

Legislation Committee Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

August 8, 2022

2:00 P.M.

Present: Stacey Aroney, Julie Bare, Dave Brown, Erin Crabtree, Cindy Dial, Jelani Watkins, Zach Toothman, Vince Colwell

Absent: Madi Machado

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. and legislation items that had been submitted by members of the Legislation Committee were reviewed for content and clarity. Several edits were made. (See addendum) The item dealing with all-star team inclusion (P-5) was withdrawn by the submitters.

Follow-up Items:

- The item dealing with faster-than time standards (P-2) remains in flux, with many stating that they believe that enforcement of the time standards is the business only of the meet hosts and not the concern of the LSC. Zach will discuss the issue with other athletes and submit his final wording by the end of August.
- Jelani will check with Kristin MacPhail about fines at Championships to teams who failed to supply workers. How difficult is it to track which clubs supply fill-in workers? Have fines been issued for this year? Do we know to whom to give the fine money? Would it be easier to simply fine the teams failing to supply workers and have the LSC keep the fine money? P-1 may be adjusted accordingly.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Bare

P-1	Approved	Amended	Rejected	Tabled
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Location: LESI Policy & Procedures 5.6 LESI Championships

Proposed by: Julie Bare, Legislation Committee Chair

Purpose: A thorough review of meet formats should be ensured. Too many seat-of-the-pants decisions have been made by the House of Delegates as it adds on and amends the formats, often resulting in less than desirable outcomes. In addition, meetings have become increasingly painful for those in attendance as the debates rage on. A better system must be devised to ensure the best possible formats for the athletes.

Recommendation: *The Legislation Committee recommends _____*

Effective Date: January 1, 2023 (*note: any formats already approved by House of Delegates shall not be affected*)

5.6 LESI Championships

- .1 **The Championship Meet Committee** shall be comprised of the Senior Vice-Chair, the Age Group Vice-Chair, the Senior and Junior Coach Representatives, the Technical Planning Chair, the Officials Chair, the Meet Directors and Meet Referees from the immediate previous winter/spring or summer, as appropriate, Senior and Age Group Championship Meets, the Junior and Senior Athlete Representatives, and a sufficient number of additional athletes appointed by the Senior Athlete Representative to comprise at least 20% of the committee membership. The Officials Chair shall serve as chair of the committee. [*re-number remaining*]
 - A. The Officials Chair shall convene the Championship Meet Committee in a timely manner such that winter/spring championship meet formats are completed by July 31 immediately preceding the winter/spring season and the summer championship meet formats are completed by April 1 immediately preceding the summer season.
 - B. All championship time standards shall be posted on the LESI website prior to the start of the season.
 - C. Senior and Age Group Championships may be combined at the discretion of the Championship Meet Committee.
- .2 ~~LESI championship competitions shall be determined by the House of Delegates in accordance with 205.8 of USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.~~ **Senior Championships**
 - A. A draft format shall be developed by the Senior Committee, posted on the website for membership input, and submitted to the Championship Meet Committee Chair no later than May 31 preceding the winter/spring season for Winter/Spring Championships or September 30 preceding the summer season for Summer Championships. Additional input shall be obtained from coaches via webinar or by emailing a draft to all registered coaches in LESI. The Championship Meet Committee shall finalize the format. The meet announcement shall be approved by the Sanction Committee.
- ~~.2 LESI may host the competitions or may solicit bids from LESI group members.~~
- .3 **Age Group Championships (Junior Olympics)**
 - A. A draft format shall be developed by the Age Group Committee, posted on the website for membership input, and submitted to the Championship Meet Committee Chair no later than May 31 preceding the winter/spring season for Winter/Spring Championships or September 30 preceding the summer season for Summer Championships. Additional input shall be obtained from coaches via webinar or by emailing a draft to all registered coaches in LESI. The Championship Meet Committee shall finalize the format. The meet announcement shall be approved by the Sanction Committee.

Addendum to Minutes

- (1) A step series of championship meets may be conducted at the discretion of the Age Group and Championship Meet Committees.

~~.3 The meets shall be conducted according to guidelines established by the House of Delegates.~~

[re-number remaining]

.4 Eligibility

- A. Unless determined otherwise by the House of Delegates, only athlete members of LESI shall be eligible for entry into LESI championship meets. For any meets that are combined LSC championships, only member athletes of those LSCs shall be eligible.
- B. All swimmers must have met qualifying time standards for the specific events in which they compete.

