USAS CONVENTION
SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING
SCORING COMMITTEE REPORT

We would like to thank everyone from the athletes, coaches, meet personnel and parents for the patience they have shown and the assistance they have provided the scoring personnel this year.

Counting Masters last year in Clermont,. Florida, we have had a total of 6 national meets (Collegiates at Stanford, Juniors in Minneapolis, Seniors in Fort Lauderdale, Age Groups in Federal Way, Washington and the Open in Orlando, Florida) and at Age Groups and the Open have had problems with the scoring program. Norm Donofrio is looking into these incidents, but the scoring committee is concerned that these incidents are going to continue, especially at the larger or more involved meets.

The scoring program is simple to operate, but over the years we have asked more and more things of it and while Norm has been able to make the adjustments, we are concerned that it is close to or has reached it's capacity or ability to deal with the complex needs of todays techno society.

While we understand the financial limits under which the synchro organization must function, we are concerned that if an alternative or solution is not found, we may find ourselves in the middle of a meet having to resort to pencils and paper, several steps in the wrong direction.

Several suggestions have been given as to the possible causes of the problem with the scoring program. Perhaps it is the buffer system or perhaps it is because we minimize the program to use another program (e-mailing results, etc.). One suggestion is that the office have a computer for use only with National meets shipping it to the meet manager or scoring chair a month before the meet (like Colorado timing).

These are some of the things we will be discussing at our Scoring committee meeting at Convention. We are also going to discuss the lack of a North Zone Scoring Chair and look for a solution. Thanks to Bob Wiegand for doing the Junior meet in Minneapolis this year, even though he is the East Zone Scoring Chair.

In spite of our problems with the program, we all enjoy doing the meets and helping to educate others and also encouraging people to join in the "fun" we have at meets. Thanks to Bob Wiegand for his Lake Placcid "seminar on scoring" which he holds yearly, there are many in the East who now volunteer to help at meets.

Even though Dave Olson (South Zone) has retired, we hope he continues lending his expertise and calm demeanor at as many National meets as we can get him to attend or run. Thanks to the other South Zone Scoring Chair, Candie Deatherage, for doing the scoring for the Open in Florida, with the awesome help of Harry Bonnell from San Diego (whose daughter used to do synchro).

I had the fun of Collegiates and Age Groups with Masters in Portland yet to come. This year we implemented the rule that the Club Entry Forms be signed by the coach, or the athletes could not participate. We discovered some discrepancies in the meet entry information and will be fine tuning that information for next year. The first year of anything new is always a learning year and by and large things went fairly well. Most realized that the signed entry form needed to go to the meet manager, as many send their information to the scoring person via e-mail (which is perfectly acceptable). We also attempted to get the Regional meet managers to send a copy of their meets' routine results, to the scoring person and that worked very well. We would like to see that continued next year.

I would again like to acknowledge all of the volunteers without whom we could not run meets and last but certainly not least, we would all like to give a BIG thanks to Carole Mitchell for her help and patience with us this year. She is always there supporting us and helping in whatever way we need, as well as running the meets as close to the posted schedule as can be done and always with a smile and a "ya all".

Anyone having an interest or suggestion about scoring or our problems come join us at Convention.

Jackie McDaniel, National Scoring Chair