Nick Smagula

NJ Swimming Sr. Athlete Representative

Eastern Zone Swimming Athlete Representative

USA Swimming Athlete Executive Committee

smagulaswim@hotmail.com

May 2013 NJS HOD Athlete Report

 Two weekends ago, I had the opportunity to travel to Colorado Springs for the USA Swimming Athlete Executive Committee meeting as the Eastern Zone Athlete Rep.. The two major topics that we discussed were the new USA Swimming Safe Sport Training for Athletes and the new Athlete Supervision regulations for Convention.

 The online Safe Sport program has been created for the more than 300,000 athlete members of the organization and is the final part of the Safe Sport training program. The program designed for athletes 12 years old and abovewill empower swimmers with lessons on sexual abuse prevention, how to identify inappropriate behavior, and how to report concerns. The education for athletes is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged as a helpful tool for athletes to have.

 I have taken the program myself and thought that it was very well done and an asset to any athlete who takes part in it. Many athletes understand that abuse is out there, but are unsure of what to do if they are confronted with it. These training videos address this issue and many more and I feel that it is very important that we get this program out to as many athletes as possible.

 The second issue we discussed was the new athlete supervision for LSC and National Reps. at USAS Convention. Before arriving at Convention **ALL** Athlete Representative will have to fill out:

1. Athlete Representative Honor Code
2. Travel Policy for Athlete Representatives
3. Authorization, Release & Waiver
4. Medical Treatment Authorization & Consent

 If Athlete Reps. do **NOT** fill out their forms they will **NOT** receive credentials at Convention.

 To make this process easier, the AEC is asking both the Zones and LSCs to cooperate in filling out these forms.

 Last weekend, I was among the group of NJS delegates to the Eastern Zone Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL acting as both NJS Sr. Athlete Rep. and EZ Athlete Rep. I would like to thank the BOD for once again allowing me to attend this meeting. As outlined in Tristan’s report some of the decision that were made were: locations for winter Sectionals and the addition of a new winter LCM Sectional met. As the EZ Athlete Rep. I addressed the House on the new athlete training and athlete forms.

 This is my last HOD for NJS and I would like to thank Tristan, Bud, and Stephanie along with the rest of the BOD and everyone else in NJS for this great experience over the last two years. I look forward to continuing to serve our sport as the Eastern Zone Rep. and beyond.

Submitted respectfully by:

Nick Smagula