

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1997
10:15 AM

The Championship Committee met on Friday, September 26 at 10:15 AM. Attending were committee members Lisa Watson, Mary Beth Windrath, Carolyn Boak, John Daily, Keith Bell, Michael Moore, Doug Huestis, Stu Marvin, Jean Fox, Executive Committee liaison Jim Miller, and Chair Sandi Rousseau.

Following introductions of the committee members, the agenda items were discussed. First item was the review of both 1997 National Championships. LC Nationals in Orlando were reviewed first. Meet director was Larry Peck and Stu Marvin served as the liaison for the Championship Committee. Stu reported very positive feedback on the 5 day format allowing distance swimmers to swim both distance events, and the inclusion of the 400 and 800 meter relays. Orlando was applauded for their willingness and effort to make these accommodations. The most significant problem addressed was the warm water temperature. While the first day's events had a 20 minute delay in starting, this situation greatly improved for the remainder of the meet. There was discussion on the floor regarding officiating procedures. Carolyn Boak proposed that liaison guidelines include recommendations to the LC meet director and officials to start subsequent heats over the top of the previous heat in order to expedite the meet. The committee voted to accept this proposal. Transportation problems with the shuttle service were mentioned, but this topic will be addressed later at the Friday afternoon Championship Committee meeting. There was a suggestion from the floor to offer pagers for rent at the meets as a promotional device to notify swimmers when their next event was to begin.

The 1997 SC Nationals was held by Federal Way. Hugh & Jane Moore were meet directors and Sandi Rousseau served as the Championship Committee liaison. Sandi reported that the Federal Way meet was very well run and received excellent feedback from the meet evaluators. Hugh commented on the positive response to his warm-up procedure of designating warm-up lanes by swimmer speeds.

1998 bids addressed the committee. Sharon Wise represented the Indianapolis SC bid. Their proposed awards are medals, and they would like to use black and white checkered ribbons for 1st- 3rd place to honor the Indianapolis 500. Team awards will be banners. The committee approved these awards. The committee also voted to use qualifying time standards.

Stu Marvin presented the Ft Lauderdale LC bid. Stu proposes an alternative 4-day meet format which will allow distance swimmers to swim both events, since the Ft Lauderdale facility has two 50 meter pools. His proposed format has a high correlation with responses from the Nationals questionnaire regarding meet format preferences. This format, which was amended by switching the 1st and last day events, was accepted by the committee. Carolyn Boak proposed that only swimmers making the Qualifying Time in at least 1 of the longer distance events may swim both events. The committee supported this proposal. The committee also voted to use Qualifying Times.

Next item was a review of Championship policies and procedures. Current procedures for relay cards and distance check-in events were considered by the committee to be satisfactory. There was discussion on warm-up procedures. The committee agreed to reinforce its policy not to allow pull buoys on deck for safety concerns. The 7 AM start on distance days was discussed at length, but the committee elected not to recommend any changes. The seeding option for distance events of 1 or 2 lane was debated. The committee felt that meet entry instructions should be specific about this issue, so that a swimmer who volunteers to swim 2 to a lane understands that if the meet director does not deem this necessary, all seeding will then be done on a normal basis. Other seeding options discussed included whether to seed distance events by time or age group, and the possibility of seeding both sexes together strictly according to time in these events. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

The Championship Committee reconvened at 2:30 PM. Attending were committee members Lisa Watson, Mary Beth Windrath, Carolyn Boak, John Daily, Keith Bell, Michael Moore, Doug Huestis, Stu Marvin, Hill Carrow, Jean Fox, Executive Committee liaison Jim Miller, and Chair Sandi Rousseau.

The next agenda item was a review of the computerization services for National Championship meets. Currently, USMS uses two vendors, Hy-Tek and Bob Clausen. Due to problems with seeding at recent Nationals, the committee suggested that this area needs closer supervision by the Championship Committee liaison and meet director. It was further suggested that the liaison should have an opportunity to examine the heat sheet before the final printing and also look over the deck-seeded heats before they are posted.

Brian Stack presented two proposals from the Masters Aquatic Coaches Association designed to assist the coaches' involvement at Nationals. Proposal #1 involved setting a registration protocol for coaches at National Championship meets to identify the coaches present and make them aware of the hospitality privileges available. The committee suggested that there should be a designated registration area set up for coaches at Nationals. It was further proposed to have SWIM magazine include a line on the Nationals entry form for coaches to check if they plan to attend. Proposal #2 recommended that heat sheets for relays be provided for large teams or teams with many relays entered. The committee also approved this idea.

There was further discussion on warm-up procedures at National Championships. It was suggested that lanes could be designated by estimated 100 free times, rather than designating as fast to slow (ex: <1:20, 1:20 - 1:50, >1:50).

Proposed changes to the meet contract were discussed and it was agreed to accept the recommendations from the Marketing Committee which are to list the Marketing Committee Chairman on the meet contract. The meet director will be responsible for contacting National meet sponsors provided by the Marketing Chairman. The guidelines provided by the Marketing Committee regarding National sponsors will be added to the Meet Manager's Manual. It was also agreed to alter the meet bid form to assess any potential conflict between the bidding facility and National sponsors.

The committee also looked at the emphasis on proper water temperature in the existing meet contract. There was unanimous agreement that this should be a significant consideration, and the committee will discuss this issue further in the following year.

Phil Whitten representing SWIM magazine addressed the committee on the issue of media coverage at National Championships. After discussion, Phil volunteered to produce an information flyer to include in the Meet Manager's Manual. It was also suggested that we request a liaison from the Marketing Committee to interact with the meet host.

The committee looked at several alternative meet schedule formats which had been submitted by Emmett Hines. Some comments included that these schedules did not have enough variety in format, the 100 IM is positioned such that two distance events would be next to each other in LC meets, and the 100 free & 100 IM are listed on the same day in all formats. Other suggestions for alternatives included listing other 4 day formats, listing 4 day formats which allow swimmers to swim both distance events, and listing 5 day formats. The committee vowed to come up with other ideas for rule proposals on this issue next year.

Carolyn Boak volunteered to write up guidelines for announcing at National Championships.

Shuttle service was discussed and the committee recommended that meet hosts provide no more than 3 shuttle stops unless the hotels are in such close proximity that the time factor would not be compromised.

Dan Anderson representing the Humu Masters bid for the University of Hawaii asked the committee for reconsideration of certification on their bid. He has committed to provide scaffolding for officials as needed in the 50 meter pool, and assured the committee that the correct water temperature would be maintained. The committee agreed to allow this bid presentation with the stipulation that approval was needed by the House of Delegates to suspend Rule 104.3.2B which requires LMSC endorsement for a bid to be considered.

Due to time constraints, the committee adjourned at 4 PM and reconvened at 5:30 PM.

SC bids were discussed and the committee decided to recommend Santa Clara to the House of Delegates citing their known organizational skills, ample competition and warm-up lanes, and full LMSC support.

Michael Moore presented an analysis of National Qualifying Times from the past 5 SC Championships. There were some interesting trends noted and Michael will present a possible rule change regarding his conclusions on these trends next year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Lisa Watson