

2014 Convention Report
Coach Representative: Amine Boubsis

Safe Sport:

The club's role: creating a culture where any Safe Sport issues stick out because they are so inconsistent with the team's values. (Empower your audience to see this. Remind them that they can do so much everyday for their teams and thank them for all that they currently are doing)

- Communication
- Early conflict resolution
- Policies: Code of Conduct, Behavior, Model Policies

You can create a culture of safe sport by:

1. Communications between all involve on the team-Club Leadership, Coaches, Athletes and Parents.
2. Early Conflict Resolution – Address issues right away, don't let them linger, bring all involved in the communication circle on board.
3. Policies
 - Codes of Conduct- Have one for all-kids, Parents and Coaches
 - Behavior: How should a concern be reported? To Whome? How does the club respond? What are the potential sanctions? What do the team's by-laws say about removing a swimmer/family from the team.
 - Model Policies- Important, and in some cases required, to have policies in place for all of the following
 1. Electronic Communication
 2. Bullying-addressing peer to peer, adult to swimmer and even adult to adult.
 3. Travel-following the code of conduct rules and best practices
 4. Locker Room- Behavior expectations, how long kids are in there, supervision
 5. Photography- where and who can take pictures, releases

Educate parents and athletes. Resources available: athlete, parent and non-[aren't training available on usa swimming website.

Quick page – www.usaswimming.org/protect

Developing Higher Character Swimmers & Teams Workshop

YOTA Swim Team

- Academics
 - Scholastic All American
 - Honor roll
 - Special academic awards/recognition
 - ex. Spelling bee, science fair
 - All information gets published on the website and team site/ newsletters
 - Academic tutor options on each site
 - Part time coaches offer to tutor athletes
 - Athletes come early or stay late after practice
- Social responsibility
 - Stroke clinics led by senior athletes for community
 - create family atmosphere
 - We build people campaign- \$50,000 through donations/ swimathon
 - YMCA thing
 - Free swim lessons, camp
 - Inter-squad meet-family driven donations and participation
 - Swim Across America
 - Variety of community service activities
 - Quarterly activity
 - Impactful- brown bag ministries
 - Teaching- Baker of the Day
 - Must complete “x” community service hours in order to compete at Y-Nationals, Juniors/Seniors and Trials
- Healthy living
 - Elite level performance- make smart decisions
 - Jennifer Brunelli
 - Head nutritionist for the Panthers comes to talk
 - Education regarding smoking, drugs, and alcohol= zero tolerance
- Youth development
 - Guest speakers
 - Bailey O’Brien (highly recommended if you are looking for a speaker)
 - Diver at BU
 - Incredible speaker, beat cancer 3 times
 - <http://www.baileyobrien.com>
 - Dave Denniston
 - Jason Ramsden
 - Bead Incentive Program
 - First day of practice every athlete gets string
 - Different beads for different things
 - Performance
 - Good teammate
 - Learn a new skill
 - More about character base than performance
 - Having beads is a sense of pride for younger kids (12 and under)
 - YOTA Team Award
- Faith

- Christian principles are caring and inclusive, we are respectful of various expressions of religion
- Believe in something bigger than themselves
- Development of spirit, mind and body
- Explore your faith and spiritual matters- part of the process
- Not about religion
- The handshake
 - Emphasizes the continued building of coach/swimmer relationship
 - Connection- show gratitude, congratulate, encourage
 - After each and every practice and meet

Don Heidary (Pacific)- Integrity, character, doing the right thing

- Does the mission statement trickle down to the athletes?
 - Most times no
- Developing Leaders
 - We can not wait until they are 15 to start developing leaders, we need to start as early as 6
 - The better the person...
 - The better the athlete
 - The better the swimmer
 - The better the teammate
 - The better the culture
 - Eliminate ego, complaining, negativity from the program
 - Why cant a child dream of being a leader as well as an Olympian?
 - “Integrity has no need of rules”
 - Random acts of kindness and compassion
 - Where do they come from?
 - The bar has been raised for academics and athletes but what about for character, morality, compassion, humility, selflessness?
 - Who would you rather coach?
 - Junior national swimmer who is not respected by the team
 - Novice swimmer respected by all
 - We look at an 8 year old as an 8 year old and we need to look at him as a potential future leader
 - Someone has to draw the line- it's the coaches
 - What character line would you draw?
 - Language
 - Attire
 - Disrespect
 - Negativity
 - Integrity in work out/travel

USA Swimming Foundation:

The Foundation staff and board are currently working on the 2015-2017 Strategic plan, which will be finalized in November. USA Swimming staff volunteer have had excellent input into the initial draft.

The first-ever Fantasy Camp-Youth has sold out; and the Fantasy Camp-Adult still has a few spots available. Both camp programs are held at the Olympic Training Center, and a unique once-in-a-lifetime experience is provided.

The Foundation will grant more than \$500,000 to the National Team this year, the highest total ever. These funds will be used to provide Direct Athlete support, coach incentives and travel to competitions.

Through the Make a Splash program, the Foundation provided nearly 12,000 learn-to-swim scholarships this summer to eligible youth. Make a Splash local partner programs provided an additional 35,000 scholarships within their communities.

HOD Meeting:

- Deck changing is prohibited, as proposed by athlete representatives
- Jim Sheehan won the election to become USA Swimming President of the Board of Directors, replacing outgoing two-terms USA Swimming President Bruce Stratton.
- Addition of the Futures Championships events starting in 2015.

Eastern Zone Technical Meeting:

Eastern Super Sectionals: 07/15/15 – 07/19/15

USA Swimming Legends Meet: 07/30/15- 08/03/15

USA Swimming Junior Nationals: 07/30/15 – 08/03/15

USA Swimming National Championships: 08/06/15- 08/10/15

Eastern Senior Zone Meet: 08/06/15- 08/09/15

Eastern North Age Group Zone Championships: 08/06/15- 08/09/15