

Through Our Goggles

Volume 1
Issue 1
Spring 2012



THE LIFE AND NEWS OF FLORIDA SWIMMING

WORDS FROM YOUR ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVES

If you're reading this, it's because swimming has played a part in your life. It could be because you've always been a swimmer and that you've known from your very first strokes, that there's nothing more you want to do than to be in the water. You might be one of those people who has just recently arrived but is determined to catch up for all those missed years. You could be a swimmer for the challenge, for the strength it gives you, for the feel of the water underneath your hands, for the racing, for the winning, for your teammates, for the beauty found in a pool, for the triumph of achieving something you thought was impossible or for simply the heck of it. You could be swimming for all of these things. You could be swimming for more. Whatever the reasons, it doesn't change the fact that you're a swimmer. And because you're a swimmer, you are a part of a huge community that stretches from your own pool across the entire world.

But have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes of swimming? Have you considered the amount of work and dedication it takes for the sport of swimming to actually exist? Do you know what has to happen for a single meet to take place? Do you know who makes the decisions, which creates the rules, who organize the meet standards? Do you know how the time standards are improved or how it's decided who gets to host the championship meets? Who trains the officials? Who enforces the rules? Most swimmers simply don't realize or even think to question how everything works out. After all, as long as there's meets and we get to swim to our hearts content, we don't need to be involved, right? Well, no. Wrong. Swimming is constantly evolving, changing, and growing. It has to be able to fit the requirements and fix the problems of (cont. pg 2.)

Upcoming Events

JCLA Meet
Apr 14, 2012

BSS Meet
Apr 20 ~ 21, 2012

GCST Meet
Apr 20 ~ 22, 2012

**HIGH Meet-Updated
1/18**
Apr 20 ~ 22, 2012

WIN Meet
Apr 20 ~ 22, 2012

DBS Meet-Updated 3/12
Apr 21 ~ 22, 2012

**Technical Planning
Meet...**
Apr 25 (08:30 PM) ~ 25
(09:30 PM), 2012

BSAC Meet
Apr 27 ~ 29, 2012

**USA Swimming OW
National...**
Apr 27 ~ 29, 2012

**Florida Swimming Open
Wa...**
Apr 28, 2012

**FS vs FGC Open Water
All...**
Apr 28, 2012

**The Crippen Mile OW
Swim**
Apr 28, 2012

**BOD, and Spring HOD
Meet...**
Apr 29 (01:00 PM) ~ 29
(05:00 PM), 2012

Need To Contact Us?

If you have any thoughts, ideas, questions, or concerns about Florida Swimming, you can email us at...

flathlereps@gmail.com

Also, if you have any ideas to improve the newsletter, make sure to let us know!

ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE NEWS (cont.)

each generation. Because we, the athletes, are a part of swimming (just as swimming is a part of us) we have a voice in these changes. Swimming is for the swimmers, so it only makes sense that the swimmers should be happy with the changes made. Or, on the other side, the swimmers should be able to suggest changes to something they believe should be improved. And we *can*. Athletes *do* have a voice. The problem is, the majority of the swimmers don't know they do. The majority of swimmers don't know what goes on behind the scenes and they take what they are given for granted. It's not their fault, either. They simply don't know.

This newsletter is an attempt to spread knowledge to athletes all throughout Florida Swimming. Hopefully, it will encourage communication between athletes and raise awareness of the changes being brought about. Hopefully, it'll make it easier for athletes to participate in improving the sport they love. Hopefully, this will give the athletes back their voice.

Athlete Representatives
Florida Swimming



"You can't put a limit on anything. The more you dream the farther you get. –

Michael Phelps

Want To Learn More?

