



ZONE DIRECTORS' COUNCIL

Zone Directors' Council Meeting

January 21, 2024 - Notes

8:00 ET/5:00 PT via Zoom

"Serving as a connecting link in the USA Swimming Community to build awareness and trust through shared communication and education."

Present: Zach Toothman (Co-Chair), Keith Moore (Co-Chair), Jack Swanson, Jackson Fouras, Bob Staab, Jerry Adams, Mitch Gold, Jamie Platt, Joel Shinofield, TJ Walsh, Melissa Hellverik-Bing, Megan Braman, Simran Jayasinghe, Gavin Formon, Pam Lowenthal, Ryan Gibbons, Mike Dilli, Nicole Caruso, Bruno Darzi, Savannah Gurley

Absent: None.

Guests: Kathleen Prindle (BoD), Mary Plant

The meeting was called to order at 8:02pm ET by Zach Toothman and the agenda was approved as submitted.

1. Ongoing Business

a) Zone P&P Updates

The hard deadlines for zones to have moved over to Policy and Procedure has passed and all four zones have moved to Policy and Procedure.

b) Junior Officials Working Group Update

All four resource groups have met to discuss the next steps. They plan on moving into Phase two soon. The question was asked if the implementation will be piloted in certain LSCs before being rolled out completely. This will be piloted and the working group is currently developing an implementation process to decide the best course of action to take.

c) Board Involvement

The Board of Directors will be meeting on Saturday January 27th and the link was shared with the Council to register for the meeting. Kathleen Prindle, the Board liaison to the ZDC emphasized that Board meetings are open for anyone to attend and only closed sessions are exclusive to Board members. They are working to make the links more accessible and it was also mentioned that the ZDC has the opportunity to present to the Board of Directors twice a year, in April and September. There was a question of if there are any updates on R-9 and

Joel Shinofield shared with the group that there are two proposals to be discussed at the upcoming Board meeting and they will be voting on these on Saturday.

2. New Business

a) HOD Working Group Discussion - Mary Plant

Mary Plant was present at the meeting to discuss the work of the House of Delegates Working group and to take back any feedback the council may have for the working group. There was some discussion on the athlete numbers, particularly regarding 10 year and 10+ athletes and finding a number which will work best and be received well when voted on. They are gathering feedback as they are working, in order to ensure that questions can be answered and all voices are heard before voting on the size of the house. In a survey they conducted, 10-15% said they would not vote for the current HoD size, however there were very few questions asked at the Zone Workshop or ABM. Anyone who has questions should contact Mary Plant.

b) ZDC Duties and Responsibilities Materials

At previous meetings, there has been discussion on giving the Zone Directors' Council a better structure. In order to do this, Bob Staab and Jamie Platt drafted an operating procedures document, using the operating procedures from another Council as a template. There was a general agreement that this was a needed document, however when going through each section there were some areas for revision. After some discussion on this matter, it was decided this would be best moved to a working group to revise this before the next ZDC meeting. This working group shall consist of Zach Toothman, Keith Moore, Jamie Platt, Bob Staab, Pam Lowenthal, and Nicole Caruso.

3. "Boots on the Ground" Roundtable

Three goals were listed in the agenda from previous discussions for the ZDC to focus on. Those goals are: Member requirements (i.e. coaches, officials, new members), Swimmer Attrition, Zone/Sectional Meet Operations. The Council agreed these goals were most representative of the Zone, with a comment being made to also highlight communication at the grass root level. The Working Group will work to incorporate these into the operational procedures.

4. Other Comments

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 25th, 2024. Council members should begin thinking about the roundtable goals and ways to work towards them, as well as send any comments on the Operating Procedures to the Working Group.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Zach Toothman at 9:37pm ET.