

## Coaches' Committee Meeting Minutes      September 29, 2012

**Members in attendance:** Tim Moussetis (SEVA), Dave Henderson (SEVA), Steven Phillips (GATR), Peter Maloney (TSU), Brent St. Pierre (NOVA), David Schreck (NOVA), Scott Baldwin (HOKI), Bob Herlinger (RAYS), Ted Sallade (PSDN), Craig Clift (BAC), Dudley Duncan (QSTS), Mike Julian (PSDN), Lisa Liston (LY), TJ Liston (LY)

TJ Liston called the meeting to order. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Seconded. Approved.

Coach/Official Task force update: TJ reported he received 18 surveys back from coaches, Steven Phillips received 40 officials' surveys back, and continues to receive them. Bryan Wallin is the new officials' chair. The Coach/Official Task Force has been on the phone a lot discussing problems and working on solutions. Information on how to protest calls, what calls can be protested, the protocol, etc. will be going out to all clubs so that new coaches can read it, and everyone can be aware of the proper procedures.

TJ reported new legislation passed at the convention that will impact new coaches. It goes in to effect on January 1, 2013. New coaches will have to pass the Foundations 101 test PRIOR to be granting coaching status. Before renewing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, new coaches will have to pass an additional test.

A motion was made to endorse the position that the meet director and the meet referee should never be the same person. Seconded. Endorsed unanimously.

A motion was made to endorse the position that the senior committee unanimously supported that the 400/500 free and the 400 IM at the Senior Championship meet should be run as follows in prelims: The fastest four heats of women, swum slow to fast, followed by the fastest four heats of men, swum slow to fast, followed by heats swum fast to slow, alternating women and men. Seconded. Endorsed unanimously.

A motion was made to endorse the formats of the new 12 & under district and 13 & over region meet formats. Seconded. Unanimously endorsed.

A motion was made that the Age Group Chair and the Senior Chair should not be tasked with being the meet director at the Age Group and Senior Championship meets. Seconded. In discussion, everyone felt that now that we have available pools and host clubs for these meets, they should be allowed to run the meets with their own meet directors. Requiring the chairs of these committees to have to be meet directors makes it very difficult for coaches to fill this position as they are generally working for their team during these meets. Unanimously endorsed.

Steven Phillips explained the Task Force that was put together to try to help alleviate tensions on the pool deck between coaches and officials. Surveys were sent out allowing coaches and officials to express their concerns. Steven stated communication will be continually important. The task force will continue to work with the new officials chair to improve relations. He said they don't want the officials to press the national certifications – it will no longer be VSI's agenda to push national certifications. Again, info will go out about protocol to protest calls or ask about dq's. Want to make sure that everyone acts appropriately. One stunning thing in the officials' surveys that were returned was the fact that many of them felt like the "benefit of the swimmer" was not being taught as it had been in previous

years. So it isn't just the coaches that want to see changes made; many officials also feel like there should be changes on their side. Need a return to why we are here. Officials are volunteers – it is not a professional or hired position. Need to remember we are all here for the kids. Pre meet briefings need to no longer have any “call of the day” discussions. Stick to USAS protocol. Unfortunately, not all the coaches received the survey.

There was a reminder that there will be VSI Board elections in the spring and those interested in any position need to express their interest.

MAHC – CDC is working on federal standards for air quality in pools. Eventually it is believed that everyone will have to have air flow across the top of the water to keep the chloramines off the surface. Air quality standards should benefit all of us who are on the pool deck. Also, there is a public comment time for the next few weeks about changing the depth for starting blocks. They are trying to move the water depth to 2 meters – 6 feet, 7 inches. Mary will be sending out an email telling how to make comment. Please respond and get your parents to respond. We need to try to keep the water depth for starts from moving to that depth.

USA Swimming has enacted an anti-bullying program. ALL clubs are going to be required to have an anti-bullying policy or adopt USA Swimming's policy. Everyone in your club will have to sign off on it – parents, swimmers, coaches. Coach and official relationships will also fall under this anti-bullying program. Issues that arise will be board of review issues.

USA Swimming is also asking each LSC to appoint an Athlete Safety Coordinator as a board position. Their role is to be an intermediary between the LSC and USA Swimming. And this person is supposed to disseminate information from USAS to everyone. Their 2<sup>nd</sup> role is to serve as a resource for complaints and help direct people to the appropriate help. Potomac Valley has a task force set up that consists of lawyers, social workers, psychologists, counselors that could help guide folks – outside people who are not part of swimming – to gain professional advice. Might be a good idea for VSI as well.

The coaches' committee would like to see chase starts available for long course Age Group champs and Senior champs if needed. Ted said that PSDN is committed to running chase starts next summer when they can to help teach officials how to do it.

Age Group Champs short and long will be at HOKI. Senior Champs short and long will be at PSDN.

Ted (PSDN) is going to attempt to run an age group sectional type meet in the spring.

There was discussion about the philosophy of who attends the Zone meet. Do we want to send a full team, reaching as deep as we can regardless of a swimmer's time to fill out the team (which is currently happening)? Or do we want to only send our best swimmers, those with qualifying times? The LSC does financially support these swimmers and recognize them at the banquet. There was discussion with coaches expressing differing opinions. It was noted that we are no longer attending the short course Zone meet. Do we want to develop a Long Course age group sectional type meet like we are proposing in the spring? Coaches felt this idea was worth exploring.

Lisa proposed we do away with the coach of the year award. Is it necessary? Discussion included: There are no criteria. Small team coaches may do a phenomenal job but they are never recognized. Teams

are putting up multiple coaches instead of just one. While discussion leaned toward disgruntlement with the award, no vote was taken.

There was discussion about instituting an All State Award for the swimmers that has a SET time to achieve. Swimmers would receive a t-shirt or a sweat shirt or towel, etc. that said VIRGINIA SWIMMING ALL STATE SWIMMER at the banquet. The criteria would be set and NOT subjective – something like every swimmer who gets two AAAA times .... Money previously used for short course zones could help fund this award. Age Group is forming a subcommittee to further investigate this idea.

Ted pointed out that we have many VSI records held by UVA swimmers who are not truly from our LSC. He suggested that we could have two records – an open record for everyone, and then residential records for those swimmers who have grown up in Virginia Swimming. A motion was made to endorse this plan. Seconded. Approved.

Kevin Hogan, Stephanie Suhling, Steve Woolfolks joined the meeting as representatives of the Coaches/Officials task force along with TJ and Steven Phillips to hear concerns from the coaches. (Steve Hennessey and Kevin McHaney also sit on this task force but were unable to be present.) Much discussion ensued.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Liston