

Program Operations Division Report for 1/25/09 Board of Directors Meeting

Meet Scheduling:

1. 2009 LCM schedule is being submitted for BOD approval.
2. For HOD, the attached update to the Meet Scheduling Request Form will be presented for approval. The goal is to clean up the document, bring Approved meet fees in line with Sanction meet fees, and better define the various categories. See the attachments for details. The “clean copy” file is the final proposal. The other file shows not only the additional information, but the deleted information as well.
3. FAST had to cancel their meet in January. We offered the same date and format to all clubs, but no one chose to accept.
4. For the 2009-2010 SCY season, we will be working with the Meet Scheduling Committee to find ways to encourage clubs to host meets with a format other than ABC. Some suggestions or ways to do this include:
 - for AB or A meets, allow host club swimmers that do not meet the time standards to be entered at the minimum time standards. This is done successfully in Indiana and Ohio.
 - for BC meets, allow host club “A” swimmers to enter the meet as exhibition swimmers with NT’s, i.e. not eligible for awards, and not seeded in the fastest heat.
 - Others????
5. Attached is an excel file with various state meet attendance information and season attendance numbers. The meet scheduling committee had asked for this and with Jan’s help we put this together.

Sanctions:

1. Rule change from the 2008 USAS HOD mandated a change to meet announcements dealing with pool length certifications and US or American records. A letter was sent to all clubs highlighting this change
2. Pool measurements. What is the BOD’s view/opinion on the importance or priority to have pools certified? A few high level meets have had issues with bulkheads. Do we as an LSC require State meets to be pre-measured? How do we handle bulkheads?

House of Delegates Legislation:

1. There are numerous housekeeping changes will be introducing to clean up inconsistencies in the Rules and Procedures (R&P).
2. Questions/input from the BoD:
 - ABC Festivals – not used in 4-5 years, delete?
 - Postal Meets – replaced by Internet Distance Challenge (USAS 701.1.4)
 - Michigan Mile – no one has bid on this since 2005. Ideas? Subsidize?
 - Paper entry fees – thoughts on eliminating extra \$1 fee?

SCY State Meets:

1. At the 2007 HOD legislation was passed to encourage State Meet hosts to use OME. When the rules were published, they mistakenly say “shall use”. This needs to be corrected. The minutes from 2007 support this.
2. We want to discuss how we can make OME more user friendly and actually get teams to use it.

Meet Issues:

1. New Four Hour Rule implementation. There have been several minor issues with incorrect heat intervals and not seeding events to check timeline. In all but two cases, the meets were nowhere near being full. We used it as teaching moment and did inform all clubs as to the proper procedure and told them there are no second chances.
2. There were two instances where clubs caught the errors before the entry deadline and had to turn away previously accepted teams. This caused some hurt feelings. We have received a hand full of e-mail complaints from various people and have answered their concerns.
3. There were two instances of clubs submitting sessions beyond four hours after entries closed. They were not fined, but were restricted in taking deck entries and in one case told to remove host team swimmers to fix the problem. We have been taking the approach of educating teams and not fining them. There is a learning curve involved, but we have made it clear that there are no second chances.
4. 30 second heat interval for younger swimmers is too slow. Based on data from several meets, deck referees are able to finish the sessions 15-20 minutes ahead of the timeline. By using a 20 second heat interval the projected finish times more closely align with the actual finish times. We have received a tremendous amount of feedback from coaches and meet hosts that the heat interval is too slow. At the 2009 HoD we will bring this up and ask for a vote to change the interval to 20 seconds.

JO and District Venue Assignments:

1. We have updated the District venue assignments based on new clubs for 2009 and non-renewals from 2008. We are also moving CUDA from the Red (WMS) to the White (BWSC) venue which is in line with the BAYS assignment. The White venue is also picking up new teams, BEST, FAST, HSS, and HHSC. Blue (LCSC) is gaining RAC. AOK and MPP did not renew and have been dropped. The district assignments have been stable for quite a few years even though the distribution of swimmers/teams/entries is heavily skewed to Blue venue (LCSC). While we could attempt to balance this out, it would increase travel distances in some cases greatly. The fact of the matter is most clubs/swimmers are concentrated in one area and increasing driving distances will probably deter attendance.

2. We have made the same new club updates to the JO venue assignments and also made a few other minor adjustments to more closely balance the number of swimmers and entries. In the case of JO's, we see it as more important to balance the entries, even though driving distances may not seem equitable. Also, since we only had one JO meet for so many years, we are not increasing driving distances, even for the east side teams still assigned to CAST. Again, due to the demographics of the LSC, more clubs/swimmers are located on the east side of the state. For 2009 we are moving NS, SAC, CUDA and BAYS to CAST and SMAC and MSC to CSW. Below you will see how this rebalances the entries based on 2008. SMAC and MSC are the two teams from the "east side" that have the farthest drives to CAST. NS and SAC are in the vicinity of other "east side" teams that travel to CAST, for instance LCSC, PCC, CW, YOSC, SC, and FFYS. Also, FAST, RAC, BEST and HHSC are being assigned to the East venue and HSS is being assigned to the West venue.

	# of Teams	# of Swimmers	# of Entries
CAST 2008	38	522	1973
Proposed 2009	39	585	2225
CSW 2008	37	598	2414
Proposed 2009	39	535	2162

3. Some JO statistics from 2007 to 2008 that show by splitting this meet, we are increasing attendance. Everything I heard from last year was positive. Smaller meet, less crowded, more enjoyable. The only complaints were around east side teams still driving to Lansing.

	2007	2008	% Increase
# of Teams:	60	65	8%
# of Swimmers:	969	1120	13%
# of Entries:	3327	4387	24%