.5 LESI may host the competitions or may solicit bids from LESI group members. When hosted by LESI, all participating clubs shall furnish meet workers as determined and assigned by the Meet Director(s). Clubs failing to supply their assigned workers shall be fined \$100 per absent worker per session.

P-2	Approved	Amended	Rejected	Tabled
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Location: LESI Policy & Procedures 5.7 Conduct of Sanctioned Competition

Proposed by: Madi Machado and Zach Toothman, athlete members of the Legislation Committee

Purpose: To ensure that the meets that are held with faster-than standards are held to the highest standard in LESI and eliminate teams attempting to create made up times in order to allow swimmers into the event where they have not achieved the qualifying time, thereby affecting those teams who may get locked out of meet because there isn't enough space and those who actually have the cut that may not be able to swim because of it.

Recommendation: *The Legislation Committee recommends* _____

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

5.7 Conduct of Sanctioned Competition

.5 Time Standards

- A. Meets sanctioned in LESI may establish qualifying time standards that swimmers must have achieved before entering events.
- B. For meets with “slower-than” time standards, swimmers may not compete in an event in which they are faster than the listed time standard as of the meet entry deadline. Teams of swimmers who enter swimmers in events for which they are too fast shall be fined \$25.00 per swimmer per event. Swimmers who deck enter an event for which they are too fast shall be fined \$25.00 per event. Any violators may be referred to the National Board of Review.
- C. For meets with “faster-than” time standards,
 - (1) Swimmers should enter the event only if they have achieved the listed time standard for that event.
 - (2) Teams of swimmers who fail to achieve the qualifying time at the meet will receive a notice of those times that cannot be verified in the SWIMS database. Teams shall submit proof of time or a fine ~~of~~ up to \$100.00 for each swim listed in the notice. Failure to resolve time verification

Addendum to Minutes

issues within one week of receipt of notice shall result in a debit to the team’s account in the amount of the fine. Unattached swimmers will receive similar notice. Such fines are issued by the LSC and paid to the meet host. A meet host may deny entry into their future meets until such fines are paid.

[no further changes]

P-3	Approved	Amended	Rejected	Tabled
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Location: LESI Policy & Procedures 5.7 Conduct of Sanctioned Competition

Proposed by: Madi Machado and Zach Toothman, athlete members of the Legislation Committee

Purpose: The strikethrough in (3) takes away an athlete's ability to be able to use the 15- minute rule if the coaches agree to take it away from them. The coaches should not have sole authority in taking this 15-minute rule away unless there is some consultation with the athletes as this directly is something they should be able to utilize if they would like to.

Recommendation: *The Legislation Committee recommends _____.*

Effective Date: Immediately

5.7 Conduct of Sanctioned Competition

.8 Event and Session Start Times

- A. At least fifteen (15) minutes must elapse between the end of the first session and the start of warm-up for the second session. This requirement may be waived by the Meet Referee and Meet Safety Director if, in their opinion, canceling the 15-minute break would help to alleviate a safety concern.
- B. There shall be a minimum of ninety (90) minutes between the conclusion of the last event of the preliminary session and the start of finals competition.
- C. Except as noted under exceptions below, there shall be a minimum time interval of fifteen (15) minutes between the conclusion of a specific age group event and the start of the next event of the same age group. (Where "open" is a replacement classification for older age groups, it shall be considered to be an age group.)
Exceptions:
 - (1) Where it can be demonstrated that no swimmer is involved in consecutive age group events;
 - (2) Following events of 50 yards/meters or less;
 - ~~(3) Where a majority of coaches in attendance at a meet agree to waive the 15-minute rule;~~
 - (3) At developmental meets. A developmental meet is defined as any meet limited to 12 & under swimmers or one that has slower-than time standards.

P-4	Approved	Amended	Rejected	Tabled
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Location: LESI Policy & Procedures **5.7 Conduct of Sanctioned Competitions**

Proposed by: Julie Bare, Legislation Committee Chair

Addendum to Minutes

Purpose: To align with current practice of permitting use of the national scratch rule instead of the LESI scratch rule at certain meets; to extend the time needed for seeding deck-seeded events; to penalize those teams that callously extend session timelines.

