1. Call to Order – meeting was called to order at 4:11pm
2. Minutes of the May 2018 meeting were approved with no corrections.
3. Financial report – Mary Fleckenstein. Report is attached. Financial report was approved.
4. The agenda was approved.
5. Report of Officers:
   a. Zone Directors –Mary Turner and Tristan Formon - report attached.
      Tristan Formon thanked Nadine Johnson for her continued commitment to Diversity and Inclusion. He also welcomed Ward Foley as the new EZ Board of Review Chair and thanks Bud Rimbault for his service as the outgoing chair. Tristan also thanked the task force that researched the sectional meets. All information for the meeting is posted on the EZ website for all to see. Olympic Trials will be June 21-28, 2020.
      Mary Turner discussed the USA Swimming Board meeting. By-law templates will be updated, new membership categories – premium (year round), flex and seasonal.
      The report from the Zone Directors was approved.
   b. Tech Planning – Jerry Adams
      Task Force reported on 3 items for sectional meets: time trials - going from 3 to 4
      Event order
      Realignment of LSC’s for sectionals to even meet
      The task Force met 5 times to discuss and recommends adding the extra time trial and event moving. It does not recommend the realignment of LSC’s. Vote will be legislation.
      Short Course Age Groups Championships will go to a 3 ½ day format. The meet announcement will detail the order. Qualifying times will be published shortly.
      Open Water Championships will be added to the meet manual.
      Report from Tech Planning was approved.
   c. Zone Championships – Bud Rimbault
      The list of Championship dates is provided in attachments.
      Long discussion on Open Water – 3 LSC’s have stepped forward to host a meet in 2019. One has to be a championship meet. Do we run a series for our open water athlete’s? What would funding be? The 3 LSC’s are CT, VA, and MA. Jen Lyman from CT spoke on behalf of the series, stating we need to build a better foundation for open water, it is an Olympic event. A motion was made to suspend policies on one open water event to allow 3 open water events in 2019 – motion carries. Discussion followed. A motion was made to table the open water decision until Friday’s meeting to give the directors and LSC’s more time to prepare information. Motion carries. Please see 10. E. for final outcome.
      Motion was made to close bids. Motion carried.
      Super SC Sectionals 2020 – there are 2 bids – VA – Christiansburg or Liberty University and NI at Ithaca College. Both were given the opportunity to talk about their bid. A vote was held and Virginia was awarded the bid.
      Open Water bids were presented for the 2019 Championship swim. CT – June 29, VA – June 22, MA – June 29
      A vote was held and CT was awarded the championship bid.
      A motion was made to destroy the ballots – motion carries.
   d. Zone Board of Review – Ward Foley
Ward discussed the importance of the review board. He encouraged the LSC’s to handle within LSC first if possible. All LSC’s need to forward names of review board members and athlete 16 and over. Need 20% athlete. Meeting will be conference calls, early evening with a time limit. Ward can give limited advice to LSC’s. There is a $100 filing fee payable by the person filing the review case.
e. Athlete Representative – Ty Seymour
   Ty reported for the athletes executive committee – with all the changes in the by-laws – the AEC will be restructuring too. The athlete’s community service this year was to provide swim lessons to the disabled. Ty was thanked for his service to the LSC. It is his last meeting!
f. Age Group Chair – Edgar Perez – no report at this time
g. Diversity and Inclusion – Nadine Johnson
   Nadine has a written report provided in attachments. D/I continues to build and is working hard.

At his time Tristan Formon awarded the Eastern Zone Service Award to Nadine Johnson for her continued progress with Diversity and Inclusion.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 to resume Friday, September 28 at 4:00pm.

Friday, September 28, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 4:02

The first order of business was to open bids for the 2020 Open Water Championships. There were 2 bids – MA and CT
Both LSC’s spoke on their proposal. A vote was held and CT was awarded the meet. Motion to destroy ballots was carried.

