

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 13, 1996
MINUTES

The Championship Committee had three meetings on Friday, September 13.

Committee members attending were: Sandi Rousseau, Lisa Watson, Mary Beth Windrath, Hill Carrow, Carolyn Boak, Stu Marvin, Jim Miller, Emmett Hines, Doug Huestis, Jean Fox, John Daily, and Clay Evans.

10:15

The meeting was called to order by Sandi Rousseau, Chairman.

1996 National meets were reviewed. Sandi was the liaison for the Cupertino meet. She reported this meet to be extremely well run and time efficient. Two factors in particular helped to reduce the length of each day's events. Since the two courses were deemed equal, the meet was seeded such that all women's heats swam before the men's heats in each event. This proved to be a tremendous time saver. In addition, the relay card procedure was altered so that all cards were generated off the computer instead of being turned in by team representatives.

Paul Windrath was the liaison for Ann Arbor. He reported that at 1176 swimmers, this was the largest long course Nationals ever held. Officials, medical personnel, and paid lifeguards performed their duties well. There were some problems noted. The volunteer safety marshals did not seem very attentive to their duties and were not effective in monitoring warmup. There was no lifeguard originally assigned to monitor the warmup pool in the next building and no PA system set up there. Concessions was found to be extremely lacking. Of particular concern was the length of the meet. This generated discussion on possible ways to shorten future long course meets.

An update was given on the upcoming 1997 National meets. Hugh Moore reported on Federal Way. Awards proposed included plaques and bars for individual awards and banners for team awards. There was discussion regarding the acceptability of plaques as individual awards and the Committee deemed them acceptable. These awards were approved by the Championship Committee with the stipulation that first, second, and third places be given gold, silver, and bronze bars and copper colored bars for 4th-10th places to distinguish between them. The Committee also voted to have National Qualifying times for this meet.

Larry Peck reported on Orlando. The awards proposed were medals for individual awards and banners for team awards. These were approved by the Championship Committee. National Qualifying Times will be in place for this meet.

Rules proposals pertaining to Championship meets were discussed. The Committee voted to approve Rules 26,27,28,29,30,33,34,37,39, 41,44 & 45, in accordance with the Rules Committee. The Committee rejected Rules 31,32,36,42 & 43. Rule 38 was amended to read: "The Meet Host shall not be required to refund overpayments of \$10 or less by meet entrants. Any overpayments greater than \$10 **may be subject to a processing fee up to \$10.**" Carolyn offered 4 rules proposals to limit entries to the longest events at Nationals. The Committee voted to approve the following rule proposal: "**In the 800/1000 and 1500/1650 free, all men and women swimming slower than a standard to be set by the Championship Committee will be seeded together by time only.**"

2 PM SESSION

National Championship policies and procedures were reviewed. The relay procedure used at Cupertino was applauded and recommended to be used at future meets. The policy of "chasing" heats at long course Nationals was discussed. Carolyn said that chasing would significantly reduce the length of the meet from 110-140 minutes each day. One drawback was that 50's splits would not be possible with chasing. The Committee felt that reducing the meet length would be a higher priority. Distance check-in procedures were reviewed. Ann Arbor had all distance check-ins for each swimmer listed on one page, which seemed to be very effective. There were complications with the phone check-in at both 1996 National meets. Sandi emphasized the importance of having a dedicated phone check-in number. Mary Beth volunteered to research the time factor involved in no-shows for distance events that were checked in the evening prior to the event being swum later the following day. Regarding warmup procedures, a request was again made to allow the use of pull buoys and short fins. The Committee voted against this, citing safety factors and clutter on deck. Another suggestion was to have marked slower lanes available in warmup. Clay Evans volunteered to work with the Federal Way meet hosts to develop a plan for a graded system of marking warmup lanes from fast to slow.

Computerization services currently used for National Meets were considered to be fine. Bob Clausen was used for Cupertino and Hy-Tek was used for Ann Arbor.

Some proposed changes to the Meet Contract were discussed. Jim suggested that the contract state that the meet host should have a minimum of 1 lifeguard per pool. The Committee voted to approve this idea, and also to stress the importance of the lifeguard and concession requirements to the meet hosts.

The current Championship patches were considered fine. The Committee voted to continue to use this design. Sandi suggested that the Committee purchase a banner to be displayed at the Championship Meets. Stu volunteered to pursue this and suggested that the banner should be a runner (longer and narrower than a banner) to allow for easier display.

5 PM SESSION

Aliso Hills Swim Ranch is seeking approval by the Championship Committee to be a provider of swim meet computerization services for National Championships. Robert Mitchell presented this proposal and the Committee discussed it at length, focusing on his organization's prior experience with administration of large meets and input from references present at the convention. The Committee voted to approve Aliso Hills Swim Ranch as a potential meet vendor, with the stipulation that it show meet results from a large meet (1000 swimmers or 5000 splashes minimum) and positive references from the meet director.

Several subcommittee reports were listed in the agenda. There was no report from John Zell on Pool Venues or Keith Bell on Quality Championships. Paul Windrath has updated the Meet Manager's Manual which has been extremely helpful for the meet hosts. Carolyn Boak has revised the Meet Liaison Guidelines. Sandi Rousseau reported on Centralized Entry Processing. An Entry Processing Workbook has been developed and used in the last two National meets with great success. The Committee voted to send out a cover letter to solicit interest.

Hill Carrow suggested a revision to the September 12 minutes. The Raleigh Area Masters swim team would like to change their annual Meet Director's award so that it is designated as a National Meet Award, given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to USMS meets at the national level.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Lisa Watson