

Collegiate Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2003 6-7:30PM

- 2005 Collegiate Nationals
 - 2 Bids
 1. Tucson, Arizona – same location as last year, available any weekend in March
 2. Gainesville, Florida – same facility as 2003 Age Groups, possible opportunity for the development of a varsity team due to new, interested administration, not available the third weekend in March

***After deliberation and a vote, we recommended Gainesville to the Sites Committee for 2005 Collegiate Nationals

- Timing – the 3rd week in March isn't possible for Gainesville and 4th is Easter. The first weekend in April places Collegiate Nationals too close to US Nationals, which leaves no time to develop technical routines.

***After deliberation and a vote, we recommended the 23-27 (Easter weekend) to the Sites Committee.

- Introductions – people mentioned that programs seem possible at Colorado State, University of Nevada at Las Vegas and UC Berkeley
- Collegiate Development Task Force
 - Nancy met with the NCAA Liaison Committee to discuss concerns, etc. For the first time they seemed receptive and ready to help.
 - A request has been made for an extended season to include US Nationals. The D3 schools, however, may shorten the season to 19wks, defeating the purpose of extending the season.
 - A formal proposal has been submitted to increase the max scholarship # from 5 to 12. The NCAA is currently doing a study throughout to review the appropriate number of scholarships for each sport and the timing seemed appropriate. The proposal was submitted in July and the reply, though uncertain, is expected in January.
 - Jill Ranucci reported positive contact with the compliance officer at the University of New Mexico. Though the school is not planning on adding any female sports, the administrators sound excited and interested. She has also been in contact with Oregon State and UCLA.
 - A student at ASU is interested in starting a club program
 - Nancy mentioned that the best way to get a school interested in supporting a synchro program is to form a committee made up of student athletes, professors, alumni, and the local synchro community to address the administration and start the process. The National Office is unfortunately, often perceived as a telemarketing call and a community organization can get further faster.
 - In the past year, the task force made contact with 74 institutions.

- Nancy Wightman and people on task-force recognized for all their hard work.
- NCAA Rules that we need to agree on as a group – Collegiate synchro must abide by two sets of rules, USSS rules and NCAA rules. In NCAA only varsity teams must abide by these rules and even within varsity teams, there are differences in the rules for D1, D2, and D3 schools. This can cause conflict in the Collegiate Synchro world.

Previously, there has been a gentleman's agreement between the varsity and club teams that we will all follow the NCAA rules. We would like to formalize that agreement by coming to a consensus on the necessary rules and putting them into the USSS rulebook at the 2004 Convention.

A small task-force was established to come up with some baseline agreement on rules in the areas listed below. This task-force will also devise a way to put these agreements in the USSS rule book to be proposed at 2004 Convention.

Areas for discussion:

- A) Transfers
- B) Length of Season
- C) Out of season training and competition
- D) Squad size
- E) Grade eligibility
- F) Recruiting violations
- G) Practice restrictions
- H) Number of required meets prior to Collegiate Nationals
(added by Linda Witter)

Task-force: Barbara MacNamee (chair), Jill Ranucci, Laura Davis (athlete), Heather Pease-Olsen, Anna Eng (athlete), Andrea Prinzbach (athlete), Katie Scanlon (athlete)

- Need for Collegiate Review Board.
 - Structure – 5 members representing D1/D2, D3, club, athlete (to be a retired athlete) and an outside party. The permanent structure and plan for the Review Board will be determined and proposed by the afore mentioned task-force.
 - Purpose – to resolve issues and settle disputes between collegiate synchro programs (varsity and club). Everyone present felt strongly that this board was necessary.
- Propose 12 routines in Collegiate final events – the rationale is that we give points and awards to places 1-12 and only allow 1-8 to reswim. This topic needs to be addressed at 2004 Collegiate Nationals and proposed for 2004 Convention. Everyone was in favor of the change.
- Rules
 - Carole Mitchell made the group aware of the possible elimination of the bonus points for having more than 4 people on a team. The

recommendation is to remove the bonus points and make the difference between 4 and 8 a judging factor. We had some discussion and both pros and cons expressed by both large and small, club and varsity. Also recommended to discuss further at Collegiate Nationals.

- Side comment about rules – regarding eligibility, ignorance regarding the rules, NCAA or USSS is not an excuse.
- If money doesn't accompany the meet entry form, the routine/athlete/team will not be entered in the competition. Recommended that the team gets a certificate of proof that the money has been sent to protect against money being lost in the mail.
- Figures for 2004
 - B Figures – Group 3
 - C Figures – Group 2
 - D Figures – Group 2
- Nancy Wightman introduced the new chair, Barbara MacNamee

*** Report accepted by the Board of Governors on September 14, 2003 ***