



# THE CONVENTION COURIER 2008

Thursday, September 25, 2008

## Are you Keeping Up To Date?

### USA SWIMMING NEWSLETTER



As a true swimming insider, you need to be in the know about all that is happening in your sport. What easier way than to have news delivered right to your inbox?

The totally re-vamped USA Swimming E-Newsletter is available monthly (bi-monthly during special events), and contains news, training tips, event updates and even special offers and sweepstakes. And we tend to throw in merchandise discounts here and there. Holiday shopping, anyone?

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## Daily Nostalgia

How many of us still catch ourselves smiling back at Team USA's awe-inspiring performances at the 2008 Olympic Games? The pro-Swimming buzz that grew around water coolers, bus stops, and facebook pages nationwide? **Send your favorite Olympic memory to [jolsen@usaswimming.org](mailto:jolsen@usaswimming.org)**

"My best memory of the 2008 Olympics will be Michael Phelps, of course, but not because he won an unprecedented 8 gold medals. I'll remember Phelps because his swimming races were live on TV before my eyelids fluttered shut.

I'll remember Jason Lezak too, and his unbelievable swims in the relays ... How many of us leaped from the couch as Lezak came from behind in the 4x100m freestyle relay, then held off Australia in the 4x100m medley relay?!"

- Peggy S.

## Friday's Meeting Schedule

7:00am - 9:00am	Coaches Meeting
8:00am - 9:50am	Open Water Meet Directors' & Officials' Seminar Athletes' Meeting
8:00am - 10:50am	LSC Leadership Workshop
9:00am - 10:20am	Using Your Website and Protecting Your Privacy
9:00am - 12:00pm	International Relations Committee
10:00am - 12:00pm	College Swimming 101 - for Athletes Only College Swimming 101 - for Coaches & Parents
11:00am - 12:00pm	USA Swimming Facilities Development Services Championship Evaluation Cmte - Business Mtg
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Athletes' Board of Review Certification
1:00pm - 3:00pm	LSC General Chairs' Workshop
****(NOTE: General Chairs Moved to Centennial IV)	
	Investment Committee
	Registration Forum
	Observations of Breaststroke Technique (Russell Mark)
1:00pm - 3:20pm	International Relations Committee
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Evaluators' Training for Officials Athlete Leadership Seminar
2:00pm - 3:20pm	Convention Education Committee - Business Mtg
3:30pm - 5:30pm	Meet The Candidates
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Eastern Zone Central Zone Southern Zone Western Zone

## Featured Events

### Meet the Candidates!

This is your organization, so be sure you know your candidates! The USA Swimming Meet the Candidates session is tomorrow at 3:30 in Centennial IV. 'Tis the season for voting, so come get to know your candidates!



### Event Management and Marketing Symposium

A "must-attend" for meet hosts and club managers, the 2nd annual Event Management and Marketing Symposium is

Oct. 22-23 in Colorado Springs. Topics will include:

- Meet Organization and Operations
- Pursuing Sponsorships
- Media Interaction & Promotions
- Understanding Economic Impact of Swimming Events

To register, or for more info: email [jfox@usaswimming.org](mailto:jfox@usaswimming.org).

# THURSDAY'S MEETING SUMMARIES

## **Awards Committee:**

The Awards Committee met on Wednesday afternoon. They agreed to nominate the following individuals for various awards:

*Women's Sports Foundation Contemporary Athlete Award*  
Summer Sanders

*Women's Sports Foundation Pioneer Athlete Award* -  
Helene Madison

*Women's Sports Foundation Coach Award* -  
Teri McKeever

*International Swimming Hall of Fame Paragon Award* -  
Carol Zaleski

The committee also discussed the need to re-commission the artwork and production for new USA Swimming awards and Swimmer of the Year awards. The current supply of these awards will be gone after next year. The production of the new awards will require a budget adjustment from the BOD.

## **Times and Recognition Committee:**

The Times and Recognition Committee is made up of over seven subcommittees that run specific USA Swimming "recognition" programs. These programs are performance-based, getting their information from the SWIMS database. It was reported that the SWIMS database is working well and meeting everyone's needs.