Continuing with agenda

h. Officials Chair – Bob Menck – written report with attachments

6. Legislation
   a. EZ By-laws
   b. EZ Championship Manual
      Mary Turner explained that emails were sent out and are posted on the web site with changes in the above. There were no questions – Motion was made to accept changes – motion carries.
      Jerry brought forth the Task Force proposals –
      1. Section al time trials from 2 to 3 – motion carries
      2. Housekeeping items in Championship Manual – anywhere the manual gives a number of competitor for finals – change to 2 heats – i.e. 16 swimmers becomes 2 heats. For distance events it will be one heat instead of number of swimmers.
         Sr. Zone and Sectionals D final – if over 600 swimmers then there will be an 18 and under D final. If there is a D final – awards will not be given during finals.

7. Elections – Mary Turner
   a. Zone Director (Coach) – Tristan Formon – no other nominations, moved to close – Tristan wins by acclimation
   b. Diversity and Inclusion – Nadine Johnson – no vote at this time
   c. Secretary/Treasurer – Mary Fleckenstein – no other nominations, moved to close – Mary wins by acclimation
   d. Athlete Rep – Marco Greico- AD and Sara Gaston – VA
      Both athletes spoke to the body. Athletes only voted and Sara Gaston was elected Athlete Rep. Motion to destroy ballots – motion carries.
8. Unfinished Business – Budget Task Force – Anna Summerfield – Survey went out, most want money to go to athletes. Budget will be reviewed and presented in April.

9. Report from National Committees:
   c. Mike Seip – Diversity and Inclusion – much progress in this area
   d. Carol Healey – Registration – moving forward with member validation. Flex now active in Active Network.
   e. Tim Husson – Times and Recognition – will be recognizing age group mixed relays.
      Scholastic All American – 1st year of 9th graders – there were 240.
      410 Scholastic All American from the Eastern Zone, Potomac was 5th highest LSC and NCAP was 2nd highest team.

10. New Business
    a. Zone Diversity Select Camp – Juan Caraveo
    b. R1 legislation
    c. USADA
    d. USA Swimming Foundation
   Above items were completed on Thursday. Each had a moment to speak on their items behalf and asked for support of all
   e. 2010 Open Water Championship bids – Bud Rimbault - Written Report – proposal of $15,000 to go to open water for 2 years (2019/2020) in addition to the $5000 already received for open water championship.
      Amendment from the floor to reduce the amount to $6000 and make max award $2000 – ballot was held on amendment – amendment passes
      Amend participant to competitor – motion carries
      Motion to table proposal and allow budget task force time to investigate placing in budget. Table until spring meeting. Motion carried – tabled until April meeting

11. Motion to Adjourn was made at 4:50 pm. Motion carries

12. Next meeting of the Eastern Zone will be April 12-13, 2019 in Bethlehem, PA – focus– General Chairs/Tech Planning/Finance/Diversity & Inclusion/ General Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Fleckenstein
Eastern Zone Secretary
The mission of the Eastern Zone is: To develop a unified organization designed to work in cooperation with the LSCs to support and promote the Eastern Zone Swimming Membership.

Eastern Zone Directors Report
EZ Fall General Meeting – September 27, 2018
Respectfully submitted by Tristan Formon and Mary Turner
tristan@berkeleyaquaticclub.com myturner525@gmail.com
www.easternzoneswimming.org

EZ DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE
The committee continues to strive to make the sport of swimming more inclusive in nature and more diverse in constitution and more representative of the EZ population base. A prime example is exploring the possibility of an Officials & Coaches Outreach or Assistance Criteria - The world of volunteerism is an ever-evolving challenge, initially getting adults to consider becoming volunteers and then encouraging volunteers to remain involved after their athletes move on. The potential inclusion of non-athletes into the LSC Outreach program would serve as a new, previously untapped source of potential volunteerism. The committee’s continued challenge is to activate the D & I representatives within all 12 EZ LSC’s to support the athletes and provide programming. To date they have achieved 11 LSC’s participating therefore well on their way to achieving full participation.

