



USA Swimming National Disability Committee



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Minutes of Conference Call – May 22, 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),
Randy Julian (Staff liaison),
Amanda Pope
Caroline Holmes (Athlete)
Jon Larson,
Paul Stockett

Jim Peterfish
Tharon Drake (Athlete)
Queenie Nichols (U.S. Para Swimming)
Cathy Mendez (D&I Committee)

Absent: Bob Welch, Tom Franke

1. Disability Motivational time
 - Randy reported that work has been done on the USA Swimming site and the Motivational Times are now easier to find when people search for them on the site.
2. Education Subcommittee
 - Pauli reported that the committee is continuing to work on para 101 course and preparing for the 2019 Convention
 - Amanda reported on ideas for the presentation content and the target audience for the workshop.
 - Discussion was held around refining the content, and also ensure the workshop was well publicized prior to convention
3. Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy.
 - Discussion was held around the MAAPP program that has been adopted by USA Swimming and the impact of both the Disability Committee communication and the athlete's with a disability.
 - Summary of topics covered
 - i. No communications with athletes under the age of 18 is permitted after 8pm their time – this includes emails, texts and phone calls.
 - ii. All committee communication has be sent with an awareness of the time at the receiving destination, not the sending location
 - iii. Question was raised about athlete representatives on the monthly conference call after 8pm. Randy to follow up
 - iv. Question was raised about how athletes with Autism and/or attention deficit syndrome are expected to take the Safe Sport course on a computer. Randy will



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pass the concerns on to the Safe Sport representative for investigation and clarification

- v. Conversation was held regarding inviting Queenie to join future call to determine how U.S. Paralympics Swimming is satisfying the MAAPP requirements with the athletes who struggle with sitting at a computer for training – Mark to follow up with Queenie.

4. Convention workshop

- Amanda will leading the presentation at convention and presentation will be titles Autism 101
- Amanda and the education Sub Committee will disseminate a proof of concept presentation to the committee for review and feedback over the coming weeks.
- The approach for the workshop presentation will be to use an existing model in place as the basis of the presentation so real life experiences can be presented and discussed.