Hennessy, Megan Garland, Mike Salpeter and Sara Gaston