The EZ extends its gratitude to Nadine Johnson-Jesionek and the entire EZ D&I Committee for their ongoing commitment to “think outside the box” and make our sport a sport for all.

EZ BOARD OF REVIEW
Thank you to Ward Foley who has assumed sole responsibility as chair of the EZ Board of Review. LSCs are asked to review their respective 2018-19 Board of Review appointees and forward candidates to Ward Foley gefoley@yahoo.com, Mary Turner, and Tristan Formon.

The EZ extends its gratitude to Bud Rimbault for his service to the Zone in the capacity of ZBOR Chair.

EZ TASKFORCES
The EZ extends its gratitude to the members of the EZ BUDGET TASKFORCE and the EZ SECTIONAL TASKFORCE.

2018 EZ CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS
2018 Zone Open Water Championship
Saturday, June 30, 2018, Lake Quassapaug in Middlebury, CT (hosted by Shoreline Aquatic Club, CT Swimming)
Meet Referee: Dave Heller / Meet Director: Jen Lyman

Number of Athletes: 472
Number of Splashes: 474
Number of Scratches: 50
Number of Teams: 60
Number of LSC: 11
Number of male athletes entered in the 5k: 65
Number of female athletes entered in the 5k: 71
Number of athletes entered in the 2k combined: 255
Number of athletes entered in the Mini combined: 83
2018 Long Course Senior Zone Championship
August 2-5, 2018, Buffalo, NY (hosted by Star Swimming)
Meet Referee: Jan van Nimwegen / Meet Director: Phil Aronica
Athletes: 455 (around 100 fewer than last year)  
Relays: 39  
Total Splashes: 1762 (first round)

Number of Improved Times: 443 (about 25%)  
Number of Meet Records / Re-Broken: 7

2018 Long Course Age Group Championship
August 8-11, 2018, Richmond, VA (hosted by Virginia Swimming)
Meet Referee: Bob Rustin / Meet Director: Lori Hopewell
Teams: 12
Athletes: 946 Total, 472 Women, 474 Men
First Round Splashes: 3897 (379 Relays)

New Meet Records: 25  
Improved Times: 47% (HyTek Meet Manager)

The EZ extends its gratitude to the meet hosts, meet directors, meet referees and entire officiating crews for their efforts in creating the most optimal competitive environment for participating EZ Athletes.

2019 EZ CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS
2019 Short Course Age Group Championship: April 3-6, 2019, Webster, NY (hosted by Fairport Swimming)
2019 Speedo Sectionals Spring Long Course: March 28-31, 2019, Buffalo, NY (hosted by Star Swimming)
2019 Speedo Sectionals Region 2 (South): March 28-31, 2019, Christiansburg, VA (hosted by Virginia Swimming)
2019 IM Extreme Games-NE: January 25-27, 2019, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (hosted by Potomac Marlins)
2019 Long Course Age Group Championship: August 7-10, 2019, Richmond, VA (hosted by Virginia Swimming)
2019 Long Course Senior Zone Championship: August 1-4, 2019, Buffalo, NY (hosted by Star Swimming)
2019 Speedo Sectionals Long Course "Super Sectional": No Bids Received
2019 Zone Open Water Championship: TBD

EZ DOCUMENTS
The following documents have been updated on www.easternzoneswimming.org > DOCUMENTS
  Eastern Zone Past Zone Directors
  Eastern Zone Service Award Recipients
  Eastern Zone Meeting Locations within the Zone
All members are requested to review the documents for accuracy and advise of any omissions.

UPDATES FROM USA SWIMMING BOARD MEETING:
OFFICIALS COMMITTEE
Update to Situations and Resolutions: Work on the updates are ongoing with completion expected by the end of the year.
Officials Clinic/Workshop: The officials training workshop will be in San Antonio over the weekend of October 19. As in previous years, the program covers a broad range of topics and is geared to give the participants exposure and education on each position on the deck as well as meet management.
TIMES & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE
Records: There were 53 NAG records (15 LC and 38 SC) records broken during the 2017-2018 season. There were 2 World records, 38 American records (26 individual and 12 relay), 41 US Open records (34 individual and 7 relay) and 5 World Junior records set during the 2017-2018 season.
Scholastic All Americans: There were 1622 successful applicants for the 2017-2018 season. This is compared to 1158 the previous year. This was the third year using the Winter Junior Time Standards. This was the first year 9th graders were eligible, resulting in 239 successful applications from this grade.

