

**Times & Recognition Committee  
Conference Call Minutes  
September 10, 2008, 8 p.m.**

**Present:** Larry Herr, Suzanne Heath, Jay Thomas, Marvin & Joyce Lanphere, George Breen, Jim Holcomb, Betty Kooy, Bea Hartigan, Isabelle Fraser, Alice Kempthorne, Ryan Littlefield, Gina Mayer

1. Update from Larry Herr on his trip to Beijing for the Olympics
  - Larry's trip to the Olympics was on behalf of NBC. His role was a researcher providing statistics and information to the network anchors to tell the story of what really goes on in the meet and what swimming is really about. The research team was Mike Unger, Tom Avischious, Susan Woessner and Larry. NBC took great care of them – good hotels, bus transport. It was a great experience.
  - Larry said the best part was that the Olympics begins and ends with the coaches and the athletes – not the countries or the politics. In the Beijing games, swimming definitely captured the USA imagination – NBC has a contract to cover the World Championships next year in Rome.
  
2. Staffing Plans for Times – USA Swimming - Larry
  - As the committee is aware Chelsey Walden left USA-S to pursue other career opportunities back in Iowa. Currently, staff includes Larry and Susan Woessner (in grad school at Texas) as a contract employee. With the assistance of Mike Unger's admin asst, Christine Schemmel, Mike and Larry feel that it is not necessary to add additional staff at this time. Christine will provide logistical support for the certificates for NAG Records, Age Group Recognition, and SAA needs. She will also be trained to answer questions received by email and phone to the Times Dept.
  - With the completion of several major projects (NCAA database and OME) and the Olympics behind them, USA Swimming staff feels that current liaisons will be adequate. Should that change, the funding is there for additional staff members.
  - Larry will be working closely with Times volunteers and also committee members to insure that oversight is provided on T & R projects and ongoing work.
  
3. Records Update – Isabelle and Suzanne
  - Updated Record information has been provided to Pat Lunsford and the Board of Directors. Included in the information are the following achievements by USA Swimming member athletes in 2007-08:
    - At Olympic Trials, records included:
      - 9 World Records
      - 21 American Records
      - 20 US Open Records
      - 10 NAG Records

- At the Beijing Olympic Games, records included:
  - 11 World Records
  - 24 American Records
  - 1 NAG Record
- NAG Records include the following:
  - SCY Records - 34 individual records; 10 relay records
  - LCM Records – 33 individual records; 19 relay records
- All Star Relay Records included:
  - 9 records broken
  - 29 relays better than NAG times
- The NAG Record application form needs some corrections. The committee recommends that the electronic link go to Times@usaswimming.org. Isabelle's last name needs to be corrected to "Fraser. Jim Holcomb will take care of making these changes and submit the new application to Larry for posting on the web site. Larry or Christine will send hard copies of the applications received on to Isabelle.
- Larry and Christine will work together to send out the certificates for the 2007-08 records that have not yet been acknowledged.
- The committee/staff needs to work on educating the LSCs, Records chairs, and coaches on the availability and location of the new record application forms.
- For convention Larry will make copies of all the records updates for meetings/workshops and Isabelle will provide a summary sheet for NAG records to him.
- All Star Relay Records – discussion as to whether these records need to be continued. The All Star records are those set by athletes from an LSC rather than a club. Currently, times that are faster than current NAG records are recognized with a certificate as well as times that break an All Star record.
  - PC and CA are the LSCs who send applications for these records. At convention we will put the question on the agenda as to the continuation of these awards.
  - The All-Star Times are in the Rule Book (104.2.5, A B C). Committee members are asked to review this rule for discussion at convention. If we intend to remove the records, legislation would need to be brought forward for 2009-2010 consideration.

#### 4. Proposed Legislation for 2009 Rule Book – Times Related

- R -11 – Allowing Observed Swim Times to be used for USA Swimming Records proposed by Julie Bare, R & R committee – we endorse this amendment.
- R-12 – American Records may be set only by US citizens who are also US sports citizens proposed by the IRC – we endorse this amendment.
- R-13 – Pool Measurement Guidelines submitted by the T & R Task Force and referred to the R & R committee for revision. Essentially R & R came up with a proposal they feel will pass the HOD vote. Suzanne read a statement

from Bruce Stratton to the committee concerning the lack of attention to NAG Records. He has asked T & R to consider what language should be proposed for the Rule Book for next year. This will be on the agenda for the meeting at convention and Suzanne asked committee members to consider what they would like to see added regarding measurement procedures for NAG Records.

- R-29 – Clarification of the Age Group Recognition Times Chart in the Rule Book submitted by T & R.
    - This was the first year of the new Top Ten Times program. For the Rule Book we used the 10<sup>th</sup> fastest time in each single age group from 2006-07. Our amendment proposes defining that time for clarification.
    - In preparing the chart for the 2008-09 Rule Book, Larry has proposed that this year we use two year's worth of data and average the two times to come up with the charted time. This would add some statistical power to the numbers and keep the times relevant (in case you had a very fast event one year, it would not make achievement too difficult the following year).
    - The committee suggested that going forward, we use three years of data. Suzanne will propose a friendly amendment at the R & R meeting at convention that will describe the process now or in the future.
  - R-40 – Long Distance Swimming Records proposed by Dale Petranec.
    - It was Suzanne's understanding that the internet swimming records would be discontinued – this per Dave Thomas. It seems strange that this amendment was proposed by Dale if some of the records are being discontinued. Larry will check with Dave Thomas upon his return from the Paralympics Games and Jay will contact Dale if Dave confirms that some of this data is being discontinued so that Dale might amend or withdraw his amendment.
  - HK -1 – Proposed by T & R to clean up some of the language in the Rule Book regarding NAG Records and Age Group Recognition.
  - Disability Amendments – Bea gave the committee a brief overview of these proposals which were mostly cleaning up and simplifying language.
5. Status of Proposal for Disability Swimmer Quarterly Recognition – Bea
- Bea has not received any formal endorsement or recommendation from the Disability Committee. She will seek to get that information at convention.
  - T & R will move forward with a proposed recognition program and will review our original proposal at our business meeting.
6. SAA – Marvin and Joyce Lanphere
- Applications will be accepted up to the convention and a final report will be published after convention and the SAA Team named. Preliminary data shows the following:
    - 2006-07 1279 successful applicants
    - 2007-08 947 successful applicants
    - This is a decrease of 25% - due to the faster time standard requirement.

