

2019 USA Swimming Convention
National Operational Risk Committee
Business Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 13, 2019

Committee Member Attendees:

Mary Jo Swalley, Chair (CA)

Marco Greico, Athlete Member (AD)

Starre Haney (MW)

John Kline (IL)

Mike Seip (MA)

Lynne Shine (AMS)

Donna Williamson (SE)

George Ward, Senior Director Risk Management, USA Swimming

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8 AM by Chair Mary Jo Swalley.

Introductions

Committee members were introduced.

Guest attendees introduced themselves, giving name and LSC affiliation. There were approximately 35 guests present.

Active Shooter Policy Questions

Mary Jo mentioned that she has received multiple inquiries from individuals regarding OR's recommendation for developing policies/procedures in the event of an active shooter situation at a swim meet /practice venue. Mary Jo indicated that there is no official recommendation and that clubs and LSCs are instructed to reach out to the law enforcement agencies / community first responders in their area for their direction.

Operational Risk Mandatory Certifications / Requirements – Document Discussion

Mary Jo and Starre then discussed the OR Committee's draft document entitled "Operational Risk Mandatory Certifications / Requirements", which provides a checklist of requirements for all the various demographics within USA Swimming. The document has already been reviewed by Abigail Howard, USA Swimming Associate Counsel / Safe Sport Director, and approved. The attendees were asked to comment on the document and make any additional suggestions / comments that would serve to improve its usefulness to the intended audiences.

Following are the responses:

- Add a row / space at the bottom for LSCs, Clubs, etc. to add in requirements that are limited to a local jurisdiction (i.e., Lindsay's Law / Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training in Ohio)
- While every club should have an Operational Risk Director, it is not required per the USA Swimming Rulebook that such office holder be a non-athlete member; although this might be a requirement an individual LSC might

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wish to consider. It should be encouraged that all such individuals, in the interest of being fully prepared complete the Concussion Protocol course.

- Perhaps a listing of required (state-specific) certifications should be included on Meet Announcements as part of the Sanction process – especially with respect to Zone meets and above.

Reminders:

- Concussion training (which is now required for both Coaches and Officials) will not automatically load to each member's account. Proof of completion must be sent to the LSC Registrar, who should immediately record. Once recorded it will show up on Deck Pass Plus. In some states concussion training is not a "one and done" situation; so, for LSCs in those states, expiration dates should be added to the record. Concussion training will not "flag up" like STSC or APT; so, individuals in those jurisdictions need to self-manage.
- Keenan Robinson, USA Swimming Sports Medicine, is trying to develop an acceptable concussion training that can be accessed via the USA Swimming LEARN platform.
- Attendees were encouraged to alert USA Swimming Operational Risk (via George Ward) of any legislative changes that occur in their states.

Report of Occurrence Summary Document – Discussion

- There needs to be a clear understanding at every practice / meet as to whom is tasked with reporting in the event of an accident. This should be added to the Meet Director training in every LSC.
- Should be reiterated that a ROO needs to be filed with USA Swimming – even if an accident report has been filed with the venue management or School District. This is very important as information that is filed with a School District or other agency will not be available (in accordance with HIPAA law provisions) to USA Swimming.
- Reminder that LSCs should stay aware of videos on the internet that encourage unsafe and potentially dangerous activities and strenuously discourage such behavior. One recent example was a video showing swimmers "diving" into snowbanks – mimicking competitive racing techniques.

Old Business

None

New Business

- USA Swimming Zone Workshop / Meeting will take place May 1-3 in Chicago. All four Zones will be in attendance. Due to space limitations Operational Risk will not be presenting an educational component. It is anticipated that the National OR Committee will be doing a full-blown educational presentation at USA Swimming Convention in Jacksonville in September 2020.
- Sean Redmond, Western Zone Director stated that he is currently compiling a list of items that he intends to bring to the attention of USA Swimming leadership in Colorado Springs. One of those items will be a request that OR be included and permitted to present to the attendees at the Zone Workshop in May. He suggested that all in attendance in this meeting reach out to their Zone and LSC leadership and request that they also make a similar request of USA Swimming. Impress upon them that this is a membership request.

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- Jade Sobek, Coach from Inland Empire, stated that it is imperative that we educate LSCs and Clubs as to WHY Operational Risk is so important. Basic fact: in addition to the human pain and trauma accidents cause, they also effect the bottom line of the organization – costing money that could be otherwise spent on programs for the athletes. We need to affect a culture change in the way this area of the sport is viewed.
- Stacy Smith, stated that we need to keep an emphasis on the accident statistics front and center. It is also worthy of note that Operational Risk has implications on many other areas that are not immediately obvious. We need to escalate and elevate the topic.
- Risk Management is also Mitigation of Risk.
- Question was raised by attendees as to the reason for not requiring that EMTs be present at meets. Mary Jo responded that it is a cost factor. Some facilities have required EMTs and / or ambulances to be present for the entire duration of a large national meet with the attendant costs being about \$7,500. For smaller meets and hosts this is cost prohibitive.
- Question was raised regarding whether states require lifeguards at all meets and practices. Attendees were encouraged to research the issue for their state.
- George Ward reminded those present that professional liability insurance through Medmark is available for health professionals who consent to be present and available as a volunteer for the duration of a meet. The cost is \$40 for a doctor and \$15 for an allied health professional. Risk Management is willing to pick up this cost for ANY meet – not just Zones, Futures etc. Please contact George for additional information.
- Discussion of accident vs. wrongful act
- George also mentioned that currently there is coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 / occurrence with an unlimited aggregate. Effective 1/1/2020, this will change to \$1,000,000 / occurrence with a \$10,000,000 aggregate per occurrence. There isn't a deductible or self-insured retention applicable. There is a \$5,000,000 umbrella for clubs.
- Discussion of Good Samaritan Laws
- Melissa Millerick-May, PhD (epidemiologist) Professor at the Michigan State University School of Medicine, OR/SS Chair – Michigan LSC, spoke on Air Quality. She has recently been engaged in air quality research and enlisted the help and collaboration of various LSCs and their respective clubs. She thanked those LSCs and Host Clubs who allowed her to attend meets and obtain readings that she subsequently used as part of her research and analysis. She noted that “athletes taking maximal inhalations are, therefore, maximally exposed – so hypersensitivity is not required” when discussing physical symptoms observed and documented. She will confer and share her research and findings with Dr. Mistry and Keenan Robinson at USA Swimming.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Shine

National Operational Risk Committee Member

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