



# USA Swimming National Disability Committee



EDUCATE



EMPOWER



ENGAGE

## Minutes of Conference Call – January 18th, 2018

---

Disability Committee Mission Statement: *USA Swimming encourages people with disabilities to participate in the sport of swimming and facilitates their inclusion in USA Swimming programs through education and collaboration. We seek to involve people with disabilities in existing competitions and programs for all swimmers, rather than provide unique disability-only opportunities.*

**Attendees:** Mark Rieniets (Chair),  
Randy Julian (Staff liaison),  
Tharon Drake (Athlete rep),  
Haley Beranbaum (Athlete rep),  
Jim Peterfish  
Jon Larson,  
Linda Conger  
John Loria

**Absent:** Tom Franke,  
Bob Welch  
Paul Stockett

### 1. Committee Members

Paul Stockett is joining the committee in 2018 and replacing Kyle Smith who has termed out on the committee.

Mark, in his role as Committee Chairman, recognized Kyle who ended his second term on the committee at the end of 2017, and thanked him for his many years of commitment and participation on the committee.

Kyle has had a number of roles on the committee, including committee chairman, and has worked tirelessly over the years fostering both education and commitment to ensure the committee served both USA Swimming and the athletes with a disability in a wide variety of areas.

We are hopeful that we will see Kyle back on the committee in the future.

### 2. Minutes.

Mark reported that since the November and December conference calls were focused on developing the LSC Disability Qualifying standards, these minutes would encompass the total discussions/decisions rather than produce duplicates of the same items for those calls.



# USA Swimming National Disability Committee



EDUCATE



EMPOWER



ENGAGE

## Minutes of Conference Call – January 18th, 2018

---

### 3. Combined Coaches clinic co-sponsored by USA Swimming and U.S. Paralympics Swimming in February

Randy Julian reported that the application date for attendance at the Disability Coaches clinic in February had closed and that the final number was 48 people registered. The original plan reserved 50 beds at the OTC so the course attendance would be near maximum capacity.

Queenie Nichols (U.S. Paralympics Swimming) and Randy had finalized an agenda for the workshop, which was circulated to the committee.

Randy Julian reported that on the Friday night there is an opportunity for the participants to articulate what they are looking for out of the workshop. Based on that session the agenda could be modified to ensure the participants are able to address their requirements.

### 4. Qualifying standards for LSC and Zone championships where the swimmer has a disability

Linda Conger has distributed the standards developed to the committee for review prior to the conference call. After discussion it was decided to add a standard for a 100 IM. Tharon Drake will calculate the standard based on the formulae used for the other standards and forward to Linda Conger for inclusion.

Once the standards are completed Linda will forward to Mark for final formatting and distribution to the LSC's with the recommendation that these time standards be used for the LSC championship and Zone meets.

### 5. Grouping of athletes with a disability

Prior to the call Mark Rieniets had distributed a suggestion for grouping athletes with a disability into similar groups for a more even competition. The committee had agreed to the following groupings:

- 1 – non-ambulatory (wheelchair bound)
- 2 – dwarfism, multiple limb deficiencies, ambulatory but only with assistance (ex. Walker, assistant)
- 3 – single limb deficiencies, visual impairments, intellectual impairments, ambulatory without significant assistance (cane, crutch, prosthetic)

Where multiple athletes with a disability are competing in LSC and Zone level meets, it is recommended to cede the athletes together based on the above to ensure a more even completion.

### 6. Out reach out to LSC disability chairs

John Loria reported than in spite of previous undertakings, the committee still not had been able to develop a definitive contact list to ensure that every LSC had identified a Disability Chair.

Randy Julian reported that now that the 2018 registration activities were coming to a close, he would request a list of Disability chairs which had been reported to USA Swimming out of the SWIMS system.

Randy Julian to arrange the extraction of the list and forward to John Loria.



# USA Swimming National Disability Committee



EDUCATE



EMPOWER



ENGAGE

## Minutes of Conference Call – January 18th, 2018

---

### 7. Utilizing the USA-S twitter account for relevant news/updates on impaired athletes

Tharon Drake reported that despite previous efforts, he had not been able to establish a firm contact with anyone within USA Swimming who could transmit the tweets from the Disability Committee.

Randy Julian volunteered to invite *Wendy Barlett to the committee face to face meeting prior to the coach's workshop in Colorado Springs. The aim of having Wendy attend the meeting is to facilitate a conversation on how and when the Disability Committee will be able to send out weekly tweets.*

### 8. Goal setting for 2018

*Mark Rieniets reported that now that the Disability has achieved the two major objectives in 2017, ((i) Qualifying standards for athletes with a disability at LSC Championships and Zones and (ii) The combined Disability Coaches Workshop) it is time to set goals which the committee will focus on for 2018.*

*The final list of candidates for focus during 2018 will be determined during the February conference call.*

*The initial list suggested by committee members during the call included:*

- 1. Require the LSC to have a formal inclusion statement as part of the club LEAP program*
- 2. Establishing regular communication via Twitter*
- 3. Ensuring every LSC has a Disability Chair appointed and providing mentoring/education material for them*