

Report by Dennis Ryther on the USA Swimming Annual Convention, Jacksonville, Florida 2011.

The following are the meetings I attended and an overview of the main topics of each meeting. I would like to thank South Texas Swimming for the opportunity to attend.

Tues. September 13, 2011

- Attended part of the Board of Directors meeting to answer questions concerning the new open water sanction process.

Wed. September 14, 2011

Breakfast meeting with Rick Walker, Sid Cassidy, Bryce Elser and Greg Eggert to discuss Rick and my attendance at the Pan American Games in Oct. as Technical Officials to Open Water.

Open Water Steering Committee

-Review of Open Water Nationals at Ft. Lauderdale, World Championship training (Islamorada, Fl) and Competition (Shanghai, China), World University Games.

-Discussion of Pan American Games (Puerto Vallarta, Mexico) and lack of information coming from the organizing committee.

-Discussion and review of National Championships and Women's Olympic Qualification Trials, Miromar Lake, Ft. Myers Florida, April 27-29, 2012. The top 2 women will qualify for The Women's Olympic Qualification Event in Setubal, Portugal June 9, 2012.

-Discussion of the Olympic/National team training camp in Quebec City July 17-21 and the 10K world cup in Roberval, Canada July 22. The Olympic team would leave for London with a training Camp August 3-8 and the 10K competition Aug. 9-10.

-The preliminary open Water calendar for 2012 was presented. It starts in Feb. in Brazil with a world cup and ends in China in Sept. with a world cup.

-Discussion on national Team Open Water Safety and FINSA (Questionable in China). Bryce Elser will work with Dale on USA Swimming concerns. The concerns included

Lifesaving staff on vessels, Doctor's access to venue, Feeding stations to far off course, Communication, Water Temperature, and vessels.

- Quad plan was presented and will be listed on the National Team website.

- Committee went to closed session and discussed the Open Water awards to be presented Friday evening.

USAS Welcome Reception

- Attended the reception. Good food and a lot of discussion on open Water.

Thursday, September 15

Open Water Development Committee-Business meeting.

- Discussion on Sanction and the approval at the board meeting. The sanction will be part of the policy and procedures manual.

- Discussion of the max temperature and it was lowered to 29.5 C (85F)

- Consideration of guidelines for Open Water practices.

- 84% of USA Sanctioned Open Water meets are under 4K.

- Discussion of the practice of sending teams to unsanctioned meets and calling it a practice so the team would still be under USA Swimming insurance.

- Developing a strategy of impacting a change in FINA safety guidelines. This will be addressed with the new FINA Open Water Technical Committee member from USA Swimming.

- Subcommittee set up to work on Safety Education issues.

Olympic International Operations Committee

- Trip reports to SC Worlds, World Championships, World University Games, FINA Jr. World Championships.

- Dale Neuburger gave FINA update including reasons on why a proposal to add a coach rep to the bureau failed.

- Sports medicine update was given by Dr. Jim Miller.

-Mike Unger gave an update on Olympic Trails to be held June25-July2, 2012 in Omaha. Additions will be a live video board in warm up pool and all 8 nights will be live on NBC.

-Steering report give by Richard Shoulberg and Open Water steering by Bryce Elser.

-National Junior Team given by Jack Roach.

-National Team Director Frank Busch talked about changing the "C" final at nationals to an 18 and under final. Updating a national team high performance website. Bringing the team champions at Juniors as well as the individual champions and coaches to the training center for a week. He unveiled the new Quad plan leading up to the Olympics in Rio.

Southern Zone

-Roll Call, Moment of Silence and into of Zone Officers.

-Approval of 2010 meeting minutes and the officer's reports.

-National Team Director Frank Busch gave a presentation concerning his vision concerning Nationals, Juniors, and the operation of the National Team Office.

-Report given on the 2011 Zone Age Group Championships, proposal to score Disability events and appointing a meet evaluation committee.

-Report given on Zone Senior Championships and meet evaluation committee appointed.

- Nominations for Zone Director (Coach) included Tim Bauer from Woodlands, Texas and Sid Cassidy from Florida. Nominations for Officials Chair included Gloria Schuldt from Texas. Nominations were closed and Gloria was elected by proclamation.

-Bidders for Zone Age Group Champs included South Carolina, and the redone facility at Orlando.

-A proposal was given for eliminating Open Water from the Zone Champs.

Friday September 16.

Coaches' Meeting

-Rules and regulation update by Paul Lundsten.

-Frank Busch gave his vision for nationals and Junior Nationals, time standards for US Open, National and Junior National meets and the restructuring of funding in Athlete Partnership Agreement.

-Rick Walker discussed the Open water development Committee safety legislation and sanctioning process.

International Relations Committee

-FINA Update was given by Dale Neuberger. Revised Constitution included 2 dozen good changes. Coach on Bureau was 17-4 against. Also lost on the floor with only 6 votes in favor. An Athlete will be on the Bureau with a voice but no vote. Mixed gender relay may be the next event to go into World Champs. Underwater lap counters are being investigated as well as improvements to the backstroke blocks.

Open Water Olympic qualification should take place in the type of venue as the Olympics, as opposed to this quad (Shanghai/warm water vs. London/cold water).

_Sid Cassidy was the committee nomination to the board for the FINA open water swimming committee.

-Duel in the pool will be Dec. 12-16 in Atlanta. USA vs. Europe all stars. Sat. evening will be live.

-WADA no nominations from the United States. Working with Interpol to crack down on labs not in compliance.

-USCC. Positive and Open relationship with USA Swimming. Funding will include Olympic and Paralympic events.

-UANA/ASUA- Could be as many as 10 athletes in a 2 bedroom apartment in Guadalajara. Puerto Vallarta should be fine. Little communication with Chair of the Open Water Committee and as a result Denny Ryther and Rick Walker have been requested to arrive early by the president of UANA.

-Sub Committee established to look at future strategies and what we wish the FINA Bureau office to look like. Need to work on a new agenda because over the past 3-4 years the present agenda has been completed.

Open Water Development Committee

-Since this meeting was going on at the same time as International relations I stepped into it a few times. I saw Maddy Crippen give a talk on the new Open Water Sanction approved by the board. I also saw Dr. Jim Miller give a talk on Open Water Medical concerns for coaches and officials.

Southern Zone

-Tim Bauer was elected as the Zone Director

-South Carolina will host the Age Group Championships for the Zone

-Open Water will be up to the bidder if they choose to host (Problems with the drought in the Southern Zone and now with open water temps required to be under 85F). If they choose not then Open Water will be a separate bid and could be at a different time.

House of Delegates

-Memorial Presentation

-President's report

-Presentations to Life Members

-Presentations to Past Board Members

-Awards. The complete list may be found on the USA Swimming website.

Saturday September 17, 2011

House of Delegates

-Membership report. Year round athletes is up 1.4% and Seasonal athletes are down 10%. New clubs are up 1.9%.

-OIOC elections.

-Report of the United States Insurance Company

-Report from the USA Swimming Foundation. Blue shirts were given out to show support for the foundation. The picture of the blue shirts at the House of Delegates is on the USA Swimming home page.

-State of the Sport report given by Executive Director, Chuck Wielgus.

-2012 Budget. Operating income is down (\$582,400) for 2112 but is up \$2,810 for the Quad.

-Rules and Regulations. A complete list of the legislative items passed is on the USA Swimming website.