



Oregon Swimming News

Oregon Swimming Mission Statement: To build and promote the sport of competitive swimming for the benefit of all swimmers to achieve their maximum potential.

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Oregon Swimming newsletter is an open forum. Oregon Swimming encourages contributions to the newsletter. All content of these letters reflect the views and opinions of the author and may not reflect those of Oregon Swimming

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR - MARK RIENIETS

As the 2007 year ends it is a good time to reflect on where we have come over the last year.

We have revamped the format of the OSI LC Championship meet and made it into a full 4 day meet. We have incurred legal expenses which totaled almost \$20,000 as our Board of Review carefully examined and reviewed a particularly complex and confusing case. We had numerous records broken as our athletes attain faster times than ever accomplished before through hard work, focus on their goals and committed coaching. We held a long term planning workshop. We helped fund a number of athletes to compete at larger and more competitive meets outside of our LSC. We sadly said farewell and gave our best wishes to Pendleton and La Grande as they decided to leave our LSC and join Inland Empire.

As we prepare to enter the New Year the OSI board has a number of challenging and far reaching issues on its agenda.

Over the next few months we will be looking at a variety of items ranging from the amount OSI charges for splash fees and surcharges at sanctioned meets, to the number of people we send to convention each year. While OSI continues to be well run and administered from our permanent office, the cost of operating an on-going enterprise like OSI have risen steadily over the recent years.

It is time for OSI to take a long hard look at what our expenditure levels will be for the foreseeable future, how much of that in discretionary, and then to determine what our income must be to support those services.

Does this mean that OSI will definitely be raising the charges for meets? – I would say almost certainly at some point. If not this year, then in the years to come it must be done. Will it be because we want to – most definitely not. Any changes to fees will be after carefully reviewing what our expenses are, trimming and rationalizing unnecessary or unjustified expenditure and then matching the expenses with the income required. We pride ourselves on the services we provide to the athletes within Oregon, but like everything these days, it does not come free. I will continue to report to the LSC via this newsletter as the committees investigating the options we have available report back to the OSI board on a periodic basis.

There has been some confusion regarding what was decided at the OSI House of Delegates for the OSI Altitude Camp in Colorado Springs each year. The HoD has voted to only fund this trip every two years. One of the urban myths which have surfaced is that OSI will fund half of the trip each year, which is not the case.

On behalf of myself and the OSI Board and Staff, I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season, and a very safe and prosperous New Year.

Yours in swimming
Mark Rieniets

JEFF GUDMAN – OREGON SWIMMING AT LARGE BOARD MEMBER

In the recent American Swimming Association Newsletter (2007 Issue 10) there was a great 15 year summary of actual qualifying times in the for the NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving championships. What was interesting about the summary? Over the last 15 years the standards to qualify keep getting faster. Not only are the standards getting faster but the depth is increasing. Some of the largest percentage drops in the qualifying standards took place in the relays. What does this mean? Not only is this a measure of better and faster pools and equipment (think deeper water, better water calming lane lines, etc), but better training, better nutrition, better understanding of what makes for a fast swim (think of the advances in the underwater work coming off the turns) but perhaps most importantly is the continuing ability and desire of the swimmers to step up and go after whatever standard has been set. Be it a world record or a qualifying time for a meet.

Just think of Oregon Swimming's championships meets. The goal each year is to have approximately 3 -5 heats in each race. When you look back over the past many years the qualifying standards keep getting faster and faster, yet there are still generally 3 – 5 heats in each event. Yes, the number of swimmers in Oregon has increased, but not by the same per cent the standards have gotten faster. Again, swimmers working with their coaches to continuously strive for improvement. What a compliment to the swimmers and their coaches and their desire to improve.

The upcoming year with the Olympics is going to be marvelous year for swimming. At a recent meet I was asked by a parent why do coaches talk to swimmers about trying to make the Olympic Team. There are over 300,000 competitive swimmers in the country and every fours years only 50 of those swimmers will have the chance to compete at the Olympics. Shouldn't the focus be on having fun and doing your best instead of trying to compete at the highest level of competition? That is a good question.

