

2020 Championship Committee Virtual Convention Meeting Minutes

Committee Name: Championship
Chair: Jim Clemons
Minutes recorded by: Cheryl Kupan

Session #: 1
Vice Chair: Erin Moro
Date/time of meeting: Sept. 2, 2020, 8:00pm EDT

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD: Approve NQT computation procedure (same as has been done in the past several years but ignoring 2020 data = utilizing 2020 NQTs for 2021 meets.)

Motion(s) Passed:

- 1) NQTs that we developed for 2020 are to be used for the 2021 events.

Number of committee members present: 11	Absent: 2	Number of other delegates present: 28
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Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Jim Clemons, Erin Moro, Linda Irish Bostic, Cheryl Kupan, Mark Moore, Stephen Nichols, Jeff Roddin, Sandi Rousseau, Ed Saltzman and Pete Tarnapoll

Committee Members Absent: Robert Heath and Natalie Taylor

Ex-Officio: Christopher Colburn (EC), Jay Eckert, Onshalee Promchitmart and Jeff Strahota (Associate)

Not present: Ali Hall

Others present: Bob Bruce, Hill Carrow (Greensboro), Kathy Casey, Jeff Commings, Markus Daene, Alina de Armas, Omar de Armas, Sally Dillon, Judy Gillies, Mel Goldstein, Susan Ingraham, Laura (?), Britta O'Leary, Katherine Olson, Teddy Decker, Nick Peck, Ginger Pierson, Barbara Protzman, Josh Ptak (Spire), Phyllis Quinn, Matt Sajna (Spire), Mary Schneider, Robin Smith, Lisa Watson, Jason Weis, Teri White, Jillian Wilkins and Jill Wright

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm EDT.

Thank yous to Championship Committee members, Coaches Committee (putting together warm up procedures for SAT), Officials Committee, Sports Medicine Committee for the emergency plan for San Antonio and to the San Antonio and Richmond National committees for all their work and understanding.

1. APPROVAL MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING(S) AS REQUIRED

The Championship Committee met on August 12, 2020 to discuss NQTs and specifically our plan for 2022 and beyond is to not consider 2020 data in the calculations until the year drops off the preceding three year calendar, unless we decide on some other method for calculating them due to participation issues or other challenges.

MSA for recommending the 2021 NQTs that we use are the times that we developed for 2020. (Tarnapoll, Saltzman)

8 voted Yes, 1 voted No and 2 did not vote; Motion passes.

2. REVIEW/DISCUSS 2021 NATIONALS

A. 2021 Spring Nationals (Greensboro, NC, April 29-May 2)

- 1) Logo/awards
- 2) Order of Events status
- 3) Facility update, if any



Hill Carrow: Greensboro provided us with an update and presentation with pictures of the new facility.

--Host club: Raleigh Area Masters is on board as it has been for the five previous USMS Nationals.

--Very experienced team. Joined by Greensboro staff, Beth Burge (head referee) and Lynne Klauer (admin ref) (*subject to review and approval of USMS Officials Committee*)

A. 2021 Spring Nationals (Greensboro, NC - continued)

- -Logo has been developed by USMS and approved; work on awards is in process. Any logo adjustments for merchandise use needs to be approved by USMS

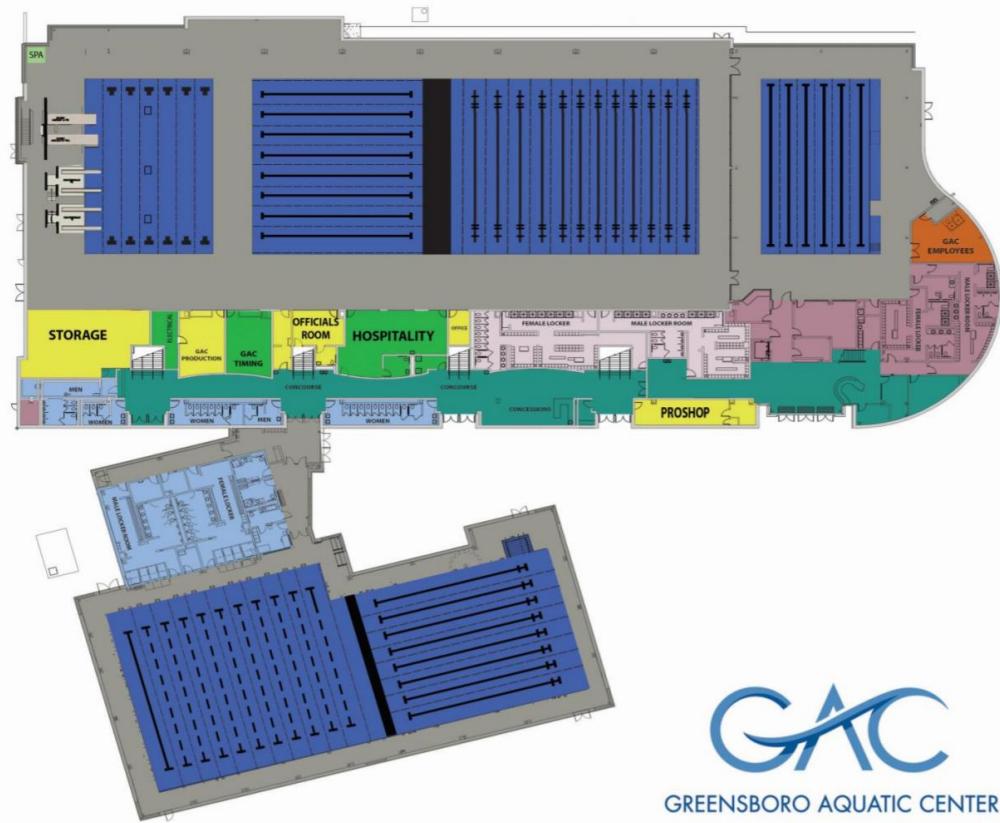
-We have had regular, virtual meetings with the championship liaisons and USMS to keep the meet preparations on track; next mtg in 1 month.

