

George;

I understand your frustration and why you are having such problems. I am not certain, however, under current USA Swimming rules that what is occurring is stoppable. Teams must register within the LSC they reside, however, there has not been a rule preventing clubs from opening branch programs in other LSC's and states. It has not been unusual to see clubs stretch over several hundred miles. This occurred with the original FAST swim club where the swimmers trained at U. of FL in Gainesville [FL swimming] as well as at Auburn U. [Alabama, SE swimming]. It has also occurred with one club in Arkansas having a branch in Missouri. Many other cases can be cited.

What it sounds like is one club is giving up their charter and identity to become part of a second club in a different LSC. That is unfortunate I feel for both clubs but conglomerate clubs have effused our programming for decades now. While I would personally disagree with the motivation and the solution, I have a difficult time finding what they are doing contrary to our rules.

I am certain everyone discussed and agreed on good faith during your meeting in Orlando. An agreement on principal between both parties of the two LSC's cannot be bound to clubs if that agreement is not in concert with the rules of USA Swimming. Not only the rules that state what you can do but the rules by virtue of missing to state what they cannot do. If there are no rules to the contrary then we are at the mercy of such dealings until new rules are written to prevent such situations in the future.

None of this will assuage your feelings on the matter at hand, and I am certain if my take is not right on the mark that many of my colleagues will quickly point that out.

I am at your disposal if there is anything I can do to help.

Sincerely,

Ira Klein

USA Swimming

Director, Field Services

Sport Development Consultant/Eastern Zone

Direct Phone 719-866-3546

Fax: 719-866-4669

Cell: 719-359-0367

Jim—

Unfortunately, it appears that we have a violation of the procedure that we agreed to in Orlando with respect to Virginia-located teams being directed to Virginia to register. This new team in Woodbridge is clearly a Virginia

team and their practice facility is in Virginia because Woodbridge is in Prince William County I have heard that they may be planning to affiliate themselves with the Potomac Marlins in order to secure PVS membership.

Jim, we view this as not only a violation of the rules of USA Swimming, but a breach of faith. While I can understand—even without agreeing with—your position with respect to Occoquan and Ashburn inasmuch as they are existing, albeit improperly registered, PVS teams, I simply cannot fathom that you would condone this new team situation after you gave me your word at Convention that no further incursions into Virginia would occur on your watch.

I protest this in the most vigorous manner and ask that you reject this club—by whatever means it may attempt to affiliate with PVS.

And, since Occoquan and Ashburn have been mentioned, I believe that y'all still owe us (and by us, I include Wells and Don Hart) a response now that you've had time to consult your legal counsel.

I will await your response with great interest.

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GEORGE M. HOMEWOOD, AICP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

New Kent County
12007 Courthouse Circle
PO Box 50
New Kent, VA 23124-0050

804.966-9690 Voice
804.966.8531 Fax