

**Committee Name:** Championship Interview  
Committee for Sarasota, Florida

**Session #:** 1

**Report #:** 1

**Committee Chair:** Jeff Roddin  
**Minutes recorded by:** Ed Saltzman

**Vice Chair:** Kim Crouch  
**Date/time of meeting:** July 19, 2017, 11:30 AM EDT

## Motions Passed:

1. None

**Number of committee members present:** 10

**Absent:** n/a

**Number of other delegates present:** 0

**Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):** Jeff Roddin, Kim Crouch, Ed Saltzman, Pete Tarnapoll, Jim Clemmons, Don Gilchrist, Erin Moro, Sandi Rousseau

**Others in Attendance from Bidder:** Brent Arckey – Sarasota YMCA - Head Coach of Sarasota Sharks, Rob Wells – Director Sarasota Sports Commission, Sara Thomas – Sales Manager Sports Commission, Jay Eckert – USMS National Office, Casey Keiber – USMS National Office

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM Eastern Time

**Introductions:** Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

**Purpose of the Meeting:** Jeff explained the purpose of the call as an opportunity for committee members to ask questions that were left unexplained in the bid or that needed further explanation as well as for bidders to ask any questions that they might have.

Jeff further clarified that the Shuttle Service and Social are optional and not necessarily required – although, it is appreciated when these amenities are offered. Since the bid is being awarded for 2019 and/or 2020; the winning bidder will be expected to attend the USAS convention either in 2018 or 2019 – depending on the year awarded. They will also need to attend the USMS Summer Nationals in the year prior to their hosting it; as observers. In the case of 2019 (since there is no 2018 Summer Nationals) they would be required to attend the 2018 Spring Nationals in Indy.

The Arlington Park Pool option, mentioned in the bid, was discussed. Sarasota saw Arlington Park as serving three purposes – Warmup over flow, team practice facility for early arrivals, or possibly an overflow option for the distance events to shorten the day. It was pointed out that several of these options created some operations and expense issues – the need for additional EMT coverage, additional strain on the officials to staff an additional facility, etc. The committee recommended that the Arlington Park location be offered, unofficially, as an optional practice location and not as part of the meet – thus avoiding the need and expense for additional EMT's.

## **Question/Answer Session:**

**Bid Dates:** Sarasota is flexible within the first two weeks of August, between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>. Alternate dates – they are flexible throughout August. Four day vs five day format was discussed. Sarasota said they would leave it to the committee to make a recommendation. Given the 8 lane configuration of the pool – the championship committee would recommend the 5 day format.

**Pool Depth:** start end 5' except for 50s, turn end 8' (start end for 50s). Depth would require that Championship Committee waive the 2 meter requirement (107.2.3.B).

**Backstroke Start Ledges:** Sarasota has eight ledges (type unspecified). They can be moved to either end of the pool to accommodate the 50M Backstroke starts.

**Average Temperature:** competition pool is outdoors, temperatures range from 70's to 80's in the AM and high 80's to the mid-90's with high humidity in the afternoon. Pool temperature is 78-80 degrees F.

**Warm up:** 6 lanes are available in the diving well which is adjacent to the competition pool; an additional 6 lanes are available indoors across the street - a short walk from the competition pool. Currently, the public address system can be used to the building across the pool, but it does not operate in the pool area. They will investigate adding this option. Likewise, they will explore the possibility of displaying the live-video stream of the meet in the indoor pool area (would only need a computer with an Internet connection).

**Hotels:** The bid showed several hotels in the Sarasota downtown area. These tended to be upscale and a little pricy. There are several hotel options that are closer to the pool (within 5 miles) and less expensive

**Parking:** in front of pool 200, grass area 350, adjacent lot 100. They have had between 1800 and 2000 at previous meets and were able to accommodate everyone without off-site parking. Parking is free.

**Gold Medal Sponsors:** area west of flag pole - fabric walls all four sides with fans and air-conditioning.

**Weather:** In case of severe weather, where do competitors go? Gold Medal area for Officials/Admin but capacity is limited. Typically during red alert (severe weather, thunder and lightning), people go to the main building, teen center, locker rooms and cars. Typical weather pattern is for thunderstorms later in the afternoon. The five day format would shorten the days to hopefully avoid weather situations.

There are five solid bidders for the meet. The last Summer National bidder call will be this evening. If we have sufficient information to make our decision, the Championship Committee will meet via conference call this Sunday night (July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00PM ET) and hopefully make a decision. Bidders will be notified of the results shortly thereafter. Winner has the option of attending the USAS Convention in Dallas, September 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> to make a presentation to the House of Delegates.

The bidder left the call at 12:00 PM. EasternTime.

**Summary/Analysis:** Strengths of this bid include: Competition pool is excellent with 8 lanes and there are 12 warmup lanes. Host has run large meets. They have a great volunteer group. Five day meet—shorter days. Concerns include: Pool Depth at shallow end, the competition pool area can be very hot and humid this time of the year, thunder storms can cause a delay in the meet. The USMS National Office is leaning towards awarding Sarasota the 2020 bid to align with their plans to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of USMS.