USA SWIMMING FINANCE UPDATE
USA Swimming is doing well from a financial perspective. The USA Swimming total portfolio performance of +.56% for the second quarter and .03% year-to-date beat the benchmark. The portfolio has outperformed the benchmark for the one, three, and five-year periods ended June 30, 2018. Per the 2Q Financial Statements: overall membership numbers are down some. The USA Swimming staff has been extremely responsible in managing the budget resulting in significant savings in expenditures.
The Board of Directors of USA Swimming designated $1,500,000 of reserves to fund SwimAssist costs that exceed the operating budget for such expenses in any given fiscal year after 2018. (These funds will come out of the proceeds realized from the sale of USSIC.) The Board of Directors of USA Swimming approved the spending of up to $750,000 of undesignated reserves for expenses related to abuse investigations by United States Senate and House of Representatives and implementation of unbudgeted safe sport expenses in 2018.

USA SWIMMING FOUNDATION FINANCE UPDATE

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
The Governance Committee is being sunset effective with this year's House of Delegates meeting as part of the overall governance transition. The LSC Bylaws Task Force will be hosting a session at convention to provide the opportunity for attendees to ask questions or raise issues relative to the LSC Bylaws changes coming before the House of Delegates during Saturday's session.

NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
There are no active cases before the National Board of Review nor are there any appeals to the Board of Directors at this time.

SAFE SPORT COMMITTEE
Safe Sport Mission: To inspire a culture of athlete and member protection at all levels of USA Swimming.
2018 ASCA World Clinic Safe Sport Presentation: was the first ever Safe Sport presentation at ASCA: “Coaches— you are part of the team”. Presenters: Paul Lundsten, Meaghan Murphy, Kathleen Prindle, Greg York, Liz Hahn (moderator)
Safe Sport Designated Club Program Subcommittee: Rationale: To advance the culture of Safe Sport at the Club level and increase the participation of Parents and Athletes in Safe Sport training initiatives / Policy revisions, criteria revisions and Club Safe Sport Checklist completed.
Train the Trainers Planning Team: Rationale: to create a pool of qualified Safe Sport Trainer volunteers available to provide In-person training to LSCs, Clubs, Camps, Swimposiums, etc., supplementing the Safe Sport Staff / Develop training curriculum / Identify and train volunteers / Seek budget support from USA Swimming BOD
Assessment of personnel and budget support needs for advancement of the USA Swimming Safe Sport:
Additional USA Swimming Safe Sport Staff / IT support: Safe Sport program development and Safe Sport Modules for LEARN Online Course Library.

USA SWIMMING MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SPORT DEVELOPMENT
Joel Shinofield, former Executive Director of College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America’s (CSCAA), has been named new Managing Director of Sport Development. He will be responsible for overseeing the Sport Development Division within the Technical Business Unit and executing a strategic plan that enhances the development and education of athletes, coaches, clubs and Local Swimming Committees (LSC) across all levels of the sport in the U.S.

COMPETITIVE SUCCESS
One of the stated goals in this category is USA Swimming is a recognized leader in promoting a clean sport environment. To this end, work is underway to add the USADA Anti-Doping Training to the LEARN platform which would provide additional resources on this topic to teams throughout the nation. Teams, coaches and athletes attending training camps at the USOTC already have access to this level of education.

OLYMPIC TRIALS JUNE 21 - 28, 2020
Mike Unger reported that preparations are moving along well. Trials will be 8 days, 10:00am Prelim / 6:45-7:00pm Final in Omaha versus the 9 day format with Prelims in the evening and Finals in the morning in Tokyo.