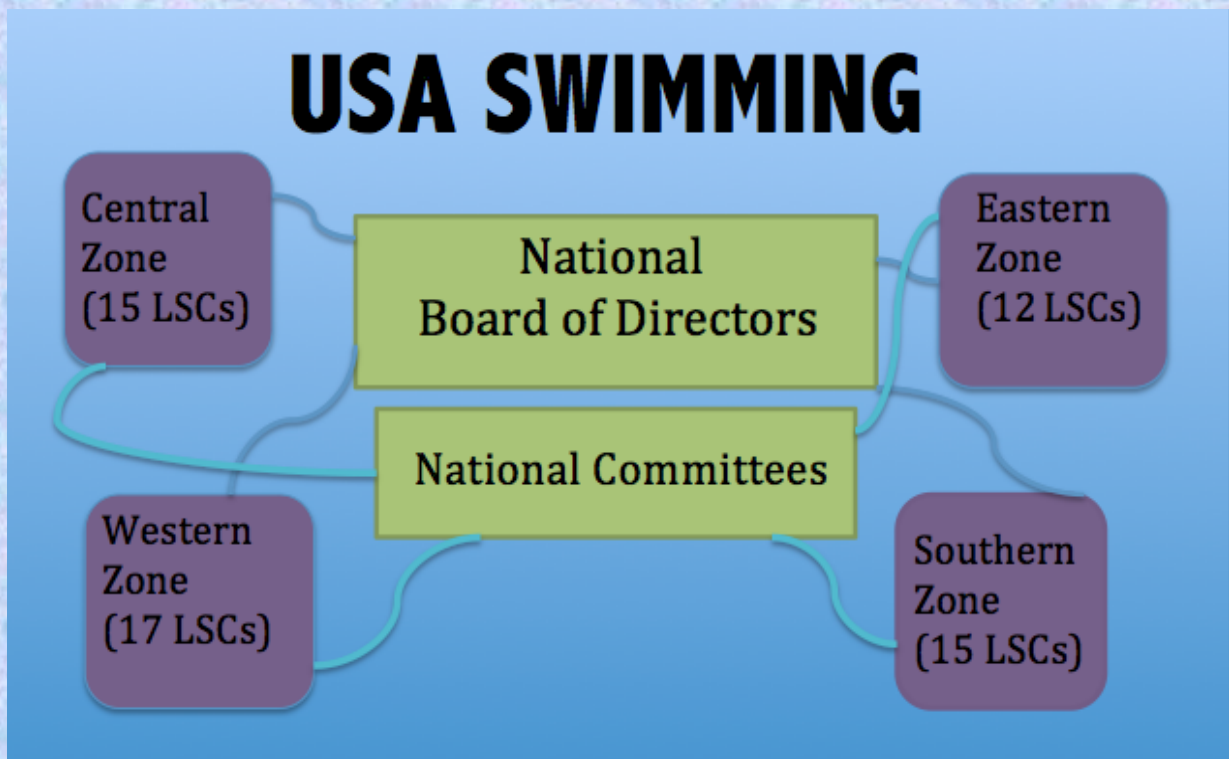
Want to learn more about your LSC, or stay updated with what's going on in Florida Swimming? You can visit us at...



www.floridaswimming.org

Small Warning...

This issue of the newsletter holds a lot of technical information. We figured it would be better to give you an overview of the government side of swimming now, so that you would have a better understanding of how everything works. So while this issue might be a little dry (a.k.a. boring) in some places because of all the rules, we promise the next issue will be a lot more...exciting. ☺



Understanding the Branches

USA Swimming:

As the National Governing Body of the sport, USA Swimming is responsible for the conduct and administration of swimming in the United States. In this capacity, USA Swimming formulates the rules, implements the policies and procedures, conducts the national championships, disseminates safety and sports medicine information and selects athletes to represent the United States in international competition.

National Board of Directors:

USA Swimming is led by a National Board of Directors who work together with the headquarters staff, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. To learn more about the positions in the Board of Directors, [Click here!](#)

National Committees:

Some examples include the Age Group Developmental Committee, Athlete Executive Committee, Awards Committee, etc. The committees are made up of different people from different zones in order to bring together the perspective of the whole swim community. To view a full list of the committees and their purposes, [Click here!](#)

Zones:

USA Swimming is broken up into four different zones (Central, Western, Eastern, and Southern) in order to effectively run the sport in smaller regions. Each zone is then broken into LSCs.

LSCs:

(Local Swim Committees) USA Swimming's 2,800-plus clubs and 300,000-plus athletes are broken up regionally into 59 LSCs, who are responsible for governing swimming in their region.

The LSCs

Don't understand what an LSC really is? Here is another diagram to help!

LSC: Florida Swimming

Area
1

Board of Directors

Area
2

House of Delegates

Executive
Committee

Area
3

Other
Committees

Area
4

Area
5

Area
6

Understanding the Branches

Florida Swimming (FS):

Florida Swimming is one of the two LSC's in Florida, the other being Florida Gold Coast.

Area's:

Florida Swimming is split up into six Areas to continue to efficiently run swimming in even smaller geographical locations and communities. Representatives from each area have a place on the Board of Directors.