SWIMS now has over 30 million times from over 34,000 meets. Each year SWIMS processes over six million times from over 5,000 meets. Additionally, SWIMS has been enhanced to process times and membership information from secondary organizations. USA Swimming completed a partnership with the NCAA to handle all Division I times and athlete info this year.

- **Scholastic All America**- Reported a successful change to the program by implementing a time standard for the performance component of the program. As a result, participation was down by 25% with over 925 athletes qualifying. Over 140 individuals qualified for their third straight year.

- **NAG records**- a "record" total of 104 NAG records have been broken so far in 2008. These records have been updated on the USA Swimming web site and certificates are being sent out. This information will also be submitted for the 2009 rule book.

- **World, American, U.S. Open records**- between the Olympic trials and Olympic Games there were 20 World, 45 American, and 20 U.S. Open records broken.

-**Disability Recognition**- The T&R committee will continue its work of the past year to try to find ways to recognize the performance achievements by disabled athletes.

- **Age Group Recognition "Top 10"**- The preview lists for the 2007-2008 (9/1/2007-8/31/2008) season has been sent to the tabulators. The lists will become official around the end of October. The information will be posted on [usaswimming.org](http://usaswimming.org) and published in Splash. The transition to using a single age recognition program has been well received. The committee will add 18 year-old athlete recognition for next year.

-**ConocoPhillips Reimbursement**- There were two meets available for performance reimbursement. At the 2008 Olympic Trials 52 athletes received over \$59,000 from the program. At the 2008 U.S. Open, 76 athletes received over \$16,000. Additional information can be obtained from Suzanne Heath.

-**SWIMS Enhancements**- The T&R workshop reviewed the year's enhancements, focusing on four areas: reports, time sweep, OME and the NCAA.

-**Jim Holcomb** was recognized for establishing online records forms for coaches and athletes. Automating this process has been a significant improvement!

## **Safety/Risk Management Workshop:**

Michele Hilavasa, RN, MPH, an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention talked about recreational water illness, cryptosporidium (crypto) and chloramines that can cause problems in the pool. She stressed awareness, action and advocacy and encouraged the audience to visit their website. The second hour of the workshop focused on USA Swimming insurance coverage available to members and optional coverage available to LSCs and clubs. The audience asked specific questions about their individual situations from reps from the Insurance Broker and USA Swimming.

## **Rules and Regulations Committee:**

The Rules and Regulations Committee met to discuss proposed legislation (proposed changes and additions). The committee also discussed proposed changes to the LSC bylaws template. The audience had the chance to ask questions and comment on the proposed changes. The House of Delegates will vote on the legislation Saturday.

## **Officials Committee:**

The Officials Committee heard presentation from those officials who represented USA Swimming at the Olympic Games in Beijing and their comments about the venue and the completion. Results of the survey done by a task force formed to assess the current officials certification program were presented. Article 105 Interpretations (Inclusion of Swimmers with Disabilities at USA Swimming Competitions) was also presented.

### **LSC Development Committee**

The LSC Development Committee hosted the General Chairs' luncheon on Thursday. Executive Director Chuck Wielgus spoke to the group to introduce the LEAP initiative which will be discussed in greater detail tomorrow at the General Chairs' Workshop. LEAP stands for LSC Evaluation and Achievement Program, an initiative to study and evaluate LSC effectiveness in serving the needs of members. The General Chairs also discussed how an anticipated membership bump following the Olympics will affect planning and programming in their respective LSCs.

General Chairs and any other interested persons are invited to attend the General Chairs workshop tomorrow afternoon from 1-3 PM. **Note that the General Chairs Workshop has been moved to Centennial IV.**

### **Steering Committee:**

The Steering Committee meeting featured a "download" of the 2008 Olympic Games, and the key learnings of the U.S. Olympic Coaches. The Committee also had a productive discussion on how we can swim better as a country.

### **OIOC:**

At today's OIOC meeting, key personnel provided reports on Team USA's international competitions during the 2008 calendar year. These included the Junior Team competition, Short Course World Championships, World Youth Championships and 2008 Olympic Games. In addition attendees were treated to reports from members of the Olympic coaching and support staff and others who attended and represented Team USA at the Olympic Games.