

## 2009 USAS NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

### MAKING EXISTING POOLS MORE USEABLE WORKSHOP:

USA Swimming's Build A Pool Staff has been diligently working to come up with financially feasible alternatives to new pool construction. USA Swimming has negotiated with two manufacturers of temporary buildings to become professional providers for temporary pool buildings/coverings. The brief history of how they got to this point is as follows.....

Our clubs in more moderate climates want the ability to temporarily cover their pools in the winter months. The term temporarily is the kicker.

- Until recently the only option has been the "BUBBLE" or inflatable dome which comes with its own special challenges and expenses.
- After they researched the relatively new technology of the "Sliding Building" they were not satisfied with the existing warranty for the building.
- There are architectural membrane buildings that are affordable and look nice and they highly recommend them through Universal Fabrics who is one of USA Swimming's preferred providers. These are permanent structures and are not designed to continually go up & down.

**In an effort to satisfy USA Swimming's clubs needs, they have investigated the PVC clad buildings.**

- It is very affordable (as low as \$20.00 a square foot)
- Comes in a large range of sizes
- Has the option to be double layered for increased insulation or single layered for quick up/down and sun/wind protection
- Can have just the fabric removed during the summer (or) the structure (beams) and fabric taken down and put back up in the winter.
- This can be done by the club or contracted to the manufacturer

It is leasable on a "lease to own contract" since it is classified as equipment – this makes it even more affordable

USA Swimming is recommending an Architectural Membrane building as the most financially feasible type of construction for teams to use with existing outdoor facilities. The building is removable in total or in part for the summer months, and in place for the colder months. It is not a bubble or air-dome that can be prohibitively expensive to purchase and operate. It is a hard clad building with steel beams and doors and windows.

The aluminum beams are bolted together and lifted into place. The membrane is installed and the building can be up or down in 1 to 2 days. These buildings have 70 mph wind (and up) factors and can be double lined for added insulation. They cost less to operate than an air inflated structure and can be run at negative

pressure like natatoriums need to operate. This means more air is exhausted than taken into building so it is easier to control the air quality and humidity. USA Swimming has also identified a new, light weight pool cover (parachute like material) for indoor pools that has been shown to save 40% on heat, chemical and water loss.

Cost is very attractive. Each pool site will have its own nuances but “rule of thumb” for basic budgeting is \$20 per square foot for the building installed. An added advantage is since this building goes up and down each season, it is classified as a piece of equipment. Therefore it qualifies for a lease to own financing option. So rather than be required to have hundreds of thousands of dollars equity to build a new pool, you now need a good business plan and the first and last month’s lease payment and you are in business.

The most recent club that ventured into this type of pool partnership was looking at \$3,000,000 to build their own 25 yard training pool. They found an existing 25 yard pool and purchased the Architectural membrane building for \$150,000.00. BIG difference.

This is an option that clubs might want to consider.

USA Swimming is hosting a 2010 Regional Build a Pool Conference in Houston, Texas at Aquatic Therapy Rehab Institute, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The number of participants will be capped at 50. The cost is \$50.00 for one person or a total of \$100 for up to four representatives from a club. If 25 people are in attendance, USA Swimming will award one matching grant, up to \$5000. If 50 people are in attendance, they will award two.

### **SWIM TIMES MODULE WORKSHOP:**

Qualifying Time Standards for National Level Championship Meets will remain the same in 2010. Qualifying times for next summer’s championship meets must have been obtained since July 1, 2009.

Olympic Trial Time Standards will be released in the fall of 2010. In light of the new swim suit legislation, USA Swimming wants to have an entire year of data before setting the new Olympic Trial Time Standards. The target will be to have approximately 1000-1200 swimmers will be in the meet.

Short Course saw 50 individual and 23 relay National Age Group Records broken. For Long Course, 44 individual and 16 relay National Age Group Records were broken. From September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009, 6,858,024 times were uploaded into SWIMS. 242,225 swimmers competed in meets.

One of the SWIMS enhancements USA Swimming has been working on is to get all previous years NAGS Time Standards entered into the database. In the next few weeks a complete auto-sweep of the database and associate all previous 36 million swims with the time standard that was in effect on the date of the swim. This has been a massive project requiring an enormous amount of data entry.

Age 18 has been added to the database function for generation Top Times Reports for that age group.

Applications for Scholastic All American were up by 50%. Of the 806 women, 650 have a GPA of 4.0 or higher. Of the 590 men, 493 have a GPA of 4.0 or higher.

The next SWIMS project will be to collect and enter the data to be able to generate an All Times Top 100 Times List. All meets from 2002 forward are currently in the USA Swimming database along with some meets as far back as 1990. Target date for completion of this project is the spring of 2010.

