



## ZONE DIRECTORS' COUNCIL

### Zone Directors' Council Meeting

*June 25, 2023 - Notes*

**8:00 ET/5:00 PT via Zoom**

*"Serving as a connecting link in the USA Swimming Community to build awareness and trust through shared communication and education."*

**Present:** Zach Toothman (Co-Chair), Tim Husson (Co-Chair), Jay Chambers, Michael White, Savannah Gurley, Melissa Hellervik-Bing, Gavin Formon, Simran Jayasinghe, Pam Lowenthal, Bruno Darzi, Jerry Adams, Jack Swanson, Keith Moore, Terry Jones, Megan Braman

**Absent:** TJ Walsh, Dana Skelton, Beth Winkowski, Jackson Fouras, Mitch Gold, Jane Grosser, Ellery Parish, Nicole Caruso, Nate Chessey, Mike Dilli, Ryan Gibbons

**Guests:** Tim Bauer (CAC), Ginny Nussbaum, Paris Jacobs, Julie Bachman, Travis Sandfifer

---

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 ET by Zach Toothman and the agenda was approved as submitted.

#### **1. Ongoing Business**

##### **a) Zone P&P Updates**

All four zones were given a soft deadline of September 30th for finishing their Policy and Procedures, with a hard deadline of January 1st, 2024. The Central Zone has already moved to P&P and is currently working on post-COVID language updates. The Western Zone is making the final edits to their P&P and plan to disturb it to membership next month by hosting two meetings and will be voting to approve in September. The Eastern and Southern Zones still have task forces working on their P&P.

##### **b) ZDC Junior Officials Membership Working Group**

This working group will be co-chaired by Zach Toothman and Marco Greico (AEC) and will be having their first meeting on July 5th. They have consulted with the Safe Sport, Age Group, and Operational Risk committees and will keep the ZDC updated on their progress.

##### **c) ZDC Onboarding Task Force**

The ZDC will be creating an onboarding Task Force by the end of the summer, more updates will be communicated at the next meeting.

#### **d) Deadline to Submit Delegates to Michelle for HoD**

Zach reminded the council that they must submit their voting delegates for the House of Delegates to Michelle Steinfeld by July 15th.

### **2. New Business**

#### **a) USA-S Workshop Survey Recap**

The USA-S Workshop survey received 28 responses (This was not sent out to the Southern Zone, but following this meeting it was sent and will be updated accordingly) . Zach will create a Powerpoint to showcase this information further but some key points were that respondents found it beneficial to have two zone meetings and that these meetings had enough time. Respondents preferred to keep Sunday as a travel day/office hours time but would also like to have some sort of structure with this format. There was some discussion of how to structure programming on Sunday, as different travel arrangements present difficulty when scheduling.

ZARC had a separate survey for athletes, which aligned similarly to the results of this survey.

#### **b) ZARC/ZDC Officials Coaches Survey**

Members of ZARC/ZDC compiled questions for this survey, which will be sent out within the week, as well as given to athletes during ZARC check-ins. The goal is to receive a response from at least 30 coaches per LSC.

#### **c) ZDC/CAC ABM House of Delegates Project Update**

The ZDC and CAC have goals of reaching close to 100% participation from coaches/their respective zones at ABM. Currently, 44 LSCs have not assigned delegates for voting. The CAC has made a one-pager to send to their coaches and plan on calling individual LSCs soon, as well as hoping to work closely with the ZDC and AAC to educate members and hopefully increase participation at this year's ABM.

#### **d) HOD Time Adjustment Letter**

Continuing on the effort to increase participation, Zach has drafted a letter to Tim Hinchey (CEO) and Chris Brearton (BoD) on adjusting the time of the House of Delegates to 12 MT. The council was in agreement this would help to increase participation, as it allows time for morning practices and competition to conclude before the start of HoD. This has been co-signed by various other committees and will be sent by July 3rd.

#### **e) Meet the Candidates ZDC Event**

The ZDC will potentially be hosting a meet the candidates event in August to replace the process prior to the restructuring of the ABM. Candidates from each zone will create videos some time in July to be posted online and the ZDC will host a virtual event in August where candidates from all zones can answer questions from membership.

### **f) Officials Certification Legislation Discussion**

This legislation was introduced to the council by Ginny Nussbaum, with assistance from Paris Jacobs, Julie Bachman, and Travis Sandfifer. The conversation around this legislation began during COVID and is aimed towards streamlining the officials certification process across the country. Discussion began, with various members vocalizing support and some inquiring about the implementation timeframe if this legislation is passed, as well as further inquiry about specific official certifications such as meet referee. The legislation proposal was also shared with the council.

### **3. Staff Updates**

Moved to July Meeting

### **4. Zone Updates**

Moved to July Meeting

### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Zach Toothman at 9:16 ET.