

Registration / Membership Committee Meeting

July 11, 2024

Meeting Notes

In attendance: Angela Monty, Loren Fischbach, Moriah Tyrrell, Vanessa Brewer, Tracy Meece, Laurie Parker, Harold Christiansen, Samantha Haley, Eric Stimson, and Denise Thomas

Quick recap

Eric proposed improvements to the course enrollment and completion tracking system, the offerings management system, and the reporting system, while also addressing policy restrictions and introducing a new notification system for competition times. There were discussions about the organization of a committee forum, junior official membership, and the process of new clubs joining USASwim, with plans to improve the relationship between Local Sports Committees (LSCs) and the organization. Lastly, concerns about the age validation process in swimming were addressed and plans for the 2025 membership year and upcoming USA Swimming workshop were confirmed.

Next steps

- Denise to enable and set up 2025 season offerings for clubs.
- Denise to send email notification when 2025 season offerings are available for clubs.
- Eric and Angela to develop a clear policy and process for age verification challenges.
- Registration Committee to meet on August 14th at 1:00 PM to discuss workshop planning.
- Samantha to bring athlete perspective and ideas to the next meeting, including APT communication from athlete point of view.
- Eric to follow up with affected members about CAT course expirations and ensure proper updates are made.

Summary

Addressing Course Tracking and Seasonal Adjustments

Eric addressed various issues with the current course enrollment and completion tracking system, proposing changes to improve accuracy and efficiency. He also outlined upcoming adjustments to the offerings management system to accommodate seasonal athletes and ensure flexibility. Furthermore, he clarified several policy restrictions and updates related to the 'find a club' feature, transfer reports, and the handling of expired seasonal clubs. Lastly, he introduced a new report utilizing Z scores to identify significant deviations from the mean and acknowledged potential limitations of this approach.

New Notification System and Website Improvements

Eric introduced a new notification system designed to flag potential errors in competition times. He underscored the need for this system due to the frequent entry of incorrect times into sanctioned events. Moriah confirmed that this system would be included within an upcoming update and that a report on this issue would be available for the LSC and LSE. Eric also highlighted recent improvements to the website's search functionality, addressing issues that were causing downtime during peak usage periods, such as the Olympic trials. He further detailed enhancements to the reporting system, including the addition of a second flag for age group comparison and more user-friendly parameters. Finally, Eric discussed significant improvements in vendor integration, particularly with Team Unify and Commit, noting that the payment process remained the responsibility of the vendors due to contractual considerations.

Committee Forum and Junior Membership Discussion

Moriah inquired about the organization of a committee forum, to which Eric responded that he could provide information but could not host due to his current role. Angela then mentioned the topic of junior official membership, mentioning that Zack from the ZDC was interested in joining to discuss this further. Eric provided some insight and suggested that the committee review the prerequisite documents before Zack's attendance at their next meeting. Additionally, Angela mentioned an ongoing update to the R. 12 red legislation concerning the composition of a new team, involving a shift from two coach members to one coach member and a non-athlete, safe sport representative.

ZDC Meeting and Workshop Planning

Angela announced that she would be attending the upcoming Zdc meeting to address any questions and concerns related to athlete safety and the process of new clubs joining USASwim. Eric then discussed the finalized flow for the upcoming workshop, focusing on the new club application process, and the need for streamlining procedures throughout the LSCs and USASwim. He also expressed his intent to use the workshop as a platform to discuss potential future changes and improvements. Lastly, he mentioned that Denise would be discussing foreign athletes and their registration procedures.

Improving LSC-Organization Relationship and Training

Eric discussed plans to improve the relationship between Local Sports Committees (LSCs) and the organization. He announced that Jamie Platt from Club Development would gather feedback from clubs of all sizes and locations to better understand their needs and concerns. Additionally, Eric highlighted the need to improve the reporting and analytics capabilities of LSCs and arranged for Ty to provide training in this area. Angela suggested that August would be a suitable time to further network and share ideas among LSCs. Eric also indicated that he was open to suggestions from any committee member, not just those present in the call.

Analytics, Reporting, and Age Validation

Eric emphasized the importance of providing analytics to aid in decision-making, particularly at the LSC level. Angela shared her successful strategy of presenting updated membership reports to their Board of Directors, inspiring others to do the same. However, Moriah pointed out discrepancies in the reported data, suggesting a need for improved data accuracy. Eric agreed and proposed discussing this further with Ty. The team also discussed the potential of analyzing seasonal data and the need for further development of their reporting tools. Lastly, Angela and Eric discussed the topic of age validation in swims.

Age Validation Process in Swimming

Angela and Eric discussed concerns about the age validation process in swimming. They agreed to discontinue the practice of members uploading their birth certificates into the database due to potential risks to personal information. Instead, they proposed a process for age validation to be used only if there were challenges to an athlete's age. Eric confirmed that they would delete all existing birth certificates in the database and emphasized that they could not legally accept the risk associated with storing hundreds of thousands of birth certificates. They also discussed the issue of unauthorized age validation by Local Swimming Committees (LSCs) in U.S.A. Swimming, which is against the organization's bylaws. As a solution, they proposed a Board of Review to manage age validation challenges, a proposal which Angela supported provided a clear process for individuals to request or challenge their age is established.

2025 Membership and USA Swimming Workshop

Angela and Eric discussed the 2025 membership year, confirming that no changes were expected, and the fees had been communicated. They also proposed a meeting for early August to discuss the upcoming USA Swimming workshop, with Denise suggesting August 14th. Samantha was encouraged to bring athlete focus to future meetings. Eric addressed an issue with a number of cat courses, instructing active members to retake them and setting a 30-day expiration for the originals.