When a swimmer first starts out in competitive swimming the focus is on having fun, mastering the strokes, doing your best and some occasional competitions. Many times the competition will be strictly within the club. But as time goes on and the swimmer develops (and this is where the role of coach and parent is so important) the swimmer will start to set their goals higher. Most coaches believe that it is better for a swimmer to strive for the highest goals. Through coaching and on their own swimmers come to understand that only a few will achieve the dream of Olympic competition. But in striving for the highest goals the swimmer will not only be a better swimmer but also a better person. Every program I am aware of has room for swimmers of all abilities. What coaches like to see is effort. Just as every coach will not coach an Olympic swimmer not every swimmer will make the Olympic team. The goal of reaching for excellence remains regardless of the level achieved.

February and March, the ending of the short course season and a time for the championship meets at all levels. Beginning with high school districts, high school state, the 10 and under championships, the 11 and over championships, Oregon Swimming Senior Championships, Sectional Senior championships, Age Group Regionals now is the season for best times. Now is the time when the results of all the hard work and dedication of the swimmers is showcased in front of their coaches and parents. Good luck to all the swimmers in the upcoming championship season.

See you at the next meet.

OREGON SWIMMING RECORDS

Kaylin Bing of Roseburg set an Oregon record at the Sectional meet in Gresham. Swimming in the final of the women's 100 butterfly, Kaylin bettered Tori Simenec's 13-14 record by swimming 55.82.

Karen Turner, of Lake Oswego, lowered the 13-14 50 freestyle record, swimming the race in 23.65. at USA Swimming Short Course Nationals. Tori Simenec held the previous record at 23.75, set earlier this year.

Jacob Pebley of Corvallis. set an Oregon record at the second annual Oregon Senior Open. He bettered Daniel Wilson's 1994 record in the 13-14 100 backstroke. His time of 53.14 bettered the old record of 53.34.

ATHLETES REPORT

Oregon swimmers have already been given the opportunity to swim in championship level meets in the early stages of the short course season. Many Oregon swimmers competed in Short Course Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia, while others competed in Western Senior Sectionals at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham. Both of these were successful meets and offered a great opportunity for fast racing that swimmers do not usually get to experience this early in the season.

At the House of Delegates meeting in October, Sloan Storie was elected Oregon's new junior athlete representative. Sloan is a junior at Corvallis High School and has been a member of the Corvallis Aquatic Team since she was five years old. She looks forward to her two-year term starting in January.

DECEMBER NOTICES

- **2008 Oregon Swim Guides** will be available at JD Pence and the Oregon Swimming Office by the end of December. The guide cost \$10.00 each.
- **Referee Whistles –Acme Thunderer** size small or medium are available in the Oregon Swimming Office for \$10.00 each.
- **The next OSI Board of Directors Meeting** will be held Wednesday February 6th, 2008, 7:00PM at the Multnomah Athletic Club. An officials meeting will start at 6:00PM.
- **Athlete Membership Requirements.** According to Oregon Swimming Standing Rules the Membership Requirements are:
- All athletes competing in an OSI sanctioned or approved competition are to be athlete members in good standing of USA Swimming or FINA affiliated organization.
Athletes competing in OSI Championships must be USA Swimming athlete members registered in OSI. Registration forms and fees must arrive in the OSI office prior to an athlete's participation in an OSI Sanctioned or Approved meet. Athletes competing in Sectional Championships, Western Zone Championships, or any USA Swimming Championship level competition shall be full year athlete members. (i.e., not Seasonal)
Enforcement - The person signing the entry form will be required to verify that all athletes entered are members (in the appropriate category) of USA Swimming.
Penalties - per Article 302.4, USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, OSI may impose a fine of up to \$100.00 per event against the person signing the entry form.

OREGON SWIMMING INC REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2007 EUGENE, OR

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mark Rieniets, General Chair. Also present were: Jacki Allender, Cheslah Barkdoll, Stan Benson, Kathy Coddington, Jeff Gudman, Scott Kerr, Terry Johnson, Kyle Kimball, Marilyn Loitz, Bruce Ludwig, Gene Mielke, Scott Price, April Robinson, Coby van Andel, Robbert van Andel, Dawn Marie Woodward.