2019-2020 SITE RECOMMENDATIONS
- 2019 May 3-5 Open Water Championships: Miami Marine Stadium, Miami, FL
- 2019 Aug 8-11, Futures: Spire Institute, Geneva, OH
- 2019 July 31-Aug 4 Phillips 66 National Championships: Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
- 2019 Aug 6-10 Speedo Junior Nationals: Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
- 2019 Dec 4-7 Winter National Championships: Ga Tech, Atlanta, GA
- 2019 Dec 11-14 Speedo Winter Junior Champs: Ga Tech, Atlanta, GA
- 2020 Aug 4-8 US Open/Junior Nationals: IUPUI Natatorium, Indianapolis, IN

RISK MANAGEMENT:
The Risk Management Manual has been updated and now includes a guide for LSC Board succession planning.

HURRICANE FLORENCE RESOLUTION
A resolution will be presented at the House of Delegates to grant an exception to the 120-day rule for athletes displaced by Hurricane Florence.

APPROVED CHANGES TO POLICY MANUAL:
TIMES MANUAL: A proposal was approved to include times from Paralympic meets in SWIMS for athletes registered with USA Swimming at the time of the swim. US Paralympics will send the meet results to the TIMES Chair or designee for uploading into SWIMS.

ATHLETES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Board approved the updated Athletes’ Executive (AEC) and Athletes’ Committee Operating Policy Manual.

USA SWIMMING BYLAW CHANGES
The USA Swimming BOD approved changes to the Corporate Bylaws which can be found on the following pages.
Treasurer Report

Deposit Account with USA Swimming report is below.

Current balance is $80,735.13

As of 9/22/18 Middle Atlantic and Potomac Valley have dues outstanding. (have been paid)

Once these are paid our balance will be $86,759.88

All disbursements are accounted for and approved by finance chair.

EASTERN ZONE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

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Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Fleckenstein

Eastern Zone Treasurer/Secretary
The updated Safety Training for Swim Coached Course will be launched at the end of October 2018 by the American Red Cross. It has been totally revamped with USA Swimming having provided a great deal of support.

The Operational Risk Workshop included a presentation by Hammerhead Caps. Three was a lively discussion about concussion.

R-6 legislation was sponsored by the Committee and is schedule for a vote during the HOD session on Saturday. This will provide an extra layer of support for meet hosts when running a sanctioned meet.

From Jerry Adams:

This is for the Sectionals/Sr Zone Championship regulations:

1. Meet Format:
   a. Sunday Relays: Any relay that wishes to swim during the morning session may do so. All Sunday relays must declare an AM or PM preference when that relay is positively checked in at the clerk of course. The prelim/finals preference must be declared by the check-in deadline. The fastest 2 heats of relays that do not indicate their preference to swim in the preliminary session will swim during the finals session. All other Sunday relays will swim during the Sunday preliminaries.
   b. Sunday Individual Distance Events: Any athlete who wishes to swim the Sunday distance freestyle prior to the finals session may do so. Athletes entered in the distance events MUST indicate their preference prior to the scratch deadline for Sunday’s events. The fastest 1 heat of athletes who failed to indicate a preference to swim prior to the finals session will swim in the top heat.
   c. Late Entries: The same mechanism used by USA Swimming to permit late entries for Sectional Championships and Senior Zone Championships will be included in the respective meet announcements.
   d. For the Senior Zone Championship Meet, a D final that is dedicated to 18 & Y athletes will be offered.
   e. For Eastern Zone Sectional Championships, a D final that is dedicated to 18 & U athletes will be offered if 600 or more athletes are entered in individual events into the meet. In the case of the addition of a D final, Medals will not be awarded at Finals.
   f. Thursday Time Trials for Winter Sectional Championships: In addition to the distance freestyle events, other events may be swum at the discretion of the Meet Referee who will also identify the maximum length of that time trial session.
Open Water Fund Creation Proposal
September 28, 2018
Eastern Zone Business Meeting

