

Desert Committee Meeting Notes

September 22, 2026 | Updated October 1, 2026

Discussion notes and committee updates. Questions and proposals are not recorded as final decisions unless explicitly stated.

Participants present

LVSC: Peter Mavro (Co-Chair/Planning); Amber Stewart (Senior Chair); Jon Michael Burgess (Board of Review); Ryan McCarthy (Officials Chair); Stefani Patterson (Acting Secretary).

SAND: Ron Aitken (Treasurer/Open Water Chair); Tyler Patterson (Age Group Chair); Chris Barber; Colin Mothersead; Brennan Gravely.

BCH: Brian Wakefield (Coaches Rep); Mike Polk.

TRA: Lorena Diaconescu.

Other: Teresa Schultz (CCSD HS Swim Coordinator).

Meet schedule and championship formats

- Pumpkin meet: Sanctioned and at Pavilion. Competition: 10 lanes in the outdoor pool. Warm-up: 8 outside / 6 inside configuration.
- Nevada State Championships: Sanctioned. Discussed 50s for next year, 200 stroke events for 11–12 and possibly 11–14, standards, and possible division changes. Tyler and Chris discussed the limitations and poor atmosphere of the current structure for 10-and-under swimmers. The proposed new format would include finals for 10-and-under swimmers and spread out preliminary events.
- Discussed making and agreeing on a plan for the Southern teams and taking it to the Northern teams. Space for next year's state meets was a concern. A four-day format incorporating 10-and-under swimmers was proposed.
- Further format notes: Four full days; add 50s; 11–14 200s; parking issues; 10-and-under events across three days. Pete will start a meet form.
- 12-and-under time standards and 14-and-under State plus Senior State were noted for further discussion.
- Super Finals: Thursday through Sunday, December 10–13 (as written).

- WAG: No 500s for 10-and-under / 11–12 (age notation unclear). Discussed 200 fly and 200 back, time qualifiers or A times, and faster standards.
- Winter Classic and an All Star meet were listed; the All Star meet was marked “No meet.”
- DC Champs: Held in February over Presidents’ Day weekend. SAND proposed moving Nevada State Championships to that weekend. The notes raised whether to host only a state championship, with SAND listed as host.
- Senior Cup in Vegas: Southern California teams, club excellence teams, and Rising Tides time standards were noted.
- TRA meets: Due to the busy local April schedule, including Senior Cup, high school swimming, and proximity to Spring Break, TRA will adjust its April meet to one day, Sunday only. TRA will take over the Firecracker Meet with a full schedule format.

Committee positions

- Four positions were open. Jon Michael Burgess was proposed for Vice Chair; voted on and approved.
- **Update 10/1/26: Stefani Patterson (LVSC) has agreed to the position of Diversity Chair; Justin Thornley (BCH) has agreed to SafeSport Chair.**

Age Group Chair update from Tyler Patterson

- Proposed tightening time standards for WAG/JAG, AGC, and Elite.
- Proposed transitioning the All Star Festival to an All Star Clinic because of the point in the season when swimmers are not ready to achieve best times.
- Proposed eliminating the coaches clinic component of the festival.
- The Desert Committee unanimously expressed concerns over all of these proposed changes. Pete agreed to compose a letter to the SCS Age Group Chair to share the committee’s concerns.
- Select camp and the clinic line were also noted. The tiered system and NAG/SAG were discussed.
- WAG survey: Tyler shared the survey link for those planning to attend WAG who had not received it: <https://forms.gle/hNo59T7uYSXBo5VR8>

Other committee and program updates

- Officials update: The clinic ran smoothly, with an increase in volunteers. Concerns were raised about the number of officials and meets during the high school season.
- Spring Junior Olympics: La Mirada was noted as the location.
- October 17: Club session and open water.

SafeSport update from Jennifer Nolan

- Jennifer distributed the following update to all Desert Committee teams: The U.S. Center for SafeSport is migrating to a new reporting system. Clubs should update the Report a Concern link on their websites to the new online reporting form: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>
- Beginning this month, clubs that achieved Safe Sport Club Recognition in 2025 or later will receive digital artwork for an official recognition banner. The digital design is sized 2.5 feet × 4 feet.
- Clubs may print banners through a vendor of their choice. The estimated printing cost is approximately \$50 through providers such as Vistaprint.
- Printed banners may be displayed at the club’s facility to showcase its commitment to athlete safety and celebrate its achievement as a Safe Sport Recognized Club.

Follow up items

- Clubs to update their website Report a Concern links to the new U.S. Center for SafeSport reporting form.

- Tyler to confirm details from Age Group Committee decisions.
- Ron to confirm Senior Cup details and the email list for senior coaches.
- Pete to compose the letter to the SCS Age Group Chair and start a meet form.