

SCS Coach Rep HOD report by Mark Warkentin (SBSC Head Swim Coach)

Generally speaking - in 2017 - SCS coaches aren't really in agreement with each other. We are all trying to provide great coaching and programming for our own teams and the LSC, but we are all coming at the various issues from so many different angles that it's hard to generate a strong sense of cohesiveness among our own ranks.

SCS swimming has tremendous diversity in the size and membership demographics of each of our clubs, and the diversity of perspective often creates tension in the LSC. Tension (generated from a diversity of viewpoints) stalls progress and negatively affects programming at the LSC level.

Some clubs in our LSC are burdened by a lack of pool space while other clubs are preoccupied with simple membership retention. Some clubs are highly competitive with a demanding membership base while others are desperately trying to make their membership base even somewhat competitive. The dichotomy of all these challenges affects how each of us view LSC programming matters.

My hope for 2018 is that coaches do a better job of respecting the diversity challenges affecting each of our clubs. If we can respect our differences we can improve programming. This hope can't be identified with a reachable goal, but if we all make an effort to recognize and respect each other we will likely all benefit in the long-run.

Beyond respecting one another, the lack of functional communication between coaches is (in my mind) a significant area that needs improvement at the LSC level. Some coaches, even those with large teams, sometimes take a "maverick" approach to LSC matters while other coaches are passively disengaged and avoid participating due to a sense of inability to engage efficiently.

We need better communication methods that more coaches can engage in effectively so that new programming concepts and problem solving at the LSC level has more general support throughout the coaching ranks.

In my mind the best way for us to improve communication between coaches at the LSC level is through two main mediums.

#1. We need better SCS meeting attendance. This is problematic because of practice schedules and driving time to Culver City and therefore I would like to see SCS move in a direction where **teleconferences** are used more frequently. If SCS can start utilizing more teleconferences (in addition to already established conference calls) it is likely that coaches will participate with general communication at the LSC level greater #s.

#2. Coaches need to recognize the importance of reading, digesting and responding to e-mails sent by fellow coaches (as well as officials, and SCS admin). **When coaches dismiss e-mails everyone suffers.** The uncertainty of a coaches' position on any given matter has a trickle-down effect that hurts our LSC.