Minutes Minutes from the September 6, 2007, meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer (Jacki Allender)

M/S/P Motion to accept Treasurer's written financial report for January 1 – November 6, 2007 as submitted. There was discussion about the deficit that we currently have, how we will end the year, and how we can improve on our spending for next year.

Appointment Bruce Ludwig was appointed and approved by the Board, to the position of Administrative Chair to complete the term that was vacated by the resignation of Jody Braden.

REPORTS

Age Group (Vicki Gordon) No report.

Senior Report (Kyle Kimball) Coaches Jody Braden, Scott Kerr and Mark Bernett and twenty swimmers attended a great Altitude Camp in Colorado Springs. There has been lots of good feedback from the trip including wanting to go back to having it every year. Discussion was held on budgeting for this camp.

Coaches Report (Bud Taylor) No report.

Athletes Representatives (April Robinson, Mailene Leslie) Work is progressing on amending the Junior Athlete Representative Election procedure. The aim is to have the Junior Athlete Representative elected earlier to give him/her more experience prior to attending a USA Swimming convention. They would also like the new representative to have more education about convention before attending. They have spoken to some of the Athlete Representatives at the national level and there is concern about restricting by age and grade level.

April asked what was known about the upcoming high school championships. The consensus was to check the OSAA website. She also mentioned hearing a lot of positive feedback about the Altitude Camp

Scheduling/Championship Site Selection No report

Time Standards (Andy Carlisle) No report

Technical Planning (Alex Nikitin) No report

Website (Robbert van Andel) Every effort is made to meet requests for things to be on the website. Work is being done on a Parent Resource Kit. Input is needed on what would be useful. Additional time standards have been added. Robbert can now track what people are searching for on our website and he will use that information to build content and tailor what goes on it.

Safety Chair (Jeanine Serrano) No report

Camp Coordinator (Scott Kerr) Scott attended the Altitude Camp in Colorado Springs and also feels the camp should be held every year. This year they took the top twenty that applied rather than the top ten girls and top ten boys. It was a great group and an awesome experience, and the swimmers were able to spend time with Katie Ziegler. A task force of Kyle Kimball, Scott Kerr and Mark Bernett were appointed to explore outside avenues of funding for an Altitude Camp in 2008. A report is to be made at the February meeting.

Planning has been started for the 2008 OSI camps.

Officials Committee (Bruce Ludwig) With Pendleton and LaGrande moving to Inland Empire, some changes are necessary. There will no longer be an Eastern Oregon area for officials. The Dalles and Hood River have been moved to the Central Oregon area.

Area Official Chair Appointments: Central Oregon Ken Hanson replaces Tedd Marceau

(Effective Immediately) Eugene-Springfield Tom Shattuck-Smallwood replaces Linda Postma

Portland-Westside Julie Carpenter replaces Stephen Gould

A new Electronics Timer Chair is still to be appointed, and a Nominating Committee is being appointed for the new Officials Chair election which will be held by July 2008. Information on how to nominate someone and other general information on the election will be posted on the Officials Page on the OSI website.

Bruce participated in the phone hearing with USA Swimming National Board of Review re the appeal of a recent decision by the OSI Board of Review. The OSI Board of Review decision was upheld and from November 1, 2007 through November 1, 2008, the person whom action was taken against is considered trespassing if he physically appears at any USA Sanctioned event/venue. He should be requested to leave immediately and if he refuses to do so, then the authorities should be called. Meet officials, which includes referees and meet directors, have the authority under Oregon Statutes which relate to "Trespass by Sporting Official" to execute a trespass order. If any of the preceding trespass occurs, the meet referee must include it in his/her report to the OSI Officials Chair. Notification will be made to those who need to be aware of this information.

The process has started to identify a meet evaluator for the Sectional meet in December. Solicitation for referees for the winter OSI meets will begin soon. Bruce requested that the Sanctions Chair send the meet name and date and the name of the referee to the Officials Chair and the appropriate Area Officials Chair each time a meet is sanctioned.

