

USMS CONVENTION – DALLAS, TEXAS - 2002

Committee Name: Block #1 Teaming Together . . . to bring out the best!

Agenda item # 7

ACTION ITEMS

Efforts should be made to work together with the other committees within the Block. The task for the coming year is for the committees to incorporate the ideas generated into their committee business.

Committees participating: Championship, Coaches, International, Officials, and Rules

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Miller at 1:00 PM

Jim commented that we recognize that these three committees emphasize goals, competition, quality, communication, excellence/performance, education and they inspire. He gave the committees three questions that they were to take back to their committee meetings and discuss. Additionally, all groups should keep in mind "How do you support our current Mission Statement?"

After conducting their individual committee meetings the committees reported back to the delegates.

The committees shared the ideas generated as follows:

Question #1 WHAT IS THE ROLE OF COMPETITION WITHIN USMS?

- Officials** – Their perspective is to help insure consistent and uniform competition throughout the country. Use competition as a measure of fitness. Get more people involved by getting non-competitors to become officials.
- Rules** – Motivation is a means for having a goal and measuring stick. An inspiration for others and as a vehicle for USMS to provide leadership.
- Championship** – Competition is an incentive for training, improving and goal setting. Excitement. A properly run meet is fun. Training for competition encourages more regular fitness workouts and therefore better health.
- International** – Give credit to the level of competitive athletes with use of local newspapers and creation of marketing sub-committee.
- Coaches** – Competition provides motivation, retrain members, and provide socialization outside of own club.
- Summary** – Goals, motivation, fun – learn to make it fun! Especially at the entry level. Other key concepts are motivation.

Question #2 HOW DO YOU MAKE USMS MORE USER-FRIENDLY?

- Official's** Presence of officials will help competitor feel they get fair and uniform treatment. Officials should "be smiling" and available to the competitors.
- Rules** – Make competition more "user friendly" if we can address the deck seeding concerns. Need to seek ways, maybe merely with code clarification to allow us to be creative with competitive events (i.e. 25's or 5X50 breaststroke relays).
- Championship** – More information on the internet (i.e. sorting athletes by team, age or whatever). Propose a project of having a computer available for splits instead of using a split book. Make check-in more users friendly. Listen to new people. Pair older swimmers with younger swimmers to "buddy up" for assistance with check in.
- Coaches** – Have more meets that can be done on line. More meets with deck entries. Have novice only meets or events at meets. Have team awards at meets – maybe an LMSC banquet after a meet. Have fun events.

International – Promote the ease of registration on line. Have a copy of USMS card online. Provide a Spousal event - it may not have to be swimming. Provide local activities for people to enjoy (baseball game) and a tourism desk. Create a more intimate atmosphere at meets. Control the hours of competition. Geographically the meets could be rotated so more people can participate.

Question #3 HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE THE CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE AT ALL LEVELS?

Officials – Newly proposed USMS certification process will allow for more capable officials on deck. Have articles in local and national publications regarding case studies of rules and interpretations.

Rules – Clear and consistent rules with consistent enforcement. Work with Championship Committee to ensure that this is accomplished

Championship – Bring “ex” USA Swimming athletes into competition.

Coaches – Have more and improved social events. Locally, encourage the use of better facilities (state of the art). Shorter Nationals/Longer Social events.

International – Emphasize and keep channels of communication open. Have some form of notification screens around the venue that would show highlights of events and activities going on. Local companies could donate the, screens that will advertise special activities and events.

Minutes prepared by USMS Secretary, Sally Dillon