Mission: Support and develop Open Water Swimming in the Eastern Zone
Proposal: Fund creation of $15,000 annually
Proposed by:
Naoh Wilson-MD LSC
Sarah Nelson-MD LSC
Christion Brown-MD LSC
Bob Menck-NE LSC
Bud Rimbault-NJ LSC
Seth Williams-NI LSC
Jen Lyman-CT LSC

Eligibility

- Must be a member of the Eastern Zone
- Must be a sanctioned meet
- Must be open to any USA Swimming member in the Eastern Zone
- Must run 3 separate distances for each gender
- Must have a minimum of 100 participants
- May have available 1-day application for USA Membership

Process

- Application must be submitted to the Eastern Zone within 30 days of completion of the Open Water Meet.
- The Eastern Zone treasurer will divided the fund to all eligible applicants evenly.
- Max award would be $3,000
Eastern Zone Diversity & Inclusion Board Report
Respectfully submitted: Nadine J. Jesionek, Eastern Zone Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

The EZ Diversity and Inclusion Committee continues to convene regularly via conference call. The Committee’s continued challenge is to activate the D & I representatives within all 12 EZ LSC’s to support the athletes and provide programming. To date they have achieved 11 LSC’s participating therefore well on their way to achieving full participation.

The EZ D&I Committee Meeting held at the EZ SZ Workshop in Alexandria VA & the following months included the following discussion:

Review of what’s happening in the various LSC’s and their Summer plans

Ideas and suggestions for the National Committee Task Force:
- Officials & Coaches Outreach or Assistance Criteria - The world of volunteerism is an ever-evolving challenge, initially getting adults to consider becoming volunteers and then encouraging volunteers to remain involved after their athletes move on. The potential inclusion of non-athletes into the LSC Outreach program would serve as a new, previously untapped source of potential volunteerism.

EZ Updates:
- Successes have been more program and assistance implementation within the various LSC’s.
- Construction of a list of National level athletes to support events and meets in various LSC’s
- Discussion of what are challenges being faces and how to turn these Challenges into opportunities within our LSC’s.
- Aspen Institute – enrollment into organized sports has declined by 10 percent in the past 10 years and is projected to decease by another 10 percent in the next 10 years
- Exploring what’s been done in other Zones (i.e. Central Zone Multi-Cultural Meets)
- Developing a proposal for an EZ Travel team to attend multicultural meet – seeking funding support from EZ on the off years from the EZ D & I Camp & Summit
- Western Zone sent a Travel Team to EZ Black History Meet; resulting in conference call with EZ & WZ coordinators of Zone represented team attending a Multi-Cultural Meet bi-annually to learn more leading to a future goal of the committee perhaps even an EZ/WZ competition
- LSC Camps & Clinics in this off year from D & I Camp & Regional Summit
- Working to get bid finalized from VA Swimming for the 2019 D & I Camp & Regional Summit
- Rave reviews regarding the USA Swimming Workshop held in April-Board Governance and specific areas D & I; Safe Sport; Officials & GC
- Congratulations to the Award winners “mostly from EZ” at the Diversity and Aquatics Convention.
- Looking forward to continued success within the new structure with the Zone Coordinator positions being appointed by the D & I National Committee

EZ Committee hope to connect at convention and it’s next formal meeting to be held in October 2018
September 2018

Eastern Zone Officials Chair Report

Meet Referee Recognition

The Meet Referees for the last round of meets are listed below. Congrats on a job well done by both!

2018 Long Course Senior Zone Championship
August 2-5, 2018
Jan van Nimwegen
Meet Referee

2018 EZ Long Course Age Group Championship
August 8-11, 2018
Bob Rustin
Meet Referee

Once again, we had a very successful series of Championship meets. The Eastern Zone Age group meet was piloted by a Bob Rustin and was held in Richmond, VA. Although athlete numbers were down, the meet was a truly great event. First and foremost, chase starts were not required! This has a very settling, calming influence on both the athletes and the coaches. As a veteran to this meet, Bob and his crew did a great job keeping the tone of the meet positive and upbeat.