Recommendation: *The Legislation Committee recommends _____*

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

5.7 Conduct of Sanctioned Competitions -

.15 Individual/Relay Scratch Rule: Meets sanctioned in Lake Erie shall be conducted employing either the LESI scratch rule or the national scratch rule.

A. **National Scratch Rule** (see 207.11 of the USA Swimming Rulebook).

B. **LESI Scratch Rule**

[re-letter/number remaining]

- .1 Each swimmer/relay team shall be aware of the meet starting time and shall report to the proper meet authorities promptly upon call.
- .2 **Pre-Seeded Events/Meets:** Each swimmer/relay team shall report promptly to the Clerk of Course or starting blocks prior to the race in which the swimmer/relay team is entered. Any swimmer/relay team not reporting for or competing shall not be penalized. Teams that enter multiple swimmers and subsequently fail to notify the meet host prior to the seeding that multiple swimmers they entered do not intend to compete may be fined \$25 per swimmer per day, at the discretion of the Meet Referee.
- .3 **Events Seeded on the Deck –**
 - (a) Events seeded on the deck shall be closed for seeding no earlier than ~~thirty (30)~~ forty-five (45) minutes prior to the start of the session- Host may provide alternate methods of check-in (such as email, phone, and fax) for swimmers who do not plan to arrive before the scratch deadline.
 - (b) Any swimmer who has checked in for an individual event 400 yards/meters or longer must swim in the event unless the swimmer notifies the ~~Clerk of Course or~~ Administrative Official before the seeding of the event has begun that the swimmer wishes to scratch; failure to scratch prior to seeding and not swimming the event will result in a fine of \$25.00 to the swimmer's club or to the unattached swimmer, except as noted in "Exceptions for Failure to Compete" (below). A declared false start or deliberate delay of the meet in events 400 yards/meters or longer is not permitted and will be regarded as a failure to compete.
 - (c) Any agent of a team (coach, parent, swimmer, etc.) who checks in a swimmers for ~~any~~ events when ~~that those~~ swimmers ~~is~~ are not present at the meet may cause a fine of ~~\$2.00~~ \$10.00 per swimmer per day to be levied against that team, at the discretion of the Meet Referee.
- (c) Events seeded on the deck and swum as a timed final with one or more heats swimming with finals shall provide the swimmers the opportunity to indicate their desire to swim only during the preliminary session by indicating this desire by placing a "P" next to their name on the check-in sheet. Any swimmer failing to indicate this desire who does not compete during the finals session shall be subject to a fine of \$25.00, except as noted in "Exceptions for Failure to Compete" (below).

.4 Scratching from Finals

- (a) Any swimmer qualifying for a bonus, consolation, or championship final race in an individual event who fails to compete in said final race shall be barred from further competition for the

Addendum to Minutes

remainder of the meet, except as noted below in "Exceptions for Failure to Compete." If such failure to compete occurs on the swimmer's last day of the meet, the swimmer's club shall be fined twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) by LESI. If the swimmer is not a member of a USA Swimming member club, the swimmer shall be fined \$25.00. A declared false start or deliberate delay of meet is not permitted and will be regarded as a failure to compete.

- (b) In the event of withdrawal or barring of a swimmer from competition, the Referee shall fill the bonus, consolation, or championship final, when possible, with the next qualified swimmer(s). First and second alternates shall be announced along with the final qualifiers. These alternates shall not be penalized if unavailable to compete in the finals.
- (c) When consolation finals have not yet been swum and a barring or withdrawal is known to the Referee, the Referee shall re-seed the consolation final and the final, if necessary, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the final.
- (d) If a consolation final has already been contested, the final shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).

.5 Exceptions for Failure to Compete: No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete in an individual event if

- (a) The Referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
- (b) A swimmer qualifying for a bonus or consolation final or final race following preliminaries notifies the Referee or designee within thirty (30) minutes after the announcement of the qualifiers for that race that the swimmer may not intend to compete. The swimmer must declare within thirty (30) minutes following ~~his~~ the swimmer's last individual preliminary event a final intention to scratch or swim.
- (c) It is determined by the Referee that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer.