- Number of 4.0 GPAs is the same – about 70-75% of the applicants (this is a weighted GPA).
- 39 applicants were rejected – about 4%
- After convention Marvin will send Larry the team names. Larry and Christine will furnish 3 certificates for each team member and send these back to Marvin and Joyce along with envelopes for mailing and letterhead.
- Some changes need to be made to the SAA application. Betty is also working on some directions to give to applicants so that they can provide a listing of their times from SWIMS for the tabulators. This would make the process more efficient for the tabulators. The list of all swimmers achieving the 2000 Junior National Time Standards would still be sent by Larry to the tabulators as it was done this year.
- The SAA Sub-Committee is satisfied with the results of the 2007-08 team and feels that “leveling the playing field” and requiring a time standard achievement has made the recognition more important.
- Marvin noted an increased number of YMCA swimmers (good for the sport) who applied and attributes this to the fact that not many Y swimmers went to the sectional meets due to conflicting YMCA championship level meets.
- In some LSCs not all high school times make it into the database. Applicants need to be made aware that if a time that would qualify them for recognition is not in the database, they need to secure the data entry to SWIMS from their LSC.

7. Times Enhancements – Larry and Jay

- 2007-08 enhancements include:
  - Autosweep – to be presented at Times Workshop at convention
  - LSC Portal Page/LSC Records Maintenance – led by Chelsey and Jay, this has been a great feature. There are still a few issues such as when a meet is deleted for some reason and then reloaded, the Records will show up as “new” again and be duplicates.
  - IT department has developed a new results search mechanism which will be demonstrated at the times workshop.
- 2008-09 Plans
  - Address the Times Recon Phase 2 which was delayed this year. Jay will solicit a small group of volunteers to determine what we want SWIMS to do in recon of a swim meet entry file.
  - Jay has a spreadsheet of smaller items that have been requested or noticed. He will provide this to Suzanne for distribution to the Times Officers and discussion at convention.
- Other Issues
  - Jay described the fairly new Dolphin Timing System which has functionality as a Level 2 or Level 3 timing device. This system is breaking new ground and its abilities or issues are not currently addressed by the Rule Book. Jay wanted to make the committee aware of this new device and informed us that the R & R committee will be taking a look at it in the coming year.

- Language in Article 207 in the Rule Book needs cleaning up to insure that there is conformity between rules and information published in meet information books and OME. Suzanne noted that Articles 206 & 207 have been moved to the Policy Manual which will make it easier to revise. Jay, Suzanne and Larry will take a look at this in the coming season.
- 8. NAG Motivational Time Charts for 2009-2012 – Larry
  - Larry has been working with Jim Patterson of CC (completed past motivational time charts for USA-S) to revise the charts for the next quad.
    - In the past approximately 10% of the times changed; for the next quad, an average of 40% of the times will change. In some cases 50-95% of the times are improved.
    - This improvement shows that not only are our elite swimmers performing very well, our age group swimmers are also raising the bar significantly!
- 9. Age Group Recognition Program – Betty and Larry
  - SCY preview lists were sent to LSC tabulators recently for error correction.
  - LCM preview lists are being sent this weekend to the tabulators for review.
  - After convention, when the tabulators have had a chance to make corrections in SWIMS for erroneous data, Larry will put out a final preview list to the tabulators and post it on the web site. Once the list is considered complete, certificates for ages 11-14 individuals and 11-12, 13-14 relays will be sent to the LSC for distribution. Blank certificates for ages 15-17 and 15-16, 17-18, and 15-18 relays will be made available upon request by the LSC for printing at the LSC.
  - Addition of age 18 to the single age group recognition – a request was made by Peter Malone of the Senior Swimming Committee to add this single age group for 2008-09. As our elite swimmers are much older now, we need to offer recognition where possible for “younger” senior swimmers. The committee agreed with this request and is recommending to VP Pat Lunsford that we add age 18 for 2008-09 recognition.
  - Any other recognition proposals will need to be recommended by Senior Swimming or another committee for consideration by T & R.
- 10. SWIMS Times Module Policy Manual – Suzanne
  - Per VP John Wilson, Suzanne will add information on “altitude adjusted times” to the Times Policy Manual. The manual will be revised after convention and submitted to the Board of Directors at its January meeting for approval.
- 11. Convention
  - All members on the call will be present at convention for our meeting and were encouraged to attend meetings and workshops related to our duties on T & R.

12. ConocoPhillips Reimbursement – Suzanne and Alice
- Reimbursement for Olympic Trials included:
    - 180 athletes – receiving a total of \$59,238.61
  - Reimbursement for the U.S. Open included:
    - 76 athletes – receiving a total of \$16,640.35
  - Thanks to Larry for providing the FINA World Rankings used at the meets. Larry will check with Cindy Hayes to see when the reimbursement checks will be mailed to the athletes/teams.

The conference call ended at 9:45 p.m. Thanks to all for a great meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Heath  
September 11, 2008