

Technical Planning Chair Report
VSI Board Meeting
January 8, 2005

A/BB Champs team assignments have been established. All Area 1 teams will be assigned to A/BB Champs hosted by CGBD at Midtown Aquatic Center. All Area 3 teams will be assigned to A/BB Champs hosted by LY at the Jamerson YMCA. All Area 4 teams will be assigned to A/BB Champs hosted by QDD at GMU-Manassas Freedom Center Aquatic and Fitness Center. The teams from Area 2 will be assigned to either LY or QDD to provide a balance in the number of competitors and competition. Enclosed is a spreadsheet of the prospective numbers based on the meet participation by VSI teams over the last 5 years.

After receiving final bids for the 2005 LC season we are pleased to announce we had venues and hosts for each of our major championships. Summer Awards will be host by CGBD at MAC and QDD at the Freedom Center. Age Group Champs will be hosted by HA at HMA-Chatham, and LC Senior Champs will be hosted by GATR at UVA. The 2005 LC season is attached.

We received three bids for Summer Awards which were presented to the committee and HOD in October. Due to the significant number of concerns raised about the Summer Awards being held at Miller Park Pool it was decided to provide LY the opportunity to try and seek a different venue. LY reported back that they wished their bid for Summer Awards to remain as originally submitted. All other options discussed were not viable for their team. The Technical Planning committee was presented the potential pros and cons of each potential host. Each teams bidding for summer awards had extensive experience at hosting championship meets. Each had proven themselves as excellent meet hosts. The remaining issues were all concerning the venue. Each facility had its share of drawbacks and advantages. Each committee member was contacted (20) and 15 chose CGBD and QDD as their first and/or second choices. Only one picked LY as their primary site. 4 members never responded.

A question came up regarding a potential conflict of SAT testing on March 12th with the SC Senior Champs. Several board members were contacted along with each of the area 1 head coaches. All felt this was not an issue as their were adequate alternative testing dates (May 7th & June 4th) which still allowed students who wish to apply for early admissions for college next fall to have their test scores. As an added step I contact the school guidance departments for Hampton, Newport News, York County, and James City County/Williamsburg and all indicated the biggest reason for recommending the March 12th date was the new format which included a writing portion for the verbal testing. The early test date provided students with an additional option should they feel it necessary. All guidance departments felt the May and June testing dates provided ample opportunities for students. All coaches reported it made no impact to their swimmers. Others that responded felt strongly that we had made a commitment to UVA and that it was too late to make any venue changes. Also it did not appear that this test date was going to be an option that many swimmers would be exercising. I did get one suggestion that possibly testing could be arranged in the Charlottesville area for students looking to test and still participate in the meet. This suggestion has not been checked on as to its viability.

At the close of the last board meeting I wished to have a discussion regarding the identification of our geographical areas/regions. It has also been suggested that we name these designations rather than use a number designation. A quick review of other LSC indicated that all are using geographic and specific name identification. We would like to explore several options and also see if our membership has any preferences as to what we call these areas. Since we have referred to our geographic areas as both areas and regions we have considerable confusion as to what they are. Some suggestions provided are to call our 4 areas: North, West, Central, East or

Southeast. The designation of the areas could remain areas, or be called districts, divisions, or regions. At the regional level which would relate to our A/BB Champ and/or Summer Awards team assignments would be North, Southeast, West, or more regionalized names such as Tidewater, Piedmont, and Capital. The designation should remain Regions which would eliminate this from consideration of our geographic area designations. This would also help in developing distinctive names for our B/C Champs/Awards and A/BB Champs which is not really A/BB Champs which the advent of specific Age Group Qualifying times. Our B/C Champs could become the Northern District B/C Championship (or simply Districts). Our A/BB Champs could become the Piedmont Regional A/BB Championships (or simply Regionals). This sets the stage for eventually removing the time standard designation to the championship. Currently we have no specific recommendation but would like to pursue this further to develop a recommendation to be presented to the board and the HOD.

We will present the 2005-2006 Swim Year template via email prior to our next meeting asking for bids for meets for the entire swim year before the next HOD meeting. I would like to space block the entire calendar the ask for teams to bid for specific weekends giving priorities to those teams that can host meets on weekends we've determined are best for our swimmers. This is not much different than previous years, except we have never provided a preference to those teams that can meet our scheduling needs versus teams that host meets when it is solely convenient to their team and its operation. We expect some flexibility will always be necessary, but why not provide a benefit to a club willing to host a meet when VSI needs the meet to be hosted versus when it is only suitable to the host team.

Attached is a report of sanctions along with the average review times and sanctioning times. On average meets are being reviewed within 6.0 days. This means all elements of the meet announcement have been coordinated and the document is ready for publishing except for payment of sanction fees, submission of sanction request, assignment of meet referee, and/or approved meet entry fee increase. The average time for completion of the sanctioning process which includes all of the above is 11.5 days. This is well within the 15 days allowed by our policy which requires the host team to submit all related documentation and fees to VSI for sanctioning a meet no later than 45 days prior to the start of the meet. The objective is to have every meet announcement published only when the meet is sanctioned and 30 days prior to the start of the meet. This has only occurred in 12 of the 39 meets sanctioned so far this year. Of the 12 over half were delayed because they did not submit all of the required documentation (meet entry fee increase justifications). This year we have experienced a sharp increase in the number of teams requesting higher meet entry fees. The delay is not the process but either the tardiness of the clubs or the incomplete requests which requires more time to coordinate. Establishing new standard fees is necessary. We recommended in the fall to set the fees based on the venue and type of meet. Then apply as each meet sanction request comes in. If we go with a standard fee we would recommend a \$3.00 minimum and no higher than \$3.50. The problem is there are still several clubs which are still able to host meets at the current \$2.00 per event structure we currently have.