P-5	Withdrawn
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Location: LESI Policy & Procedures Section 7 LESI All-Star Teams

Proposed by: Madi Machado and Zach Toothman, athlete members of the Legislation Committee

Purpose: With numbers declining for our all-star teams, we should be able to consider all individuals for selections if they would add benefit to the team and provide LESI with the best team possible for the meets.

Recommendation: *The Legislation Committee recommends _____.*

Effective Date: Immediately

Section 7 LESI All-Star Teams

7.5 ~~Only swimmers with year-round~~ **All swimmers with** USA Swimming memberships will be contacted for inclusion on any LESI all-star teams or Team Ohio.

P-6	Approved	Amended	Rejected	Tabled
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Addendum to Minutes

Location: LESI Policy & Procedures Section 13 Funding of LESI Representatives at USA Swimming Annual Meeting

Proposed by: Madi Machado and Zach Toothman, athlete members of the Legislation Committee

Purpose: As Lake Erie Swimming has members become part of national committees and representative positions, we should support them in representing the LSC to continue their service on a national level. Since many of the events have been removed from the annual meeting of USA Swimming and scheduled at different times and locations, adjustments to this section are appropriate.

Recommendation: *The Legislation Committee recommends _____.*

Effective Date: Immediately

Section 13 Funding of LESI Representatives at USA Swimming Annual Meetings

13.1 The Board shall determine the selection of individuals to be funded to attend the USA Swimming Annual Meeting and other Zone or national meetings in accordance with the budget and needs of LESI.

13.2 LESI members appointed or elected to zone or national level positions shall receive funding in the same amount as other funded LSC representatives, provided such committees or zones are participating at such meeting.

[re-number remaining]

P7	Approved	Amended	Rejected	Tabled
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Location: LESI Policy & Procedures 7.7 Conduct of Specific Events

Proposed by: Erin Crabtree, Age Group Vice-Chair

Purpose: The funding for Zones needs updated to match current travel rates/expenses. The previous amount was written when chaperones could stay with athletes and up to four (4) people per room (now 2 athletes per room). This is the highest-level meet for our 14 & Unders and cost should be feasible to allow the most swimmers to participate in the meet. LESI does not pay coaches or the Zone Chair a salary/stipend to attend this meet; this cost should not be added on to parents' expense or out of volunteer coaches/chair pockets, but covered by LESI to provide the best staff and experience for our athletes.

Recommendation: *The Legislation Committee recommends _____.*

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

7.7 Conduct of Specific Events

.1 LESI Zone Team

A. The Zone Team shall consist of properly qualified members of LESI as set forth in the Central Zone Handbook and in the meet entry information. Additionally, each Zone Team member must have competed in at least two LESI scheduled meets during the Zone Team qualifying period, except for any Zone Team member that relocated into the LESI territory on or after May 1 of such qualifying period.

B. Prior to January 1, the Board shall annually name the Head Zone Coach(es) who, in turn, will select the remainder of the coaching staff, subject to the approval of the Zone Team Committee.

Addendum to Minutes

- C. The Zone Team Committee shall be responsible for administering the affairs of the Zone Team, including but not limited to arranging for uniforms, transportation, lodging, meals and team entry.

- D. Unless the Board determines that sufficient funds are unavailable, the Zone Team shall be funded by LESI, in the amount of \$38 \$80 per day of Zone Team competition and travel for each Pool Swimmer and \$45 \$80 total for each Open Water Swimmer, by participant fees, and by donations.

- E. The Zone Team ~~Chair~~-Coach or designee shall be the only person permitted to submit entries for LESI.

- F. The preferences of the swimmers shall be given highest priority when selecting and entering individual events.

- G. All 11 and Over swimmers and coaches of the Zone Team must travel, lodge and eat with the Zone Team until withdrawal from the Team or the conclusion of the Zone Team trip. All 10 and Under swimmers may travel with their families, stay with their families at the team hotel and arrange their own meals, and pay a lesser participant fee. LESI Board may grant exceptions to this policy with the agreement of the Zone Committee.

- H. The following will be covered by LESI for Coaches (up to 4) and the Zone Chair:
 - 1. Hotel Room-Coaches of the same gender will stay two (2) people to a room when possible
 - 2. One Rental Car/staff
 - 3. Team Shirts
 - 4. \$40/day for food with the team