Area 1 - Alachua, Nassau, Duval, Clay, Columbia, Baker, Union, Bradford, St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler

Area 2 - Marion, Sumter, Lake, Orange, Seminole, and Osceola

Area 3 - Citrus, Pasco, Polk, Pinellas, Hernando, and Hillsborough

Area 4 - Gadsden, Leon, Madison, Levy, Gulf, Lafayette, Dixie, Jefferson, Hamilton, Liberty, Wakulla, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Taylor and Franklin

Area 5 – Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, DeSoto, Glades, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry and Collier

Area 6 – Volusia, Brevard, Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin

House of Delegates (HOD):

Oversees the management of Florida Swimming and the establishment of policies, programs and procedures. The HOD is “bigger” than the Board of Directors and holds more powers. There are certain things that only the HOD can do that the Board of Directors can't. The HOD meets once a year in the fall. Members of the HOD that have a vote are as follows:

- ~ Group Member Representatives
- ~ Athlete Representatives
- ~ Coach Representatives,
- ~ Board Members
- ~ At-Large House Members

Board of Directors (BOD):

Makes decisions and acts for Florida Swimming in between the House of Delegate meetings. Members of the BOD that have a vote are as follows:

- ~ General Chairman
- ~ Administrative Vice-chairman
- ~ Senior Vice-chairman
- ~ Age Group Vice-chairman
- ~ Secretary
- ~ Treasurer
- ~ Coach Representative
- ~ Athlete Representatives
- ~ Technical Planning Chairman
- ~ Area Representatives from six (6) areas

Executive Committee:

Has the power to act for the Board of Directors and FS between meetings of the Board and the House of Delegates. Meetings for the Executive Meeting can be called or created by the General Chairman within a 3 days notice. Members of the Committee are as follows:

- ~ General Chairman
- ~ Administrative Vice-chairman
- ~ Senior Vice-chairman
- ~ Age Group Vice- chairman
- ~ Treasurer
- ~ Senior Athlete Representative
- ~ Coach Representative

Other Committees, Divisions and Coordinators:

In FL Swimming, there are committees, divisions and coordinators to take care of any problems or situations that might arise. They are there to organize and run their pertaining areas of 'expertise'. Some examples of standing committees, divisions and coordinators are: the Officials Committee, the Finance Committee, the Safety Coordinator, the Open Water Coordinator, Technical Planning, etc.

Hey, Look Over Here!

Interested by all these enticing rules and definitions? Want to read more about Florida Swimming regulations, the Board of Directors, the House of Delegates and Committees? Longing to understand all those important details that go into running our LSC? Check out the Florida Swimming Bylaws [Here!](#)

NEW ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE

Congratulations to Emma Donahue of Greater Tampa Swimming Association (GTSA) for becoming Florida's new Junior Athlete Rep! She will be joining with the current Senior Athlete Rep, Jackie Kenny (Carrollwood Village Swim Team) on the Athlete's Committee. She will serve for a two-year term. Other athletes are in the process of being appointed. ☺

DID YOU KNOW???

That ANYBODY who is a member of FL Swimming or USA Swimming can attend 'Open' FL Board Meetings and FL House of Delegate Meetings. We ALL have a voice and a chance to let everybody hear our opinions. If you are interested in attending a meeting, check out the Calendar on FL Swimming website! Upcoming meetings will be posted. ☺ (The only meetings that are "Closed" are the ones relating to personal, disciplinary action, or similar matters. Those meetings only open to BOD members or the Executive Committee, depending on the situation.)

GUESS WHAT??

In Florida Swimming, all governance meetings (such as BOD and HOD sessions) are directed by "Robert's Rules", which is a type of parliamentary procedure. To learn more about how meetings are run, check out the online Robert's Rules by clicking [here!](#)

ATTENTION!

On Sunday, April 29th there will be a House of Delegates meeting at the Orlando YMCA pool on International Drive. We need as many athletes as possible to attend this meeting! According to the USA Swimming Bylaws, there must be 20 % athlete representation at every HOD meeting or the decisions made will not be recognized legally. This means that if we do not get enough athletes, the meeting will NOT be held and dates and locations for the 2013 Championship Meets will remain undecided.

PLEASE, if you are interested in serving on the HOD as an athlete, contact us as soon as possible!!! We have to know soon to make necessary preparations. Email us your name and the team that you swim for. If you have questions or need more information, email us as well. PLEASE consider attending, Florida Swimming needs you!
(Up to 3 athletes from each team are allowed to represent, so tell your teammates!)

flathlereps@gmail.com