

Hello Fellow Committee Members,

Happy New Year - hope it will be a good one for each of you and your families.

The first quarter of the new swim season was off to a roaring start - all kinds of new records being set by our age group swimmers; discussion on swimsuit technology, breaststroke rule interpretations - you name it! In the meantime, our swimmers, clubs and LSCs just keep on swimming fast, hosting meets, loading times and working hard. Our Junior Team did incredibly well at the Jr Pan Pac Meet in Guam this last week.

Attached is the update sent to our boss Pat Lunsford, VP of Program Operations, for presentation to the USA Swimming Board of Directors at its meeting this month. In it you will see the latest records set by our USA Swimming members, some incredible statistics for the SWIMS database, and information on the SAA and Age Group Recognition programs and ConocoPhillips Reimbursement from Atlanta. Also attached is the proposed 2009 SWIMS Times Module Policy Manual that the Board reviews to approve. In the manual are included the updated Record Application Forms for NAG and American/U.S. Open Records and the SAA application for 2008-09. Many thanks to committee members Jim Holcomb and Betty Kooy for updating these forms for us. Larry will be posting these new application forms in many different areas on the USA Swimming web site so that they will be available for swimmers/parents/coaches to find and use. Thanks to Isabelle Fraser for her great monitoring of the NAG swims and record updates.

I would like to set up a committee conference call for the last week in January if possible. Please look at your calendars and let me know what day and time would work best for you all. We would very much like to include our athletes in the calls, meaning that the calls may not be taking place during the work day when they are at school or swim practice. Athletes, please let us know a day and time when you can make the call and we will do our best to oblige.

Discussion Items:

- Where things stand as far as SWIMS Times Enhancements for the next three quarters of the year. Jay and Larry can hopefully review progress made this fall and priorities for upcoming small and large "fixes".
- Evaluating the process for SAA and Age Group Recognition Certificates/Awards - what needs to be improved? We had a few hiccups in the process this fall.
- Adding of age 18 for Age Group Top Ten - how to screen out times swum at college meets by 18 year olds.
- The Rules Committee would like a recommendation for "measurement" guidelines for NAG records - purposefully omitted from the rule changes passed at convention in order to get the pool certification process moving forward.
- Setting up a swimmer of the quarter recognition for disabled swimmers - the disability committee is in favor. Bea Hartigan, former committee member, left us some guidelines to consider for this recognition.

There's plenty there to get us started - once we get your feedback for day and time (Jan 26-30th framework), I will send out information and instructions. Thanks for your support of the T & R Committee!

Suzanne Heat