

Athletes Convention Report
Board of Governors
September 15, 2006

Although our athletes were few in number this year, they have done an outstanding job of representing themselves, their clubs, their associations, and the sport as a whole. There are several key issues that the athletes feel very strongly about and would like to see addressed.

First on behalf of the athletes we would like to thank the judges who have judged an amazing number of events this year. We realize that there are some judges out there who judge endlessly and without complaint and it means the world to us. At the same time, we are having tremendous difficulty with judges attending some national meets. As a group we feel this must be addressed. The athletes would like to see some sort of requirements or prerequisites met each year to be eligible to judge Senior Nationals (emeritus judges excluded). We also support the idea of combining Junior and Collegiate Nationals. Junior coaches who are national judges would be able to stay after the junior competition and judge when typically they are not able to judge due to the schedule.

Second, we have agreed to have the names of club teams announced prior to swims in each final event at each national championship. We have been reluctant to do this in the past because we want to eliminate the potential of any bias. If the judges are committed to conducting themselves in a professional manner, we are committed to trusting our judges. As coaches and judges, we must also act in a professional manner around our swimmers so as not to pass our opinions and/or bias onto our swimmers.

Another major issue was event management. Meet hosts do not always have knowledge of our sport and the little things that make competitions less stressful for the athletes. We propose that the Athlete Vice President of Competitive Operations be an athlete liaison to the meet managers and/or local organizing committees to ensure communication regarding these details.

The last point I want to make is really a request. We need the rest of the organization to help us educate our athletes about convention. It is vital for our athletes to be here. Many do not know what convention is and they do not understand the purpose. They need to know that they have a huge impact on what we do here. They need to know that the committee meetings are where they are needed. And they need to know that, as a representative, attending convention is their single most important responsibility.

Below I have listed the results of our elections for this year. The position of Vice President of Education and Certification is currently still open. We will elect a representative to this position at US Senior Nationals in Indianapolis this coming spring. Until then I will work with the athletes on these committees to fulfill the duties of this position. I want to thank all the athletes for their commitment and hard work. You have made my four years as president outstanding. I hope I have served you as well as you have served our sport.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Eng

AEC OFFICERS (ELECTED AT CONVENTION 2006)

President	Kendra Zanotto
Board of Directors At-Large	Anna Eng
VP Olympic International	Melissa Knight
VP Member Services	Stephanie Raftery
VP Competitive Operations	Christy Henderson
VP Marketing	Jennifer Mitchell
Secretary	Megan Kinney