--We have 5 host hotels, added another Marriott hotel per the request of USMS.

--Socials: May have a social tied in with the North Carolina Hall of Fame induction ceremony like we did in 2016. Still working on putting together other events.

--Very fortunate to have the city of Greensboro Sports Council's support and our long standing tradition of core volunteers at all Greensboro events, including swim meets. Also, have the support of the age group teams in the area.

New pool added since last Nationals—(top) this is the original competition pool which will be reconfigured as 2x 10 lane 25y courses. The new pool (bottom) has 19 lanes when configured as 25y but not all lanes will be available as general public use isn't limited during meets. They will be separated however.



A. 2021 Spring Nationals (Greensboro, NC - continued)

Q+A:

Q: Alina de Armas: If we are still dealing with Covid and you can't have 2 timers per lane, how or can the meet be held?

A: Teri White: Very good question, but that is for Rules to answer; imagine they've given it some thought.

Q: Kathy Casey: Does Greensboro have overhead video timing as secondary timing system? With the overhead video timing, it will help if we can only have 1 timer per lane. I will also need to check if one timer per lane is approved in the rules.

A: Hill Carrow: I think so, but will have to check on that. Greensboro switched their timing system from Colorado to Omega and I believe they have that capability, but will confirm that.

→ Teri White: Overhead video timing at Omaha are not part of Omega set up of ~\$100,000.

Q: Kathy Casey: What are the dates for the meet?

A: Hill Carrow: Thursday, April 29, 2021 to Sunday, May 2, 2021

Q: Susan Ingraham: I believe, for Omaha Nationals, they used the Omega timing system and it was very expensive to rent the system.

A: Hill Carrow: I believe Greensboro purchased the system and will not have to rent.

Q: Steve Peterson: Will there be hotel shuttles?

A: Hill Carrow: No, we will not have shuttles. We did offer shuttles in the first four Nationals in Greensboro and decided not to in 2016. The survey after the 2016 USMS Spring Nationals, not a single complaint for not having shuttles. Shuttles can be a hassle and it was helpful not to have to worry about it. All hotels for 2021 are <10 mile proximity to the pool; most are on the same street, ~5-6 minutes away.

→ Jeff Roddin: Shuttle service can cost ~\$20,000 and the meet host has to pay the shortfall; there really has not been a high demand to continue this.

Q: Jeff Roddin: With the switch to Omega will you be using the high pad walls? Also, are the backstroke ledges compatible with the Omega system?

A: Hill Carrow: I am not positive, but I believe for SCY meets, they will not use the high pad walls.

I will check on the backstroke ledges, but I definitely know we have enough of the track starts.

→ Teri White: I do have concerns with the backstroke ledges. In 2016, the ledges were retractable but we had several failures (rentals) & almost had to pull all. Omega are non-retractable, very steady...please look into ledges and what will be offered.

B. 2021 Summer Nationals (Geneva, OH, August 5-8)

- 1) Logo/awards
- 2) Order of events status
- 3) Facility updates, if any

-- Meet Directors: Josh Ptak and Matt Sajna

-- We are finalizing logo with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and then we can flow into awards design

-- Use similar order to the 2015 Summer Nationals

-- Most of our organizing team is mostly the same as it was in 2015.

-- Half of the parking lot is paved and the other half will be finished next week

B. 2021 Summer Nationals (continued)

-- Since 2015, 3 hotels have opened and a 4th will open @year end 2020; the Hotel on the Spire property will not be available for the 2021 event as it will still be undergoing renovations and won't be done in time.

-- Ambassadors for Spire: Lochte, Beisel

-- Three high schools swim @Spire and we can pull from them for volunteers

Q+A:

Q: Kathy Casey: What are the dates of the meet?

A: Josh Ptak: Thursday, August 5, 2021 to Sunday, August 8, 2021

**3. REVIEW/DISCUSS ANY PROPOSED LEGISLATION/RULES CHANGES
(that may affect the Championship Committee)**

--R9: Moved some of language from Articles 103/104 into Policy; Championship Committee supports this change. This Fall/Winter, we will need to ID volunteers on the committee with document control experience to change these articles to policy, develop a method of reviewing & updating on a regular basis.

