



ZONE DIRECTORS' COUNCIL

Zone Directors' Council Meeting

July 16th, 2024 - *Minutes*

10 AM ET/7 PT- Zoom [Link](#)

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

Attendance: Zach Toothman & Keith Moore (Co-Chairs), Melissa Hellervik-Bing, Bob Staab, Gavin Formon, Jamie Platt, TJ Walsh, Jack Swanson, Terry Jones (Staff), Mike Dilli

Guests: Angela Monty, Tim Husson, Pam Lowenthal, Kathleen Prindle (BOD Liaison)

Absent: Jerry Adams, Nicole Caruso, Savannah Gurley, Megan Braman, Simran Jayasinghe, Bruno Darzi, Jackson Fouras

1. Call to Order: 10:04AM
2. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. No Additions at this time
3. Approval of Consent Agenda: **APPROVED**
4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest:
 - a. Gavin Formon declared potential conflict of interest
5. Approval of [June Minutes](#): **APPROVED**
6. Ongoing Business
 - a. Junior Officials Working Group Update
 - i. Zach currently working on a Junior Officials presentation for the officials track at the USA Swimming Annual Business Meeting
 - ii. The Junior Officials Working Group is working with the national officials committee (NOC) on membership related topics as well
 - b. ZDC Legislation Review- Late August Date
 - i. The committee decided on Sunday August 25th with an early evening meeting time of around 6:00PM or 7:00PM Eastern Time. Attendance is encouraged from the whole ZDC.
 - c. Club Dues Proposal
 - i. Zach said that in next few weeks Kenneth Chung & Ira Klein's club dues investment plan will likely be presented to the group and to keep on everyone's radar.
7. New Business

a. **ZDC Legislation Review**

- I. **R-2, R-3, R-4, → Mike Dilli** – Making the USA Swimming rules more in alignment with the terminology of World Aquatics. Mike said “none of the rules have changed” rather it is updating terminology to align with World Aquatics. Clarification of definitions / terminology.
- II. **R-6 → Mike Dilli** – Can tape up to 2 fingers together not more than that to prevent an athlete from having a “paddle” for a hand.
- III. **R-8 → Pam Lowenthal** – Pam discussed R-8 and notified the ZDC that the Rules and Regulations Committee recommended to reject this piece. The idea is to allow for high school times to be put into SWIMS since there is currently a lapse in their registration during high school season. Therefore, athletes achieve times but achieve them when not registered with a USA Swimming club preventing times for going into SWIMS. Melissa & Tim inquired about why the athletes could not just register earlier. To that point, Pam felt it would be very hard to make sure all these athletes are registered ahead of their season. This legislation speaks to Observed Meets.
- IV. **R-9 → Melissa Hellervik-Bing & Bruno Darzi** – This legislation regards the Zone Senior Meets and allows each Zone to govern the competition. The idea is to give the Zone freedom to choose dates and govern the Senior Zone Championship. Melissa described how SZ may want to move their meet earlier in the summer.
- V. **R-10 → Angela Monty** – This piece of legislation is in conflict R-8. The lack of urgency for high school athletes to register is likely due to people thinking their membership lasts until December 31 not August 31st. Essentially, times that are not recognized by USA Swimming cannot be used (high school etc.).
- VI. **R-12 → CAC (Terry Jones)** –To clearly define the roles and duties of the Coach Advisory Council. Terry brought up that the big change is reporting to the Board of Directors instead of the CEO.
 - a. Terry also brought up that the CAC is not currently supporting the Club Dues Proposal at this time as they need more time to discuss as a group.
- VII. **R-14 → Nicole Caruso** – This legislation has now been pulled.

b. ZDC Meet the Candidates Questions- Late August/Early September

i. [2023 Question List](#)

ii. [2024 Question Working Doc](#)

iii. This will become a main discussion item for the August Meeting. Zach asked all members to look at last year’s questions and to add thoughts to this year’s documents.

iv. Once candidates are announced in the 2nd week of August, the ZDC will coordinate the Meet Candidates Session to be conducted via zoom. Bob brought up good point that we adjust questions if the USA Swimming Meet the Candidates occurs before the ZDC one.

c. Zone Director Elections Nomination Periods

i. Athletes:

- 1 EZ/WZ are electing 2-year positions for both Athlete Director and Junior Athlete Representative with the current Athlete Director not eligible to run and the Junior Athlete Rep eligible to run for Athlete Director.
- 2 CZ/SZ are electing 1-year positions for both Athlete Director and Junior Athlete Representative with both incumbent athlete representatives eligible to run.

ii. Non-Athletes:

iii. Western Zone: Mike is reaching out to LSCs to solicit interest in open positions and each LSC gets 5 votes in the election. Nominations will likely run right up until the meeting and will conduct the meeting in a hybrid format with a virtual voting format.

iv. Southern Zone: They will be holding all the elections during the ABM in a hybrid format. Melissa will reach out to LSCs today to begin planning for their meeting.

v. Central Zone: CZ follows a similar procedure to other zones and while they prefer nominations in advance, will take them from the floor.

vi. Eastern Zone: Following similar hybrid format like other 3 zones.

8. "Boots on The Ground" Roundtable Updates

a. Next Month the formal updates from each group will be due.

b. Member Requirements (i.e. coaches, officials, new members)

i. No update at this time

c. Swimmer Attrition – Zach Toothman

i. They will be meeting again very soon, focusing on the family aspect of the sport and what the athletes enjoy.

d. Zone/Sectional Meets & Operations – Bob Staab

i. Western Zone (Keith Moore) has some really interesting location choices to make each year as teams will choose based on location versus staying consistent to the type of meet (sectionals, futures etc.).

ii. Eastern Zone (Gavin Formon) noticed some differences in attendance between men and women at Spring Sectional Meets.

e. Communication Conduits

i. No update at this time

9. Staff Updates

a. None at this time

10. Zone Updates

a. None at this time

11. Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at 10:54AM ET