

**Connecticut Swimming
Program Development Meeting
Minutes of November 9, 2011
7:30 pm @ the Orange Community Center**

In Attendance: Jeff Gray (Chair), Bill Ball, Dave Reilly, Molly Condron, John Spadafina, Kaz Takabayashi, Tak Takabayashi, Lexi Koukos, Mark Kinne

Absent: Kaeley Steinnagel, Ty Seymour, Jim Santiago, George Bradner, Chris Hug,

Also in Attendance: no one

Meeting called to order @ 7:48 PM; delayed start due to traffic accident on Merritt Parkway, which prevented some member from attending.

- **Approval of Agenda:** motion made to approve with additions; second; motion approved for the amended agenda. (1) 8/U “season ending meet” and (2) meet cancellation policies were added to the agenda.
- **Approval of Minutes for October 12, 2011:** motion made to approve, second; motion approved.

Committee Reports:

Senior Committee

- The Committee met to review and further discuss proposed format changes for the 2012 Senior Championship. They have not yet finalized the logistical questions with Wesleyan, and so it is unclear whether it will be possible to conduct finals in the long course format, with prelims remaining in the short course format, which would require a change over of the pool format 2 times daily (between prelims and finals and after finals). More on this discussion below under relevant agenda item.
- 2012 LC Championship meet schedule (review of available dates, alternative venues and sectional dates; final confirmation of 2012 CSI championship dates): Confirmation of pool availability has not yet been received. More on this discussion below under relevant agenda item.

Age Group Committee

- Committee had to cancel its meeting last week; has been rescheduled to next week, at which time the agenda items will be 2012 SC Regional Time Standards, Zone Policy Revisions, and review of SC Age Group Championship challenges.
- **Important Proposed Changes:** the Committee will be recommending the identification of a second site for the 2012 Age Group Championships that could

accommodate some of the age groups for prelims. The committee believes that the revised time standards along with the second site will relieve pressure on deck crowding, allow for easier transitions in between sessions, allow proper rest for all swimmers returning for evening finals and address many of the concerns that gave rise to the SC Age Group Proposal that has been the subject of ongoing discussion since last year. The committee is unanimous in these recommendations, and believes that this no longer makes the SC Age Group Proposal necessary. Still to be determined are which age groups will swim prelims at the second site, and which site will be used. All finals will be swum at Wesleyan.

Technical Planning Committee

- No report.
- Committee scheduled for first meeting in the coming week; anticipated agenda items to include Regional Championship Challenges, review of 2012 LC Championship Meet Schedule and long range planning for swimming calendar.

Old Business:

- **Zone Policy:** Confirmed that the basic eligibility criteria had been reviewed, discussed and reaffirmed by the Age Group Committee last year and again this year, with no suggested changes proposed, and PD made the decision at the last meeting to reaffirm and approve the existing eligibility criteria, in order to communicate this to our membership in a timely way early in the short course season. We will ask Nan to post the eligibility criteria and send a blast e-mail to all coaches communicating this information and further clarifying that only “sanctioned” meets count, and “approved” meets do not. The latter is an important distinction.

The balance of the draft policy statement will be vetted for clarity over the next 2 months and approved in December or January with no substantive changes to the content as proposed in the current draft.

- **2012 LC Championship Meet Schedule:** (review of available dates, alternative venues and sectional dates; final confirmation of 2012 CSI championship dates):
 - Possible 2012 dates are as follows:
 - June 25-July 2 Olympic Trials
 - July 5-8 Wesleyan available
 - July 12-15 Wesleyan available
 - July 19-22 Wesleyan available
 - July 26-29 waiting for confirmation of pool availability on this weekend
 - Sectionals was first week in August for 2011
 - Zones was 2nd week in August for 2011
 - Aug 7-11 US Open (they hold this in lieu of Nationals during an Olympic Year)

At the last meeting, consensus was to contact Wesleyan to explore the possibility of adding dates to the above list of those available, with an interest in the last week in July (26th -29th). Bill Ball has reached out to Wesleyan on this, as has Nan Cooper. We have not yet heard back on the availability of Wesleyan for the last weekend in July. Because we need to finalize this, PD tabled the following motion, to approve two separate scenarios, contingent on confirmation from Wesleyan:

2012 LC Championship Meet Schedule: Motion made to approve, second; motion approved: if the final weekend in July is available, the championship line up will be July 12th-15th for Seniors, 19th – 22nd for Regionals and 26th-29th for Age Groups. If the final weekend in July is not available, the championship line will be similar to this past year: July 5th-8th for Regionals, 12th-15th for Seniors and 19th-22nd for Age Groups.

