Partnering with USA Swimming

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USMS Convention

U.S. MASTERS SWIMMING

Swimming for Life

- Transitioning USA-Swimming athletes to U.S. Masters Swimming

- Why is volunteering important?

- Officiating Opportunities

- Coach Involvement

Transitioning USA-S swimmers to USMS

- Awareness
  - USMS membership begins at 18
  - Swim for fitness, competition or triathlons
  - Swimming can be fun
  - Liberal qualifying times for meets, if any
  - Relay age group structure
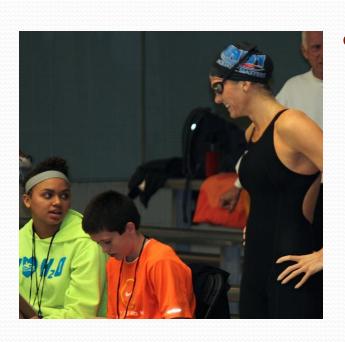
Transitioning USA-S swimmers to USMS

- Benefits
  - Continuity of a Lifestyle
    - Goals
    - Ambitions
    - Positive Habits
    - Routines
  - Support Structure
    - Likeminded Adults
    - Networking

Volunteering

- Two way street
  - Age Group Opportunities
    - Respect
  - Masters Responsibilities
    - Advocates of our sport

Volunteering

- Common Goal
  - Joint Fundraisers
    - Swim-a-thon
    - Car Wash
    - Wacky Relay Day
  - Community Service
    - Special Olympics
    - Learn to swim clinics
    - Habitat for Humanity

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Volunteering

- Banquet Participation
  - Recognition
  - Servers
  - Awards

Officials

- Parent/Officials participation at Masters meets
- Masters swimmers as age group officials

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Coaches

- Value of dual programming
  - Revenue
  - Diversity
  - Reduced likelihood of pool closure
- Lane Space
  - Availability
- Reduced Liability

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Dual Sanctioned Events – The Nuts and Bolts

- History and background
- Sanctioning process
- Entry requirements
- Conduct of the meet
- Results

History and Background

- About 8 years ago USMS approached USA-Swimming about sanctioning meets in which members of each organization compete
  - Recognized the lack of competitive spaces in many areas
  - Recognized the fact that it was already occurring
  - Acknowledged the value of life-long participation in the sport
  - Acknowledged that other synergies could be realized

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History and Background

- Negotiates ensued to resolve various issues including
  - Applicable rules
  - Format of competition
  - Insurance issues
  - Membership issues

- About 3 years later, USA-Swimming and U. S. Masters Swimming agreed to what is now in place for dual sanctioning.

Sanctioning a Dual Sanctioned Meet

- The host(s) must have two sanctions - one each from USA Swimming and U.S. Masters.

- The sanctioning requirements for each organization must be met. For example, a team not in good standing with respect to reporting results may still be denied a sanction by their respective organization.

- If your intention is to co-host a meet with a USA-Swimming team make sure that everyone understands the differences in how this meet will be conducted.
  - Most of the differences will fall upon U.S. Masters Swimming members.

- Excluded members recognized by the other organization.

Determining the Format of the Meet

- The LMSC, LSC and host team(s) must agree to the format of the meet and this should be stated in the entry form.
- The formats are:
  - Combined events
  - Parallel events
  - Interwoven events
  - (These will be described later in this presentation)

Entry Requirements

- Entries may be accepted in any way that you would normally accept them.
- The entry form must, obviously, include a clear designation of the organization (USA-S or USMS) the swimmer belongs
- Prior to the meet, a swimmer with membership in both organization must designate the one under which they are competing.
  - A dual membership swimmer swimming in the USA-S portion of the meet can still receive USMS recognition for times using the standard mechanism

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Conduct of the Meet

- From a safety/insurance perspective – which must be one of the overriding principles of the meet – members of the two organizations **cannot** be allowed to "swim together".

    - Swimmers can be in the same pool but they must be separated – a lane line is sufficient.

    - The separation must be maintained during warm-up, the competition and warm-down.

    - Precludes two-to-a-lane competition with members from USA-S and USMS in the same lane and relays with members from USA-S and USMS on the same team.

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Meet Formats

- "Combined Meet"
  - Seed everyone together by time
  - The age group of the events must include the ages of the USMS members – For example, "Open" or "16 and over".
  - The rules governing the events are USA Swimming rules for **ALL** swimmers
    - No breaststroke kick allowed in the butterfly events for example.
    - Officiating any other way would have been a nightmare

Meet Formats

- "Parallel Meet"
  - Certain lanes, preferably contiguous, are assigned to competitors from a given organization.
    - For example, lanes 1-3 are USMS and 4-8 are USA-S
  - Rules of each organization apply to their swimmers.
  - It is preferred to assign different stroke and turn officials to the different sets of competitors in order to simplify officiating
  - You <u>can</u> adjust the seeding so that swimmers across both organizations are competing with swimmers of the same speed

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Meet Formats

- "Interwoven Meets"
  - Heats are assigned to a given organization so that all swimmers in a heat belong to the same organization.
  - Applicable rules are those of the heat's organization.
  - No need for separate officials.

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Format Comparison

	Combined	Parallel	Interwoven
Efficiency	Fewest heats	Can adjust number of lanes to be efficient	Potentially the least efficient
Officiating	Only USA Swimming rules. One set of officials needed	Both sets of rules apply. Uses most officials (ideally)	Both sets of rules apply. One set of officials needed.
Competition	Most competitive	Can be made highly competitive	No advantage over separate meets.
Comradeship	Totally intermingled	We are in the same heats but separate	Each can cheer for the other organization

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Results

- Results should be reported separately to their respective organizations

- Remember that dual members can have USA-Swimming times submitted to U.S. Masters Swimming for recognition.

Questions

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