



USA SWIMMING ZONE DIRECTOR COUNCIL MEETING - DRAFT MINUTES

June 2nd – 8pm EST

Present:

CZ - John Bradley COACH, Pam Lowenthal NON COACH

EZ - Tristan Formon COACH, Mary Turner NON COACH, Sara Gaston ATHLETE

SZ - John Roy COACH, Dave Smith NON COACH, Annie Norris ATHLETE

WZ - Sean Redmond COACH, Dale Ammon NON COACH, Maria Davila ATHLETE

USA Swimming – Joel Shinofeld

Absent:

CZ - Brad Jacobs ATHLETE (commuting from Rules and Regs meeting in Ft Lauderdale)

Meeting was called to order at 8:04 pm EST

APPROVAL OF 2019 APRIL ZDC MEETING MINUTES

(Attached) MSA with changes.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions to the agenda (MSA)

INCREASED ATHLETE ENGAGEMENT

In early May, Jack Swanson (Athlete AEC), Nick Smagula (Athlete AEC), Sean Redmond and Tristan Formon (ZDC) had some initial discussions regarding the inclusion of the four elected Zone Athlete Representatives within the ZD Council. As a ZDC we supported the concept and COACH/VOLUNTEER/ATHLETE leadership. This is still a work in progress, but in the meantime, all four athletes will be invited to participate in all ZD Council conference calls moving forward.

The ZD Council are excited to include the 4 zone athletes in the conference calls moving forward. The perspective that can be provided by the athletes will be invaluable. – There was an opportunity for introductions of the three Zone Athletes Representatives on the call. There was some discussion around MAAPP – but given all four athletes are at least 18 years of age, the timing of the upcoming meeting can remain around 8pm EST given all are deemed “adult athletes”.

USA SWIMMING BOD UPDATE – JR JB MT DA

USA Swimming Updates from the Zone Directors that serve as “at large” members on the USA Swimming BOD.

The applications for the BOD are being reviewed by the nominating committee.



CZ EZ WORKSHOP & ZONE DIRECTOR GC REVIEW:

- SZ / WZ – Denver (notes attached)
- CZ / EZ – Chicago (notes attached)

General consensus following the workshops and prior to the ZD Council call, is that the ZD should be more involved in the planning / content of the workshops.

MT/DS – with the addition of the workshops, there are ever increasing financial expectations on the LSCs and increasing time commitments for volunteer LSC BOD Members and Committee Chairs. A concept for USA Swimming to consider once it has its own stand-alone convention is possibly to have these workshops occur at USAS prior to OR immediately following convention.

JB/DA/SR - If USA Swimming could be more informative about the meeting and conferences that are going to be held. Have a more accurate and published calendar. **JS** agreed (see below)

MD - spoke to the Athlete Summit: for the athletes – they were not at this year's work shop and had their own leadership summit.

JS - What do the ZD want from USA Swimming and Staff? Staff needs to have specific items. JS will coordinate with Sport Development / Member Services and others to develop a calendar covering 18 months of all USA Swimming workshops that LSC / Zone volunteers could potentially attend. In turn this will assist LSCs from a planning perspective. The LSCs should then be in a better position to support and send the appropriate board members/key volunteers to the conferences and clinics.

At convention the Zones need more time to get their work done, that will take or can take more than 3 hours.

ZONE BOARD OF REVIEW – RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Maria Davila and Brad Jacobs: per the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, the Committee decided to include legislation the Board of Directors put forth to eliminate the Zone Board of Review structure in the amendments to be brought up at HOD.

MS - Looking at have the National BOR takes all the issues and dissolves the ZBOR. This will provide for more training or the members for the BOR; many on the ZBOR members do not receive any or little training. This could raise the caliber of the process. This proposal will be presented as part of the legislation at convention to be considered and voted upon by the HOD.

MT – The ZSAP will remain at the Zone level.



DIRECTION OF ZD COUNCIL

Following the April conference call, Pam Lowenthal, John Bradley and Tristan Formon had several email exchanges.

