

Summary of the Safety (Risk Management) Workshop
USA Swimming: August 17–18, 2007
Minneapolis, Minnesota

1. There were updates on USA-S Insurance coverage for swimmers. The facilitators reminded us that “excess accident medical insurance coverage is a benefit of membership in USA Swimming, which begins upon receipt of the completed membership application form with appropriate fee, and acceptance by the LSC Registration / Membership Chair or its designee.”

Insured members are covered while participating in a USA Swimming supervised, sponsored, sanctioned, or approved event, including:

- competitions and meets
- organized practice sessions
- approved social and fund raising activities
- travel to and from competitions, meets, events, organized practice sessions, approved social and fundraising activities
- continuing education events for swim meet officials and /or coaches

Of note, any diving activities are excluded from coverage by USA-S insurance.

2. Extensive discussion on use of cell phones with recording devices (audio, photo) in the locker rooms. USA-S Safety Committee will submit proposal, at the Convention, that prohibits use of cell phones and / or cell phone recording devices in the locker rooms.
3. Discussion on the notion of “Direct Line of Sight” for coach, e.g. being able to see all of her /his swimmers on deck at the same time. This poses problems for facilities with warmdown pools that are separated by wall or other barrier from the competition pool.
4. Discussion of travel in 15 passenger vans. There have been accidents reported when such vans are full and driver becomes distracted. Vans roll over easily.
5. Masters Swimmers and USA-S Swimmers may practice together in a pool, as long as there is a USA-S Swimming coach on deck.
6. Discussion with John Wilson, Administrative Vice President and Executive Committee Member – USA-S; -- the USA-S National Safety Committee is working on a proposal that would not require the Marshal volunteers to be USA-S members. Proposal may not be ready by the Convention, but would definitely be put forward at the 2008 USA-S Convention.

7. Allan Meier, Chair of the USA-S Safety Education Committee, recommended that Meet Directors and Meet Referees be familiar with the location of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in their assigned pool venue. More and more Pools are being stocked with AEDs in strategic places. These are easy to use. Marshals should know location of the AEDs.
8. Discussion on the merits of "Director and Officers" insurance for swim club Board Members.
9. Discussion of standard response for lightning in indoor pool. The specific "lightning response" is dictated by whether or not the pool is grounded and ultimately is the decision of the facility personnel.
10. Discussion of the change in "Coaches Safety and Training" course. Of note, a large part of this safety training for this new course can be done on line.
11. Discussion of need to adhere to the proper water depth for teaching diving starts. Review of data on head "strikes" on bottom of pool after diving.
12. Emphasis on NOT permitting running starts (e.g. swimmer behind block, runs up to block, leaps on block, and dives) in practice.. Even in practice, this is a dangerous maneuver and should not be permitted on deck.
13. Recommendation to invite your local fire department to a meet you are hosting or helping with, and ask the Fire Marshal to conduct a brief "safety check" of your facility (e.g., egress doors, lighting, unobstructed exit corridors, posted EXIT signs).
14. Discussion on the importance of coaches maintaining their Safety, First Aid, and CPR training status. Out of date cards for any of the above puts the entire swim team at risk, if the coach is still on deck coaching swimmers.
15. Review of accidents across the country. Asthma and respiratory distress are the major medical events occurring at swim meets. Only 50% of swimming related injuries occur in the water, with the rest occurring on deck, locker rooms, or adjacent building rooms.
16. Recommendation by Allan Meier that 5 minutes of every S&T Judge or Coaches Meeting be set aside for discussion of specific Safety Improvement Concepts or recent safety enhancing initiatives.

The Conference was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. on Saturday, August 18th.