In Buffalo, Jan van Nimwegen was at the helm. Jan is a new member of the Eastern Zone Leadership Team and did an outstanding job as Meet Referee. This meet presented some difficulties during planning and Jan rose to meet the challenges. Like the Age Group Meet, attendance was down at Seniors as well. In this case, not only was the athlete count down, but the officials count as well.

We encountered the “Perfect Storm” on the weekend of August 5th. The Eastern Zone was host to a Futures Meet in Richmond, another Futures Meet was held in North Carolina, and a third had an Eastern Zone Meet Referee. This had a huge impact on the number of officials available to work at our Senior meet. It was difficult putting together a Leadership Team and a well-staffed deck. Jan successfully overcame the storm and ran a great meet! I will be proposing that in the future, no Eastend Zone Championship Meet be held on Futures weekend.
Meet Referee Reports are attached.

Bob Menck

2018 Long Course Senior Zone Championship

Location: Erie Community College, Buffalo, NY
Dates: August 2-5, 2018

Meet Director : Phil Aronica
Meet Referee : Jan van Nimwegen (PV)
Admin Referee : Patrick Johnstone (NE)

Number of officials : 27 (20 worked 3 or more sessions)
Evaluations : none

Statistics
Number of athletes : 455 (around 100 fewer than last year)
Number of relays teams : 39
Number of splashes : 1762 (first round)
Number of improved times : 443 (about 25%)
Number of meet records (re-)broken : 7

The meet was smaller compared to last year. This resulted in some challenges for the time lines to offer swimmers reasonable times between swims (see below).

Timelines
Longest session was first day prelims, with one of the distance sessions directly following the prelims. Duration was about 3h 40m. Shortest prelims sessions was last day, duration a little over 2 hours. To offer individual swimmers at least a 20 minutes break between events, a break for 5-10 minutes was scheduled after each men’s events.
Evaluations

Due to the number of (national) meets in the same period as this meet, no national evaluator could be planned to attend this meet. As a side effect of this, no evaluations were offered, and no application for OQM was submitted. There were some requests for N2-SR and N3f-SR evaluations that could not be granted.

Staffing

Finding officials for the meet was a challenge. As appears to be the ‘standard’ for this meet, officials tend not to sign up in advance for this meet, or well past the deadline mentioned in the Meet Announcement (MA). On 7/20 (date mentioned in MA) the number of officials that had offered to volunteer at this meet was 12 (including MR and AR). For each of the sessions we ended up have 1 Deck Referee, 1 CJ, 2 (prelims) or 1 (finals) starter and between 4 and 10 Stroke and Turn officials. Since there were planned breaks between events at most one relief official was assigned (when there were an off number of available judges).

For the medley relay we had no turn judges, since each of them were needed for relay take-off judging.

Other challenges from an official’s staffing perspective were (1) officials that needed to leave the session halfway (or even well before this) through a session, and (2) many officials were arriving late for the official’s briefing one hour before the planned session start time. While this may not impact the level of officiating during the meet, it is challenging to coordinate assignments and offer officials an opportunity to visit hospitality.

Meet management

The host club, STAR Swimming, did an excellent job running the meet. The operators for both Timing System and Hy-Tek were highly qualified and were able to provide the Admin Referee correct times. They also were able to help with seeding for the time trials. Since there were no experienced meet referees available for some days of the time trials, the meet ref for the Seniors meet acted as MR for the time trials as well, as well as the admin for seeding the time trials.

The host club also provided timers for each of the sessions, and for each session there were enough timers to run the meet (2 per lane, and experienced head timers).

Running the meet

Throughout the meet there were about 10 observed infractions. All swimmers were informed of the infraction by the meet ref, and no coaches requested additional discussions about the infractions.

Apart from a couple of minutes of delay during the meet due to some audio-system issue, no issues occurred during the sessions, and all published timelines were met (within 5 minutes margin).

Time Trials

Time trials were offered each day (the first day after the distance sessions, per request from the coaches). In total about 218 splashes were counted in time trials. Due to staffing limitations few changes from the prelims staffing were possible (and needed).