Disability (Gene Mielke) Records for swimmers with disabilities are basically put together on the basis of those who were identified by coaches. Final verification is being done, and they should be in Coby's hands by the end of the year. The Oregon Special Olympics Meet will be November 17 at the Tualatin Hills pool and the Oregon Disability Sports Youth Games will be November 18 at the NIKE pool.

Office Manager/Registration (Coby van Andel) USA Swimming has approved Triton Swim Team (TST) in Medford with coach Robin Brickenden. NIKE is in the process of getting approval for a team; Tony Magden is helping to get it set up. Riverplace Aquatics Club in downtown Portland is disbanding.

To date for 2008, we have registered 1,799 athletes; 255 non-athletes; 73 coaches; 128 officials; 26 clubs. Coby will be on vacation from before Christmas until January 2, 2008.

Sanctions Chair (Terry Johnson) All of the revenue due from 2006 meets and most due from 2007 meets has been received.

Awards Ceremony (Cheslah Barkdoll) The ceremony will be held at the Multnomah Athletic Club, and the program and volunteers are coming together. Bruce Ludwig volunteered to be MC. The Top 16 will be put in the program, but only number one places will be mentioned as that respective swimmer is on stage. The same will apply to OSI records.

NTV Chair (Jacki Allender) No report.

Records (Robbert van Andel) Records certificates are done. There were 68 individual records set.

All-Star Team (Greg Bostrom/Jeanine Serrano) No report

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Review. Our decision was not only upheld at the national level, it was actually strengthened. The Board of Review was thanked for their time. Discussion was held about publicizing or not publicizing. It was felt that Pacific Swimming and Pacific Northwest should be notified.

Tier III Position. **M/S/P** Motion that OSI will not make any reimbursement for Tier III for meets held in Oregon.

M/S/P Motion that we will pay reimbursement up to the designated Tier amounts based only on submitted receipts. (This is a reconfirmation of ARTICLE V – OREGON SWIMMING, INC., TRAVEL FUND, Section 2.g. and the following of it is deemed necessary for good accounting practices.)

Travel Review Committee. Mark would like this committee to begin their work and bring us a recommendation in July. Items they are to consider include: What we are spending money on and how much and why and are we getting value for it. Their study should include all travel funding.

Meet Fee Review Committee. Kyle Kimball, Scott Kerr, Rick Guenther, and Dawn Marie Woodard were added to the present committee.

Scratch Rule Committee. This committee has concluded its charge and is disbanded.

11 & Over Championship Format. Kyle will monitor this.

Record Recognition. No report.

2008 Zone Meet. OSI will help with the swimmer social. Jeanine Serrano and Cheslah Barkdoll have been asked to work with Brandon Drawz.

Convention Attendees. Approximately fourteen are scheduled to go to convention next year. Mark asked if as an LSC we need to send this many, can we justify this amount of expenditure, are we getting our money's worth, and is this good solid value? A Convention Attendance Committee was appointed: Jacki Allender, Stan Benson, Rick Guenther, Kathy Coddington, Bruce Ludwig, Dawn Marie Woodward. Mark Rienets will be chair.

M/S/P Motion that the Secretary will monitor and report at each meeting the eligibility of those who are to attend convention.

OSI At Large Board Members. Jeff Gudman, Kathy Coddington, Linda Postma, and Linck Bergen have been appointed.

NEW BUSINESS

M/S/P Motion to adopt a new mission statement for OSI as follows: "To build and promote the sport of competitive swimming for the benefit of all swimmers to achieve their maximum potential."

Pendleton/LaGrande. All necessary paperwork has been completed and forwarded to USA Swimming. OSI has fulfilled its obligations relating to the transfer of these two clubs to Inland Empire.

Announcements Meetings: OSI conference calls are open to all. All board and committee members are encouraged to call in. Next calls: 7:30 pm on December 5, 2007 and January 2, 2008. Next meeting: 7:00 p.m. on February 6, 2008.

This was April's last meeting as an OSI Athlete Representative. She thanked the Board for two great years, and the Board thanked her for all of her efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Loitz, Secretary