

SCORING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dearborn, Michigan

September 13, 2006

ATTENDEES: Jackie McDaniel (Chair), Bob Wiegand (East Zone Scoring Chair), Carole Mitchell (Technical Vice President), Monte Johnson (USSS Treasurer), Jennifer Hawkins (USSS Staff), Ginny Chadwick (South Zone Tech Chair), Dave Scoons (for Joanna Scoons, East Zone Tech Chair), Shannon Korpela (West Zone Tech Chair), Yuliya Roysental and Sue Bessette (Athlete Reps) and Beth Borland and Becky Donegan from the North, Barbara Longstaff from the South, Toby Smith from the East and Laurette Longmire, Norma Longmire and Barbara Price from the West.

1. The 2007 sites were discussed with those attending:
 - a. Collegiates – March 21 – 24 at Wheaton – Bob Wiegand
 - b. Juniors – March 28 – 31 at Irvine – Jackie McDaniel
 - c. Seniors – April 25 – 29 at Indianapolis – Jackie to speak with Dave Olson about this
 - d. Age Groups – June 22 – 30 at Miami of Ohio – Bob Wiegand is speaking with the North Zone
 - e. Open – July 15 – 21 in Hawaii – Jackie McDaniel
 - f. Masters – October 25 – 28 in Tucson – Jackie McDaniel

The Senior meet as well as the Age Group meet are both in the North Zone where there is no Scoring Chair. They have spoken with Bob but nothing has been decided yet. We feel very strongly that anyone going to those meets who is not a North Zone Scoring Chair MUST have all expenses paid by the North Zone. Bob also stated that if he does Age Groups, the North Zone MUST have someone there the entire time learning the scoring program and further suggests having that person attend the East Zone's scoring seminar at Lake Placid this fall.

Jackie will contact Dave Olson to see if he would be willing to run the Senior meet in Indianapolis, since the South does not have any national meets this year.

Jackie is taking to the Sites Committee a proposal that the North Zone not be awarded any more National meets until they have a Scoring Chair in place. This next year there are two meets in the North and the following year there is one. While we all try to attend the various meets and help, to ask us to also be responsible for entering athletes in a meet out of our known area is unfair to us and to our own zone responsibilities.

2. The Free Combination Release form and the Award Point system for the Combo Routines (found on the Awards page) were also discussed. So far the Open and the Masters are doing Combo Routines. However, the Masters has not begun counting the Combo Routine for points. They will probably begin in 2008.
3. Jackie identified the problems encountered during the Age Group and the Open meets this year. Discussion followed with many points identified. Different programs were discussed with their pros and cons noted. The committee identified many things needed, most especially a new scoring program. The Board of Directors are aware of the problems encountered and are philosophically behind the need for a new program.

In our discussion, we determined the many things needed in a new program. In addition to the obvious things (which we like in the existing program) it must be clear, concise and user friendly. Cross referencing, ability to accommodate large numbers of athletes, ability to accommodate multiple

programs with multiple needs (though the ideal would be separate programs for Masters and Collegiate meets), ability to handle international meets run with a FINA program, compatibility with computers and printers as well as judges' evaluations are the main things we highlighted as needed.

Ideally, we would like the ability for the clubs to enter meets online and the ability to check for current members as well as to download to other machines. If the spreadsheets necessary for the Masters and Collegiate meets were able to be cross referenced with the meet entries we would be forever grateful. We fully appreciate that these things cost money and the more we ask for adds to the cost of the programming. The thought was expressed that with the different changes always being made, perhaps we should have those needing or wanting to make the changes pay for the updates (just a thought). The thought was formulated that we could possibly utilize the swimming or diving programs with some modifications, (with the idea being that the more people utilizing the program, the lower the initial set up cost) but this was quickly negated, as their programs are nothing like that needed for synchronized swimming.

One thought as to why we are having difficulty with the existing program, is that the computers used are personal computers (in most instances) and have far too many other things on them (even though memory is different than hard drive or storage). It was suggested that to have the use of a computer or two specifically for use with the scoring program and nothing else would be ideal. It was suggested that the office could keep them and ship them to the meets as the Colorado Timing system is done now or that they could be shipped to the Scoring Chairs to enter the meet information and have them be responsible for getting them to the meet. Jackie will speak with Norm to see if there is some way we could purchase (or get donated) a couple of computers from IBM for the sole use of the Scoring Chairs for national meets..

It was discussed that without an appropriate and trustworthy scoring program, our meets will be in jeopardy, so we brainstormed ideas for a solution. Since it will be several years before a new program will be available, the immediate time must be used to ensure that the meets to come will be accurate and trustworthy. Until we can get computers dedicated to the scoring program and nothing else, we shall be checking and double checking the results both before printing and after and when the Colorado Timing system is used, those scores shall also be checked with the results. We will do the very best we can to ensure that the results are accurate and correct.

We also as a committee would like to recommend to the Board of Directors that a grant application be made to the Foundation for the cost of a new scoring program in as timely a manner as is possible. This problem is not going to disappear and we feel that now is the time for action. We would like to have an active role in the design of the program, as we are the ones using it most often and feel we have a great deal to contribute.

We would all like to thank the Board of Directors for understanding the need of a new scoring program and for their help in attaining this goal.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the committee meeting for all their thoughts and ideas on how to continue running the meets in the organized and timely fashion we have all come to expect, on ways to ensure the accuracy of input and results and on suggestions for the new scoring program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie McDaniel,
National Scoring Chair