Suggestions
1. During warmups, give more time for sprint lanes. We started 30 minutes before each end of the warm-up session, and lines appeared long. Every swimmer was able to sprint starts.
2. Since staffing the meet is challenging, try not to plan the meet whilst many more national-level meets need (experienced) officials as well. Many officials (and coaches as well) indicated some form of meet-fatigue: too many meets going on at the same time.

Respectfully submitted 2018-08-09

Jan van Nimwegen, meet referee

MEET REPORT

EZ Long Course Age Group Championship

August 8 to 11, 2018

Collegiate School Aquatic Center, Richmond, Virginia

Meet Referee: Bob Rustin
Admin Referee: Bryan Wallin
Lead Starter: Bill Pritchard
Team Lead CJ: Ralph Jones
Meet Directors: Mary Turner, Lori Hopewell
National Evaluators: Paul Jones, Bob Menck

Teams: 12
Athletes: 946 Total, 472 Women, 474 Men
First Round Splashes: 3897 (379 Relays)

Notes on the meet:

I’d like to thank Bob and the Eastern Zone for selecting me as Meet Ref. This was my 2nd time serving in that capacity and this is one of my favorite meets, I enjoyed the experience.

Overall, I thought the meet went very well. The athletes were enjoying the experience, the deck was a happy place, the coaches were happy, and we had some FAST swimming. By my count, there were 25 new meet records set over the course of the meet. Meet Manager also indicated that 47% of the swims were improved times!
Although there were some concerns about the attendance being down from last year, this was a very good size for this meet and made the timelines and meet management quite easy. We considered chase starts in the pre-planning, but when we ran those scenarios we found that significant numbers of athletes would be coming back for the next event in 15 minutes or less, so we did not use chase starts in any sessions. The only sessions that were tight were the Wednesday morning session with the miles, but we combined some heats to save 20 minutes and the afternoon session started on time. We also added a 3rd warm-up on Friday afternoon due to the large number of swimmers in the session to avoid overcrowding.

The only change I am aware of in the meet announcement is to fix the order of the relays on Friday to have the 11-12 relays swimming last. This was correct for Wednesday but initially missed on Friday.

We chose to allow the 13 and over sessions to use the backstroke wedges if they wanted to. My rough survey was that around 25% of the 13/14 swimmers used them, but I would say around 75% of the 15-over swimmers used them. The wedges were the Myrtha (Omega) design which must be manually pulled up, facility staff handled that and there were very few delays due to twisted lines.

The facility was also very pro-active with the air quality in the warm-up pool. Due to the lower roof and room volume the air can go off in there when many swimmers are wearing tech suits, but they ran the HVAC with max purge and the air quality stayed OK, a little warm as the outside air was 95+.

We had 54 officials work the meet and all the sessions were well staffed. 21 officials had national evaluations, thanks to Paul and Bob for making them a positive experience with excellent mentoring. Thanks also to Mari Weferling (Maine) and JoAnn Faucett who worked every session at Deck Ref and made sure the meet ran well.

Thanks also to NOVA Virginia, our host club, who did an excellent job staffing and overseeing the meet. Well Done NOVA!

Respectably submitted:

Bob Rustin
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Eastern Zone Championship Dates 2019-2022

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Dates per Policy
- AG SC before 1st Sunday in April
- AG LC to be scheduled to conclude either the first or second Saturday in August
- LC Super Sectional as scheduled by the Zone

Notes:
1. Dates and bids for 2019 are set and bid.
2. Dates suggested for 2020 and 2021 are based on Policy and history.
3. Virginia will host on a date TBA.
4. Spring Sectional meets will have 2 long course meets (North and South) and 1 Super Sectional short course meet.
5. Spring Sectional meets will have 2 short course meets (North and South) and 1 Super Sectional long course meet.
6. Dates for 2019 and beyond reflect a 3.5-day format.
7. Bid from Virginia, either last weekend in May or first weekend in June.

Updated 25 September 18