Online Meet Entry Registration is available through USA Swimming for Proof of Time Meets. The fee for using the USA Swimming OME is 4.5% of the meet entry fees, as this is the amount that USA Swimming must pay in credit card processing fees.

## **REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP:**

Most of the information covered in the Registration Workshop was specific to address SWIMS user related technical issues.

LSC's were asked to remind their clubs about the policy for filing Reports of Occurrence. The Report of Occurrence form is supplied to all club and non-athlete members in annual club membership mailings. Reporting all incidents, **no matter how minor**, is important to put both USA Swimming and its insurer on notice of accidents and potential claims.

A Report of Occurrence form should be completed **any time** an injury occurs at a USA Swimming function, whether or not it involves a USA Swimming member. Injuries involving spectators should also be reported.

The form should be filled out by a meet director or by any club personnel responsible at the time of the incident; the parents of the injured athletes should not be asked to complete the report form.

Once the report is received at USA Swimming National Headquarters, information about the incident is entered into the USA Swimming database for future safety education and insurance references. When a Report of Occurrence

form indicating an athlete or non-athlete participant is a USA Swimming registered athlete, information about the Excess Accident Medical Insurance Policy and claim forms are sent to the injured party ('s) family. This program is excess to other primary insurance in place through the member's employment, school or family. The deductible is the greater of the total of other collectible benefits from primary insurance sources applicable to the injury or \$100 when there is no primary insurance.

Copies of the report should be sent to the following:

USA Swimming  
Attention: Risk Management  
1 Olympic Plaza  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
Fax: (719) 866-4050

Risk Management Services, Inc.  
PO Box 32712  
Phoenix, AZ 85064-2712  
Fax: (602) 274-9138

And to the LSC Safety Coordinator

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Club Portals are available on the USA Swimming website to all clubs. If you have not yet set up your Club Portal, you can contact Carrie Waters by e-mail [[cwaters@usaswimming.org](mailto:cwaters@usaswimming.org)] to request the password assigned to your club. Please note, once you receive your password, that you must be logged in on the USA Swimming Home Page before you will be able to see the Club Administrator login link, which is where you will enter your portal password. The names of coaches, who show up in your club's portal are drawn from the registration database and the only way to change those names is to contact STSI. You have the ability to edit items such as the club contact name, address, etc, but the only way to change the club's website link is through Mary Illich at USA Swimming [[millich@usaswimming.org](mailto:millich@usaswimming.org)].

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USA Swimming has launched the Find A Club website. This site pulls up and identifies on a map the location of each club located in the search area. For each club shown on the map, there is a link to the club contact's name, phone number, and e-mail address and the address of the facility. Clubs participating in the Club Recognition and Club Excellence programs are also noted along with their level of achievement. There is a link to request a call back where an online form may be completed by the prospective member. This information will be sent directly to the club contact for follow-up. Finally, there is a link to the club's website. All of the information showing on the Find A Club website is generated from the information submitted on the 2010 Club Application forms.

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LSC's may not require a birth certificate as a condition of registration with USA Swimming, however, LSC's should continue to request a legal document showing the new member's full legal name and date of birth. (i.e. birth certificate, passport, state or school ID card, etc.)

In order for a swimmer to swim an age specific event in a meet, the swimmer must show proof of age. SWIMS currently does not have the capability to flag which swimmers are registered with and which ones are registered without documentation of full legal name and date of birth.

Swimmers, registered without proof of legal name and birth, may swim Open events; however monitoring each meet recon to locate these exceptions will be a time consuming, labor intensive task at the LSC level and an extra burden on the meet entry person from each club. Clubs are encouraged to have all new swimmers provide a legal document including full legal name and date of birth.

### **LSC REGISTRATION FORUM BEST PRACTICES:**

LSC's are requested to remind coaches in the LSC that it is the individual coach's responsibility to ensure that all coaching certifications are current and up to date. Part of that individual responsibility is to submit current cards in a timely manner, to the LSC, prior to any lapse in coverage. Coaches with lapsed certifications should not be on deck at either a practice or a meet.

Three days prior to a Coach's Certification expiring, the coach's registration status will be moved from "Coach" to "Other" in the SWIMS database. The membership category will not be changed back to "Coach" until two days after all outdated certifications are received in the LSC Office.

Meet Directors are being asked to require that coaches sign in at meets and present a current USA Coaching Card prior to giving out Heat Sheets or Coaches Packets. If the coach "forgot" or "lost" their current USA Coaching Card, then Meet Directors should have them sign a verification form stating that they are a currently registered USA Coach. These verifications should be mailed to the LSC Office, with the understanding that a \$100.00 fine will be issued to any coach, who is not currently registered.

College swimmers transferring to a new team in their college town must wait 120 days to reattach to their home team, unless they are on the college swim team and registered with the college USA team. If they are registered with a USA team, associated with the college, not composed of only college swimmers, then the 120 day rule applies.