



USA Swimming National Disability Committee



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Minutes of Conference Call – February 28th, 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),
Jon Larson,
Linda Conger
John Loria
Paul Stockett
Tom Franke,

Absent: Bob Welch
Jim Peterfish

1. Workshop feedback

The Coaches workshop in Colorado Springs was discussed and the feedback from the committee was that the workshop was successfully with a very engaged audience.

Queenie Nichols supplied the results of the feedback survey, which was conducted by U.S. Paralympics Swimming online after the workshop. The survey results indicate that the participant's satisfaction was very high with both the content and the format of the workshop.

Future workshops were discussed, and Randy reported that budget availability would drive this. This year's workshop cost ~\$8,000. Committee discussed planning to host another combined workshop every two years with an education/update session at convention and the Zone workshops in the interim years.

2020 is targeted for the next workshop and will be placed on the business agenda for Convention this year to ensure budget and planning can be facilitated for this.

As an addendum to this discussion, the committee discussed the increase in intellectual disability and specifically Autism, which is showing a 900% increase in the schooling systems, and filtering into the swim programs.

Committee members will reach out to resources they work with, to ascertain the viability of bringing in additional resources to focusing on this area in particular during the 2018 Convention workshop.



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2. Action plan for Motivational Times

Linda and Tharon reported there were still small inconsistencies in a number of the Women's P2 & P3 times. These will be corrected within the next few days as time permits.

Tom reported that he had presented the motivational time at the Minnesota LSC board meeting and had received positive feedback. Minnesota will trial the motivation times during the LC season with a view to making them permanent in 2019.

Jim had reformatted the times so that LSC and Zones time fit onto a single page each. Discussion was held regarding the need for a consistent format so that the motivational times could be recognized as the USA Swimming Disability Motivational times.

To date eight (8) LSC's (Mostly in the central zone) have volunteered to trial the motivational times through the 2018 summer.

Bob / Jim were nominated to follow up with LSC's doing the trials and ensure all feedback was collected and collated ready for presentation at both the Disability Business meeting and the Disability Workshop at the 2018 Convention.

3. GC Luncheon at Convention

Randy Julian reported there was an opportunity to present the motivational times at a brief presentation to the LSC General Chairs at their luncheon at convention. Randy to follow up and finalize the arrangements.

4. Goals and Objectives for 2018

Discussion was held around what items should be the high priority focus items for the committee to concentrate on during 2018. The following items were nominated and agreed upon:

- Motivational time finalized and published to all LSC's
- Disability check box added to non-athlete registration form – specifically coaches
 - Paul to follow up with Cathy Durant
- Finalize a proposal to the LEAP committee for the LSC Disability Chair to be formal requirements for LSC LEAP I recognition
- Develop recommendations for making the Disability pages on the USA Swimming web site more accessible and easier to find
- Develop a formal outline of coaches education on catering to swimmers with a disability with a view to developing the actual education material/handouts in 2019



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5. **Laura Becherer email regarding future directions**

An email to the Disability Committee was received from Laura Becherer, (Wisconsin LSC Disability Chair) regarding the implementation and future direction of the Disability Committee Motivation times. The committee discussed Laura's email and agreed that the response Jim had drafted would be sent to Laura. (Refer Appendix I)

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

Due to lack of availability of a qualified resource to collate and submit relevant material for the USA Swimming Twitter account, this has been shelved for the near future.

1. **Coaches education**

Discussion was held around what and how the committee is doing to attempt to educate coaches on catering for athletes with a disability who do not aspire to the Paralympic or higher levels of competition.

Discussion was specifically held around Autism and how it has such a vast spectrum of athletes with it, and their needs are not a "one size fits all".

A task force was created to investigate this gaps and requirements for coaching education and develop an outline of a curriculum, which the Disability Committee will flush out in 2019 to start to address this short fall in the swimming committee.

Task force is: Paul Stockett (Chair), Bob Welsh, Jim Peterson, Jon Larson, Tom Franke



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APPENDIX I – Email and response to L

From: Jim Peterfish [mailto:youthletics@columbus.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:21 AM
To: Mark Rieniets <Mark.Rieniets@ipaper.com>; 'Bob Welch' <bob.welch3@gmail.com>; 'Haley Beranbaum - Athlete Rep' <haley.beranbaum@yahoo.com>; 'John Bitter - VP Program Development Committees' <jbitter@santaclaraswimclub.org>; 'John Loria' <jloria1@aol.com>; 'Jon Larson' <jonblarson@gmail.com>; 'Linder Conger' <linda.conger@ymcatvidaho.org>; 'Paul Stockett' <SSCOpenWater@gmail.com>; 'Randy Julian - Staff Liason' <rjulian@usaswimming.org>; 'Tharon Drake - Athlete Rep' <draketharon@gmail.com>; 'Tom Franke' <tomfranke@msn.com>
Cc: Jim Peterfish <youthletics@columbus.rr.com>
Subject: [External] : RE: Disability Swimming / Central Zone

Mark and Committee,

In response to Laura Becherer, (Wisconsin LSC Disability Chair) questions.

There were some definite discrepancies between how things were handled regarding Division 2 (Para) at the two separate Central Zone sites last summer. Each Meet Admin attempted to accommodate these athletes in the best manner possible and are committed to making things even better for this summer. I appreciate Laura's questions, as they are a great reminder as to how the Zones and LSCs should create consistency and assure recognition of the Para- swimmers.

I have separated out Laura's questions and provided a response to each. I invite the rest of the committee to contribute additional thoughts and as the Central Zone Disability Chair; I will package these for the Central Zone Committee and the meet Admin Refs for consideration this summer.

1. (From Laura) I read in your January committee minutes that there is a suggested 'grouping' of swimmers with a disability and standardized Q times for Zone meets.
 - A. Is there any information about standardizing the procedure of scoring?

Scoring at Zones is consistent with able- body and applied to the athlete's team. This the intent at the LSC level as well.

- B. Including the D2 swims in results?

Results should be included.

- C. Posting the results in Meet Mobile?

Not sure how this is processed, but should not be an issue if entered in the meet format correctly. In HS competitions, Meet Mobile is able to separate Divisions at the same meet.



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D. Results at meet?

Should be posted consistent with able-body results.

E. Included in Heat Sheets?

Should be included with able-body seeding in preliminaries. Perhaps a D2 designation can applied. In finals should show as a separate D2 event.

2. (From Laura) Will records etc. be compiled for the swimmers with a disability that have competed? Within Zones?

Up until now, para-swimmers have all been grouped together without any meet qualifying times. This does not lend itself to having comparable records. Now that we have in place, both, qualifying standards and identified sport class groupings we will be collecting data from all LSCs as a means of adjusting the existing time standards. This will allow us to also track records. LSCs will need to decide this on their own.

A follow up question - what is the best procedure to process this and how can USA Swimming help with tracking these times?

Jim