

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 16, 2011

The Championship Committee conference call was held on Wednesday, February 16 (8 PM EST). Agenda items were as follows:

I. INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL Committee members present on the call were: Jeff Roddin (Chair), Sandi Rousseau (Vice Chair) Tyler Blessing, Ken Brisbin, Debbie Cavanaugh, Jim Clemmons (appointed), Kim Crouch, Barry Fasbender, Jack Groselle, Michael Heather (ex-officio), Jane Moore (ex-officio), Michael Moore, Patty Nardozi, Robin Segnitz, Jody Smith, Paul Smith (ex-officio), Jeff Strahota, Lisa Watson, and Mark Gill (National Office ex-officio). Invited guests were Erin Shields (Mesa meet director) and Conner Bailey (Auburn).

II. UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETS

A. Mesa (Liaison-Jody Smith)

Jody introduced Erin Shields, Mesa meet director. There are 116 entries as of today. Paul Smith said that 50% of all blocked hotel rooms are booked, so more hotels will be added and the shuttle route will be expanded. They now have the required number of officials. Only current problem noted is RV parking- the demand seems to be much larger than initially thought.

1) Meet Program: As discussed by this committee at convention, the National Office has offered to take charge of publishing the meet program with the intent of taking this burden off of the meet host. The meet host would give input and then the National Office would create a PDF for the program and deliver it to the host (i.e. the host will still have to get the program printed). This is an option for meet hosts. The decision will be made soon as to whether this option will be used for Mesa.

2) Seeding: Barry Fasbender will seed the meet and provide the timeline.

B. Auburn (Liaison-Debbie Cavanaugh)

Conner Bailey represented Auburn on the conference call. He said everything seems to be working smoothly so far. Auburn recently held their annual regional SC Masters meet which attracted 200 swimmers. Jim Matysek should have hotel info on the website soon.

1) NQTS and Distance Events: Auburn had requested that NQTS be required for both distance events to try to reduce time on the distance day. However, this is not possible under the current rules. We can only require an NQT for one of the distance events. Jeff is recommending that the 1500 should be that event.

2) Meet Info in SWIMMER: The meet info will be published in the May/June issue of SWIMMER.

3) Seeding: Jeff Roddin will seed the meet and provide the meet timeline.

C. Greensboro (Liaison-Jeff Roddin)

1) Contract: The contract is currently being reviewed with the National Office and will be presented soon to the Greensboro meet hosts.

2) Written status report: Co-meet directors Don Gilchrist and Hill Carrow have submitted a status report,

which is very detailed. Lisa Watson was in Greensboro last weekend and reported that the construction is continuing at a rapid pace, and should be on or ahead of schedule for completion this summer.

D. Omaha (Liaison- Sandi Rousseau)

1) Organization Chart: Tom Boak would like to start this chart, in order to break down responsibilities for the meet between the National Office, Championship Committee, and Nebraska LMSC.

2) Contract: Jeff questioned how this would work, since the National Office is running the meet. Are they making a contract with themselves? If obligations are not met, how is that handled? (for other meets, USMS would withhold money from the meet host).

3) Written status report: Omega will have the primary and backup timing system in place for the 2012 Olympic Trials and we have the opportunity to use this at Nationals. The Omega backup system can digitally capture heat results with an overhead camera. This will eliminate the need for deck timers, so could potentially save already budgeted money for daily hospitality for these volunteers, as well as cut out the need for having to recruit such a large number of volunteer timers. The use of the Omega system would cost \$17,000: we would only pay for the cost of the technicians-Omega is waiving the rental cost, since the system will already be in place. It was noted that using a camera system for backup timing will likely require a USMS rule change. Kim asked if there would still be volunteers on the deck to help assure swimmers are in the correct lane. Sandi said she agreed that we should still have some deck volunteers in place. Jack asked if the starting blocks were connected to the timing system (reaction time). Mark Gill said yes, but we don't know yet if we'll be able to use them. Sandi discussed the role of the Nebraska LMSC in the meet. She commented that when an LMSC hosts Nationals, it can potentially serve as a big moneymaker for the LMSC. Sandi, Tom, and Jeff have met with Erin Sullivan, Nebraska LMSC Chair, who is very excited for the LMSC to be actively involved in the meet. Sandi, Tom, and Jeff have discussed this and think it is reasonable that some profit should go to the Nebraska LMSC. Mark Gill pointed out that USMS would be hosting the meet at a projected loss. Sandi commented that therefore, a donation to the Nebraska LMSC should be included as an expense item.

III. ONGOING PROJECTS

A. Update sample budget for bidders- Tom Boak is working on this

B. Meet Director's Guide – need to update sections on Coaches hospitality and exhibits, and send to 2012 hosts.

C. Nationals 35 Day Timeline- Mark Gill is in charge of this task, which identifies what should be done each day from the entry deadline until the meet begins.

IV. FUTURE PROJECTS-Jeff asked committee members to decide which of the following projects they want to be involved in and let him know.

A. Update Nationals Evaluation form to match new contract- needed prior to Mesa

B. Conflict of Interest policy during Bid Review- we need a policy in place to cover situations when a committee member is the meet host or involved in the meet bid. This is needed by summer to be in place for the 2013 bids.

C. Update Liaison Guidelines document and facility checklist for site visit

D. Relay Only Swimmers-consider feasibility of allowing a later entry deadline for this swimmers. This could be of particular advantage for recruiting local swimmers for relays.

E. Seed Time Updating for Nationals

F. USMS National Office Accountability

G. NQTs 1. Already done for 2011 meets 2. Study effect on distance events

H. Solicit Rules & Legislation Proposals for Convention. This is a Legislation year, so any Rule would be deemed an Emergency with a 90% vote required.

I. Attempt to include Open Water event at Nationals if possible

J. USMS National Championship Award nomination committee- in conjunction with Raleigh Area Masters-comprised of former award recipients (Tom, Sandi, Jim Matysek, Barry, Mark Moore, Mark Gill, and Michael Moore)

K. Re-evaluate Nationals entry form publication

L. 2013 Bids

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Regional vs Local club categories- this was published last month on the Discussion Forum for 2011

B. LMSC Chair solicitation mailings Jeff Roddin has traditionally sent out a memo to all LMSC chairs encouraging them to bid for Nationals. This was not done last year, because we didn't want to encourage LC bids due to the Omaha situation. Jeff would like to start this again for 2013 meets, and asked if anyone would be interested in taking on this task.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2013 bids: Jeff said the following bids had expressed interest in bidding for 2013 Nationals- Indianapolis, Portland, Mission Viejo, Cedar Rapids, Iowa (maybe for 2014?), possibly Austin, and University of Missouri.

B. Committee Members going to Mesa

Lisa polled the committee members to see who was planning to attend Nationals in Mesa. Currently planning to attend are: Sandi, Tyler, Jim Clemmons, Kim, Barry, Jack, Jody, Paul, Jeff Strahota, and Mark Gill.

C. Next Conference Call- the next Championship Committee Conference Call is tentatively set for Sunday, March 20 at 4 PM PST, 5 PM MST, 6 PM CST, and 7 PM EST.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by: Lisa Watson