The initial communication from JB: *I spoke with Pam last night after our call and I think we had a good idea that would help us change our posture from being “reactive” to “proactive” as a functioning leadership group within USA Swimming. What if we had a group made up of people like Julie Bare and Kate Chronic work together to standardize the bylaws of our zones? The contents could still be somewhat individualized but the foundation of the bylaws would be the same for each zone. This exercise would help us figure out what is important in each zone and might give us an idea of how we can be more effective as an age group governing body vs. a collection of regions.*

Along those lines, some ideas as to short/medium term goals for the ZD Councils consideration:

- 1 - **BEING PROACTIVE** and become leaders at the local level and on up.
- 2 - **UTILIZING OUR TREMENDOUS VOLUNTEER BASE** in reviewing / standardizing the generic zone structures while still allowing for some idiosyncrasies.
- 3 - **BEING LEADERS** to improve sustainability of the sport

There was significant discussion – The consensus was that there should be a group to look at our By-Laws. Maybe the LSC Development (Jane Grosser) and Julie Bare look at all the Zone By-Laws. **JB** did start a project a number of years ago to look at and compare the Zones.

Looking for standardization of the Zones with consistency across Zone By-Laws with opportunities for nuances where appropriate.

Initially Zones need to know what is needed to have in the Zone By-Laws. Simple and flexible is what needs to be. What are the topics? **JS** will connect with LSC Development / Jane Grosser to start that dialog. **ZDC** felt this could be a **MASSIVE** project.

Branding was discussed as it relates to the Zone logos (see above). **JS** – will coordinate with USA Staff re: logos for the four Zones.

ZONE ATHLETES

Comments from the CZ EZ SZ WZ Athlete representatives.

The athletes appreciated being a part of the conversation and dialog at the ZDC and likewise, the ZDC is appreciative of their participation / input. The athletes questioned the upcoming meeting schedule / calls for the ZDC. **TF** and **JS** confirmed that there will be conference calls until USAS this fall. Starting with the 2019-20 year (following USAS) the ZDC will meet face to face twice per year, once at USAS 2020 and continue to meet via teleconference call. The ZDC plan to meet for dinner face to face as a group at USAS 2019 for those that can be in attendance.

ZONE GENERAL UPDATES – All just gave an update

CZ – **PL** outlined the upcoming CZ Multi-Cultural Meet AND CZ Open Water Meet.



EZ –

- **2019 Zone Open Water Championship [Meet Announcement](#)**
June 29, 2018, Lake Quassapaug, Middlebury, CT (hosted by Shoreline Aquatic Club)
- **2019 Speedo Sectionals Long Course "Super Sectional" [Meet Announcement](#)**
July 18-21, 2019, Rutgers University, NJ
- **2019 Long Course Senior Zone Championship**
August 1-4, 2019, Buffalo, NY (hosted by Star Swimming)
- **2019 Long Course Age Group Championship**
August 7-10, 2019, Richmond, VA (hosted by Virginia Swimming)

MT reported on the upcoming EZ D&I Camp at the University of Maryland.

SZ – DS outlined the upcoming SZ D&I Camp and SZ Age Group and Senior Zone Meets.

WZ – SR reported that the WZ Open Water champs had been postponed due to water temps and is now rescheduled for August.

EZ SPRING MEETING

Shared for informational purposes:

[Meeting Information & Schedule](#)

[Draft Meeting Agenda](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

[Budget Proposal](#)

[Technical Planning Meeting Agenda](#)

[Proposed Zone LC Qualifying Times](#)

[Speedo Sectionals Meet Report - Region 1 \(North\)](#)

[Speedo Sectionals Meet Report - Region 2 \(South\)](#)

(As the only Zone to run Bi-Annual Meetings, this content was shared for information purposes. There was no discussion)

TECHNICAL SUIT RESTRICTIONS

USA Swimming / AG Development plan to roll out an educational component as we move forward into the mid to late summer. This initial educational connection will occur approximately 12 months prior to the September 1 2020 implementation date.

TF outlined his discussions with Tom Avischious at USA Swimming re: the upcoming communication strategy to the membership.

JS confirmed that USA Swimming have been in ongoing contact / dialog with the suit manufacturers. There has been multiple meetings between USA Swimming and the apparel companies on how to get the information out and to educate the swimmers and parents. USA Swimming had reviewed communication strategies shared by USA Lacrosse and USA Baseball.

JR reported that TYR were satisfied they were in a position to meet the timelines established by USA Swimming.



OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Convention Schedule: **MT/TF** - EZ Tech Meeting is now scheduled after the EZ General Meeting. (Typically the Technical Chair reports on the Tech Meeting and provides proposals for consideration by the body at the General Meeting)

2019 Zone Director Applications: **JB/PL** - asked if these were available yet and how USA Swimming planned to handle. **SR** directed everyone to the USAS landing page on USA Swimming's website.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Conference Call June 30 2019 5:00 pacific, 8:00pm Eastern

Meeting adjourned 9:29pm EST

DRAFT