

I am sure that there are associations that have teams in such a predicament. How about Maryland association and NBAC, which trains in Baltimore, MD, and in Lancaster, which is Mid Atlantic.

There have got to be other instances, too, of teams crossing association boundaries.

We also had interest in the Strasburg site, and would have pursued that if snow hadn't gotten into the act. While it is not an option yet, I would like to foresee the day when we associate (merge, combine, etc.) with a team close to us, perhaps in ashburn or in leesburg, or how about in manassas? Don't the Potomac marlins practice in the freedom center in manassas? I thought curl-burke did too, or used to?

I have swimmers driving over an hour each way, from Winchester, to practice with us. It sure would be nice if we had a site a little closer to them, so that they could train there a couple times a week, to avoid such a long drive. So we would expect to be able to have the option to pursue that, if it meant an investment or partnership, or whatever. I don't see how any association, or USA Swimming, can restrict a 'right to to business', for better terminology. That might have legal ramifications.

Not sure what the official timeline is on this but I felt it necessary to respond ASAP in the hopes that my humble opinion helps the matter.

The right to conduct business in any county cannot be regulated so long as the business is legally allowed to operate there. Dictating where a member club (LLC, INC., LLP, Non-Profit etc.) can make a dollar may expose PVS to legal liability but more importantly, may, in principal, be an encroachment on the ability of club swimming programs to grow and prosper.

However, limits or rules on where a team competes are legal (i.e. the placement of Major League Baseball franchises or the reassignment of the Cardinals to the NFC West).

Should PVS, USA-S or VSI decide that the three teams with current boundary issues must change status, at least 2 years should be given to the clubs to comply - 1 year to "sell" the move to their customers (families) and another year to make logistical changes. A single year forces these clubs to do too much, possibly at the expense of the quality of their product (think athletes first!).

There seems to be two solutions though that are not yet *seriously* being considered: 1) your idea of redrawing the boundaries and 2) a mutual "use" agreement between the two LSC's.

Redrawing the boundaries seems to solve most of the problems of the 3 current teams and would appear to make sense - tv weather maps, traffic reports and Local sections of the Post target the areas south of PVS into Prince William and west of PVS into Loudon. And high schools, public transportation and emergency crews in these outlying counties are all integrated into the "Northern Virginia" infrastructure. It goes without saying VSI would have a few legitimate objections to an annexation of high-income portions of their LSC.

Mutual "use" or "response" agreements are used by Fire Departments, Police etc. to ensure that citizens of two or more adjoining localities are taken care of and not victims of border particularities. With careful planning and the guidance and consent of USA Swimming, a brand new type of relationship could be forged between our two LSC's, in the model of the Fire/Police agreements. An agreement might be made encouraging cross-LSC championship meets, and a buffer zone of the counties north of Richmond and east of Leesburg could allow teams in these areas the room to grow while supporting both LSC's with *talent and revenue*. Cross-LSC camps, coaches clinics, dual meets and fundraising might round out such an agreement.

Nevertheless, Machine enjoys competing with SNOW, AST and OCCS and we certainly don't endorse a speedy kick in the tail out of our PVS family. They've spent years building successful programs and enhancing the LSC and we ought to take whatever time necessary to find a fair and reasonable solution to the issues.

OCCS has been a great partner in our LSC. Their members have been involved with PVS, and the Board and hosted / sponsored many PVS meets and championship meets as well. OCCS should stay within PVS that is if the OCCS wish to remain with PVS.

There should be a LAW, a time boundary/limit in our books, which protects clubs and organizations from any arbitration after they have established their businesses for over 10 or 14 years.

As far as the sanctioning the meets for each other, PVS for VSI would be a great advantage to both LSCs swimmers. We, the adults in charge, are demonstrating sportsmanship and cooperation.

If the club(s) leave our LSC based on their own willingness they do have the right to attend our meets. We should extend our invitation to these three teams in question. This invitation extends to the Open meets as well as the Championship Meets

I found some interesting information that may be useful in your discussions with USA Swimming and Virginia Swimming. I defer to Jim Dvorak as the spokesman for OCCS. One comment however, I see great irony that Makos and other for-

profit teams are allowed to set up shop in Prince William County and Virginia Swimming is going after a not-for-profit parent-owned team whose membership is down. Makes you wonder why all the sudden after 15 years this is an issue!

I think that what needs to be stressed in the meeting with USAS is that affiliations need to take into foremost consideration the needs of the swimmers and their parents. The most important consideration is frankly driving distance and driving time to and from swimming competitions. This should trump every other factor.

I propose that we conduct parent's opinion survey for these three teams and get some ideas what they think, not what the teams ( Head ) want. If the parents don't care about LSC boundary, USA-S, VA, and PV can decide whatever ..... But, the parents have some reason for pro or con for the boundary change, we should know about it and try to protect their interest.

I think the boundary of PV should be redrawn to include Loudon and Prince William Counties as they are now truly part of the DC Metropolitan area.