

2015 October 10<sup>th</sup> – NJ Swimming HOD  
Senior Chairman/USAS Convention Report  
Submitted by Greg Wriede

### **Senior Champs 2015**

The first Senior Championships meet held in NJ was a success despite having senior level athlete split between this meet and NJ JOs. Athletes were excited about being able to parade, receive awards on a podium, and have a time line that did not make them rush from event to event. Building on this meet from last year and the evolution of senior swimming in NJ is crucial for the LSC.

### **NJS Senior Scholarship**

Applications were received from a dozen athletes for the NJS Scholarship. After conferring with the NCAA, the scholarship as it stands constitutes pay for play and is forbidden by NCAA rules. USA Swimming has worked with the NCAA on allowing reimbursement for National team athletes for meet or training expenses. For example, if an NCAA swimmer wins \$1000 in prize money for a USA Grand Prix meet, the athlete was forced to forgo that money in order to still be eligible to compete in the NCAA. Now, USA Swimming retains the \$1000 and an athlete can submit receipts for travel to meets or training expenses which will then be reimbursed by USA Swimming out of the athlete's prize money. This allows an athlete to use the prize money and maintain eligibility from the NCAA. NJ Swimming is connecting with the NCAA regarding running a similar program with our NJS Senior Scholarship. To date, the NCAA has yet to confirm our request.

### **2016 Senior States**

The 2016 Senior State meet held at Rutgers on February 5-7 will keep the same time standards as last season.

### **2016 Senior Champs**

The time standards for the 2016 Senior Champs on March 10-13 have been adjusted to account for the new number of athletes given the NJ JOs is now a 14 and under meet. Individual entry limits for athletes competing in the Winter Senior Champs will be **7** for the meet.

### **Senior - Tech Planning**

Winter and Summer, Senior Champs, Senior States and NJ JOs would no longer include team scoring. It was felt that would allow the LSC to celebrate more great performances and permit athletes / teams to be more selective in what events to swim at the end of the season.

### **USAS Convention Senior Development Committee Update**

USA Swimming performed a survey for the 2015 Winter Junior Nationals to see if coaches were interested in changing the meets from SCY to LCM. Coach feedback did not allow for any changes at this time so the meets will remain as originally planned.

USA Swimming did a review of Futures meets and post meet statistics were shared. Some teams and coaches were unaware whether 19&Os could attend. Average ages by event per location were outlined. Times in the finals were pretty consistent across all three meets. Participation by zone and LSC were shared. 1611 athletes participated across all three meets. Over 6000 athletes met the qualification criteria. The thought process is that the meet series participation will continue to grow. There was discussion, followed by a motion that passed to move from 3 sites to 4 in 2016. Ongoing discussion with rotating LSCs through varied sites in the future so teams would compete in differing athlete pools.

Proposed meet dates are Aug 4-7 2016. For 2016, a motion was made and passed to use the US Open standard as the top end cut off for the meet. A motion and passed was made to exclude US Open level athletes by event (meaning that an athlete with a US Open standard in the 100 breast would be permitted to attend Futures in other events that he or she met the standard)

Dates for 2017 Juniors, US Open etc. were discussed and will be announced.

Sectionals - following discussion with input from the floor by various member of the EZ, a motion was made to change the wording from shall to should fall within the prescribed window set forth by the USA Swimming Senior Committee. There was no second. No discussion by the senior committee. Motion failed.

A motion was made to leave the 2015 standards the same for 2016 for Summer Juniors and US Open. Finalized standards will be announced.

US Olympic Trials numbers were discussed. To date there are 1400 athletes qualified for Olympic Trials. Projection is closer to or exceeding 2000 athletes. The 1400 athlete current count is the "ideal" size for the meet. USA Swimming is encouraging teams to use the University of Nebraska during the meet on off days for training. They are looking at ways to accommodate athletes and space currently with the worry that numbers will increase. Seating will be improved from 2012 for both athletes and coaches. The layout will change slightly in the warm up/down pool to help accommodate traffic and viewing.