--R10: allow swimmers to enter both distance events (the 800 and 1500 Freestyle) at Summer Nationals. The Championship Committee does not recommend R10 as it could prevent trying to limit the ten hour day goal.

→Kathy Casey: R10 was withdrawn last night.

--L7: 202.1.1.A(4): *As proposed:* The meet announcement shall include a description of the timing systems intended to be used at the meet (see articles 103.18.5– 103.18.9) and one of the following statements for each course:

- (a) Times from this competition will be eligible for world record, USMS record, and Top 10 consideration.
- (b) Times from this competition will be eligible for USMS Top 10 consideration, but not for world or USMS records.
- (c) Times from this competition will not be eligible for world record, USMS record, or Top 10 consideration. If a change in primary timing system is necessary before or during the meet, the meet director shall ensure that all swimmers are notified of the change.

Rationale: To inform swimmers what type of timing system is being used and what official purposes their times should qualify for

The Championship Committee does recommend L7.

4. CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS REGARDING NQTs

In light of possible attendance and participation challenges, and following HOD directive, the Championship Committee last year formed a sub-committee to investigate methods to limit the daily sessions at USMS Nationals to under 10 hour days.

4. CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS REGARDING NQTs (continued)

Sandi Rousseau: Head of the Sub-committee

Internal discussion at last year's convention and HOD request – meets are too long, how can we shorten?

On the sub-committee were Jim Clemons, Jeff Roddin, Linda Irish Bostic, Rob Heath and Mark Moore.

--We started in October 2019: list all the things we feel we can and can't live without at a National meet?

--Possibilities to require NQTs or make them faster -- what can we do to shorten the meet?

--Two 10 lane pools is whole different scenario vs. smaller pools such as an 8 lane LCM facility.

--Change NQT formulas, faster for the distance events, swimmers have to make at least 1 NQT, no NQT's we allowed maximum of 3 events – do we lower to maximum of 2 events? This was not received favorably by the sub-committee.

Things came to a halt, covid hit, both nationals were cancelled; we restarted again in early May.

What is the new "normal?" Will Nationals become overwhelmed with participants after not having both meets in 2020; Will Covid still be an issue? Will the meet procedures change (i.e., social distancing, 1 timer per lane)?

We need to decide if we want to continue looking at this more seriously in the next year?

Sandi Rousseau: I would like someone else who can crunch the data to chair the sub-committee instead of me.

Q: Teri White: Jim is it possible there's a statement in the PanAm meet that says the meet director reserves the right to reduce the timeline of the meet - can that be put into play if need be?

The officials greatly applaud your efforts to reduce the meet time duration. Make it reasonable for everyone.

A: Jim Clemons: There are rules considerations & how to implement.

A: Mel Goldstein: USMS Nationals has always been a unique event; on the first day I find swimmers are more concerned about when they can leave; timelines – when will I be done? I'd like to reconsider the 5 day meet format to allow to swim both the distance events. Days will be more reasonable throughout the meet. 1 extra day for work for training all year.

A: Jim Clemons: Last summer at Mission Viejo we still had long days with the 5 day meet format and participants would need extra time off work for an ongoing 5 day format.

Q: Susan Ingraham: In ongoing peer to peer discussions, there are always many opinions (sprinters vs. distance).

If you look over past Championship Committee minutes, in 2018 there were 8 bullet points to discuss this topic and you still don't have something in place. As you review it again, I would like to suggest swimming the events Fast to Slow, which will eliminate padding times by participant so they can swim earlier.

At Mission Viejo, 18 of the last 24 swimmers in the 400 freestyle all went slower; only 6 beat their entry time. Maybe if they were able to swim fast to slow, they might have swum faster.

A: Sandi Rousseau: Mel, certainly extending # days was on the table. Susan, early on in USMS, we did swim fast to slow. Not an unreasonable thing to reconsider

A: Kathy Casey: Regarding changing to slow to fast, fast swimmers sandbagged their times so they can see what the fast seed swam then swam in a slower heat; no head to head swims

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Erin Moro discussed the two bids received for 2022 Spring and Summer events. We received qualified bids from Indy for Spring and/or Summer and another from PNA/Federal Way for Summer. We went back to the two and asked that they consider 2023 since we had awarded 2022 to the two cancelled 2020 venues, San Antonio and Richmond. They agreed and provided dates for 2023 consideration. It was then decided to not award 2023 events due to the uncertainty of holding the 2021 events and possibly needing to hopscotch the events to 2023 as we did the 2020 events to 2022. Both bidders expressed their understanding of the situation.

Jeff Roddin:

When 2020 Spring Nationals were cancelled, we considered rolling their bid for 2020 into the next/correct cycle which was to award for 2022; We asked the USMS Board to re-evaluate and give some thought to suspend the rule book to allow us to move San Antonio to Spring 2022 and Richmond to Summer 2022. At the same time, the USMS Board wanted to announce the cancelling of 2020 Spring Nationals, but to also announce at same time the 2022 hosts.

New bidders this year were very understanding of this unusual circumstance and we rolled the bids for consideration for 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm EDT
