

Convention Report – Damon Robertson

Convention this year in Jacksonville Florida centered on 2 major topics. The Athlete protection education program which came out on September 15, and Deck Pass: a new facebook type program for swimmers.

Here are a few highlights.

1. The Athlete Protection education program is now available. All existing non athlete members must complete it by December 31, 2011. New non athlete members must complete by October 15th. There is no cost for this program.
2. USA Swimming rolled out the deck pass program. This is a program to award swimmers digital patches based on their accomplishments. There is also an option for coaches to award patches based on their swimmers performance. Apps for the I phone and android coming soon.
3. I was selected chair of the site selection committee for the central zone. We were assigned to the Pleasant Prairie Wisconsin Site on August 3-5, 2012 with the open water taking place on August 6.
4. Senior Zone meet is at Lawrence Kansas on August 3-5, 2012.
5. New Central Zone coach director is Jim Anderson from Minnesota.
6. OME workshop convinced me that we should move control of this program into the MS office for our state championship meets.
7. No real controversial legislation was presented. There were some new additions to the athlete protection rules. Including legislation against bullying and knowing filling false accusations.
8. Next year is in Greensboro NC