

Spring 2010

Disability Swimming Report

Southeastern saw its first swimmer with a physical disability and nonconforming times receive inclusion into our last Championship meet. Ryan Minks (Memphis Tiger) swam six events in the SES Championship. He was included by swimming a shorter distance within a longer event. If you even noticed he was there, his inclusion had no impact on the timeline. Ryan had previously participated Mississippi's LSC Championship.

USA swimming's definition

Role of LSC Disability Chair

Each LSC within USA Swimming is strongly encouraged to have a standing Disability Committee to ensure the LSC is actively promoting and encouraging inclusion of athletes with special needs.

The LSC Disability Chair will have the following responsibilities:

1. Serve as a liaison between the LSC and the USA Swimming Disability Committee, disseminating information from the committee to the LSC board and committees
2. Serve as a liaison to the LSC Board of Directors
3. Facilitate inclusion of swimmers with disabilities into clubs, championship meets, and committees
4. Advocate for, and facilitate, funding for swimmers with disabilities for championship meets equivalent to funding for able-bodied swimmers
5. Attend Convention in LSC delegate capacity

I received a questionnaire from USA's disability staff person Randy Julian and the National Disability Board. The following are the questions and my answers.

(1) What specifically on the disability swimming web site was beneficial and what can we improve,

expand upon or add?

#1. The disability articles are a good reference. Some of the answers to these questions could be added to a LSC disability chair section.

(2) Is there any disability swimming information on your LSC web site? If yes, please provide the URL.

#2.No. There is though a seriously outdated form called, “Information form for Disabled swimmers”. I have attached the new wording for that form; I requested it to be change on 2/19/2010. The form has yet to be updated. I have attached the URL to the old one.

<http://www.seswim.org/docs/forms/Info%20Form%20for%20Disabl%20Swimmers.pdf>

(3) How many swimmers with a disability are registered as such in your LSC?

#3.I can’t tell you and neither can our registration chair. He seems to think it may be a privacy issue; he says it isn’t available in his data base. He also thinks you guys at national have better access to the data and could tell me. I do know of the existence of 2 swimmers with a disability in West Tennessee.

(4) Does your LSC have an inclusion policy? If yes, please provide a copy.

#4.No. But a new policy for Championship meet inclusion is being purposed for our April House of Delegates meeting. The motion is attached.

March 12, 2010

Proposed Motion.

Submitted by Walter Smalley

Disability Chair

Southeastern Swimming

Southeastern Swimming will allow the inclusion of swimmers with disabilities without conforming times into Championship Meets based on the Referee’s

ability to include the swimmers without impact to the meet's timeline.
Referees can reference USA Swimming By-laws Article 105 for guidance.

Example:

The Meet Referee can allow the disabled swimmer to compete in a shorter distance within a longer distance event. The swimmers submitted times will fall under the same burden of proof and penalties as other competitors in a Championship Meet. The Meet Referee has the final say on the inclusion and his or her decision shall be final.

Rational:

Southeastern Swimming does not host any Disability Championship and should therefore provide the opportunity for these athletes to compete

(5) Is there wording in your bi-laws to financially support disabled athletes like our able bodied athletes at the upper level meets? If yes, please provide a copy.

#5.No.

(6) Do you have or have you attempted to develop Time Standards for swimmers with a disability?

If yes, please provide a copy.

#6.No, I would not recommend time standards based on the current known number of swimmers with a disability in our LSC.

(7) Has your LSC already completed the LEAP assessment?

#7.No, but we are working on it.

Disability Chair

Walter Smalley

901-486-1782

SOUTHEASTERN LSC

INFORMATION FORM FOR SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY

This non mandatory form is for accommodation purposes.

Name _____

Address _____

Team _____ USA Registration # _____

Age and Birth date: _____

Events to be swum:

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/

Type of Disability

Blind _____ Cognitive/Intellectual _____ Deaf _____ Physical _____ Other _____

Extent of Disability: Be specific e.g. totally or partially blind, totally or partially deaf, loss of one or more limbs, multiple disabilities, etc.

The following person(s) will accompany the swimmer for any needed assistance: accommodations requested, Examples: Lane #, inside lane, starter side preference, assistance to the blocks, water start, hand signals, etc.

Information gathered on this form will only be used for swimmers accommodation during Meet, and forwarded to the SE LSC Disability chair for purposes of evaluation and tracking Swimmers attendance and performance. The Disability Chair welcomes any feedback and or comments concerning your Meet experience.

Meet Director [Email](#)

Meet Referee [Email](#)

Disability Chair [Email: walleybob@hotmail.com](mailto:walleybob@hotmail.com)

Walter Smalley 901-486-1782