

Coach Town Hall January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Meeting Notes- Chaired by Mark Schubert

Over 40 Coaches Participated, 7pm start time

Multiple questions were presented as suggested discussion topics for the evening.

**Topic Number One** was **Senior Competition Model** Improvements:

Increase to 3 tiers (Senior Development, Sectional, and Elite) from 2, with unique meets throughout the year culminating in P/F Championship meets for each tier would be the goal.

-There was consensus that time standards help drive performance

-Aim should be to provide P/F experience to broader cross section of athletes

- Enhance athlete retention for our Senior athletes-more improvement at all levels = better retention

-Need to determine ideal size, scope of typical “lead in meets” for each tier, and corresponding championship meet, for each level

**Topic Number Two** was review of **Age Group Competition Model**:

Reviewed current developmental model of BRW through Committee Champs and SCS traditional meets JAGS, JO's, WAGS

Suggestion to look at 3-tiered approach for Age Group competitions- Entry level, committee/regional competitions, and Elite/All Star Competitions such as the LSC hosting a Southwest Age Group Championship similar to Far Westerns

Discussion about benefits of camps and clinics capturing the imagination and interest of newer, and prospective athletes. Suggested Age Group committee determine staffing needs, dates and review options for creating more of these types of events.

The increased clinic options suggested above transitioned into a review of what the funding dynamics would look like within the Age Group program, as it was felt that the committees do not necessarily have the funding to provide significant funding increases for these types of activities within their current budget structure.

It was suggested that Junior Olympics is a valuable brand that should be used as a target meet by the local committees to help grow their base, and meets beyond that level should utilize a different moniker.

A suggestion was made that the Age Group and Senior Committees work together in revising their competition models to support a natural transition between Age Group and Senior swimming.

**Topic Number Three** was a discussion of the **Club Development Fund**, sometimes referred to as the travel reimbursement fund.

Consensus was that the topic has been debated/vetted thoroughly over the years and a revision should be able to be completed now. Generally, athletes reaching a certain performance tier should accrue a financial benefit to the club, which can be re-invested by the club towards future growth as clubs see fit.

A club development program utilizing different metrics to identify and reward successful clubs beyond just achieving a certain time standard was discussed. There was not universal acceptance as to what metrics should be used, but modifications to the current club development program should be made now, and if a secondary program can be developed utilizing metrics beyond regional/national performance as additional program, that would be a positive.

Consensus was that this should be a monthly meeting opportunity that the Coach Rep can solicit input to take to the BOD for action. The next meeting will be February 25 at 7p. This meet lasted 90 minutes and had a large cross section of participation from Coaches throughout the LSC.

Topics that did not get discussed that will be brought forward for next time include, but are not limited to:

Viewing SCS as a Brand and how to build that Brand (Mike Ashmore)

Review of sanctioned meet options during COVID (Renata Martinez)

Strategies for Re-Opening Pools and Review of Phase 2 Financial Support for struggling Clubs (Francois Harris)

Mentoring Programs for Coaches and Clubs (multiple submissions)

Notes submitted by Bob Hommel ([swimcoachbobh@gmail.com](mailto:swimcoachbobh@gmail.com)) 1/27/21