



USA Swimming National Disability Committee



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Minutes of Conference Call – March 21, 2019

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), Jim Peterfish
Randy Julian (Staff liaison), Tom Franke
Amanda Pope Tharon Drake (Athlete)
Caroline Holmes (Athlete) Queenie Nichols (U.S. Para Swimming)
Jon Larson,
Paul Stockett

Absent: Bob Welch

1. Disability Motivational time
 - General feedback received from numerous LSC's continues to be positive and indicates that the times are gaining a wide acceptance in the various level meets hosted by USA-S clubs.
2. Education Subcommittee
 - Pauli reported that the committee is continuing to work on para 101 course
 - 2019 Convention workshop was discussed and ideas for presentation and material for coaching athletes on the Autism spectrum was discussed.
 - Amanda Pope volunteered material she has collected doing research in this area, and will join the Education Subcommittee
3. U.S. Paralympics Swimming
 - Queenie Nichols joined the call and gave an update on where the USP is focusing its attention for education and also discussed where the two organizations could partner for a combined education workshop
 - The list of topics Queenie updated the committee on were:
 - i. Developing a basic course for including adaptive swimmers in USA Swimming programs. This has a section of Intellectual impairment and the requirements for coaching these athletes.
 - ii. Moving to a mobile app for coaches for easy access and dissemination of information
 - iii. Mobile app will include quick reference type clips so they can hear and see the material



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Minutes of Conference Call – January 17, 2019

- A discussion was held on the possibility of a joint USA Swimming/U.S. Paralympics coach's workshop in 2020 to address coaching athletes with an intellectual impairment, and specifically autism.
- Queenie volunteered to approach one of the International World Para Swimming classifiers for Intellectual Impairment and see if he would be available to participate in the coach's workshop.
- Discussion was held about the possibility of either streaming or recording the workshop. Randy will investigate what resources are available within USA-S to facilitate this.
- Randy reported that the budgeting process for 2020 was about to start within USA Swimming, and he had submitted the budgets for accommodation at the training center for the workshop