Bill and Nan will reach out to Wesleyan again and try to confirm.

Important Note: also reviewed again was the possibility of moving the **Senior Invite** to Wesleyan if possible, contingent upon the availability of UConn. The general consensus of the Program Development Committee was that if June 14th – 17th is available at both UConn and Wesleyan, the Senior Invite should be moved to Wesleyan and the UConn venue should be made available for the hosting of a qualifier meet.

- **SC Senior Championship finals configuration:** Discussion resumed on the pros and cons of this proposed change (i.e. conducting finals in the long course format, with prelims remaining in the short course format). The primary rationale for the Committee's recommendation is based on upcoming Olympic Trials and providing additional qualifying opportunities for Connecticut swimmers. The Committee still has not been able to confirm with Wesleyan whether it is logistically possible to change the pool from short course format at prelims to long course format for finals, and then back again for morning prelims. This would have to be done daily during the afternoon break and after finals each evening. The Committee is pursuing this discussion with the staff at Wesleyan and they anticipate returning to Program Development with a final recommendation. This may not be possible, in which case the meet would have to be conducted entirely in the traditional short course format for prelims and finals, or entirely in the long course. Discussion ensued on the merits of both formats, as well as the merits of switching formats between prelims and finals if this is logistically possible. Bill Ball reviewed the discussion points from the Senior Committee meeting on these matters. Part of this discussion included a review of the different training and preparation strategies that would be undertaken by coaches for each format, the challenges of same, and the challenges of preparing for a meet in which the formats would change between prelims and finals.

Important Note: At the conclusion of this very productive discussion, it was the unanimous consensus of the Program Development Committee that the format for the meet should either be short course or long course for both prelims and finals, and should not alternate formats between prelims and finals. The PD committee would find either format acceptable, and making a decision in advance was thought to give coaches the time they would need to prepare their swimmers accordingly for either format. We now only need to know from Wesleyan that they can and are willing to set the pool up in the long course format for this meet, if this is the direction we seek to move in. PD needs final clarification from the Senior Committee now on which format they will choose. The meet announcement has to be drawn up and approved by December, with Nan's assistance.

- **Clarification and Definition of Age Group Swimming in Connecticut:** After considerable discussion, **motion made to approve, second; motion approved: Age Group Swimming within Connecticut Swimming is hereby clarified and defined to include all swimmers who are 18 years of age and under.**

New Business:

- **2012 Regional Championship Minimum Time Standards:** Since the Age Group Meeting was cancelled, this item will be reviewed and approved at their meeting next week, and the time standards will be circulated to the PD Committee for via e-mail for vote.
- **2012 SC Championship Meet Announcements:** meet announcement are not yet ready for review. The Senior Committee has to decide on the format for the **Senior Championship** meet, and the championship finals will flow from that. If the meet is run in the long course format, finals will consist of 3 heats of 8 swimmers each. If the meet is run in the long course format, the finals format will be consistent with last year, which included 2 heats of 9 swimmers each and a super final of 4 swimmers. No other changes are anticipated. Once the decisions have been made and the draft meet announcement has been prepared, it will be distributed to PD and Nan for review. For **Age Groups**, the committee will pursue the strategy outlined in the report section above; they have to identify venues and make decisions on which age groups will swim where and at what time. The Age Group Committee will seek clarification on all of these matters, develop a draft meet announcement, and circulate same to the PD Committee. Because there is no PD meeting scheduled in December, a teleconference call will be convened to review and approve the Age Group Meet announcement.
- **8/U "Season Ending Meet":** after considerable discussion, **the general consensus** was the following: the 8/U "End of the Season" meet should be awarded to the team that initially asked permission to host this meet, the meet shall be a sanctioned meet, but CSI shall grant the host the right to call it an "8/U Championships", as has been the practice in the past, and the Age Group

Committee shall table this as a future agenda item to determine if the 8/U “Championship” shall be built into CSI calendar or not.

- **Meet Cancellation Policies:** in light of the recent severe weather, the impact on the State, and the State of Emergency that was declared throughout the State, concern was expressed that some meets had taken place, while others were cancelled. In the case of those that took place, concern was expressed about the wisdom of having swimmers, parents and coaches on the road under these conditions. Moreover, concern was expressed about changes to warm up times and delays in the start of the meets that took place, and inadequate communication related to same. In light of these concerns, Program Operations will review the meet cancellation policies, make proposed changes to same, bring them back to PD for review and discussion, and PD and PO will then advance to the full Board as appropriate.

Motion to adjourn; second, motion approved for adjournment at 9:26 PM.