

**European Forces Swim League  
2011 Technical Committee Meeting  
Agenda/Minutes**

**0900 - 0920 Opening Remarks**

**President's Remarks-Morag Davite  
Rules of Engagement – Tom Brown  
Introductions (Around the Room)**

**0920-0930** Proposal to make the League Head Official & Coach positions the same as the President (2 years and another 2, then change) Instead of yearly.

**Motion: Passed.**

Election of League Head Official

**Election of the Head Official – nominated: Steve Allan  
Passed.**

Election of League Head Coach

**Peter Trummer nominated:  
Passed**

**0930-0935** Team History/Records (new tab for the website)

Laura shared a template for obtaining team history. She is working with Frank Nosal, EFSL Webmaster, to create a tab on the webpage for each team to highlight history. Information will be shared with the Presidents in May.

(Not on the website – breakdown of each Division)

**0935- 1200 Review of Swimming Code and Technical Rules**

Technical

Team Manager 6, MM 3 (Hy-Tek Update)

Statisticians need to attend clinics. 18-19 June Stats Clinic.

Fall Clinic pending Rota first meet date.

**STATS**

- Point system...with Stuttgart and K-Town being the largest teams in the league, when it comes down to it, no one can beat them due to sheer

numbers! Is there a way that this can change? For instance...if we were to drop the rule where a team can not score in first, second AND third place and instead let the places stand...then take the total points accumulated by each team in the end and divide that by the number of swimmers that attended. This will give you an average of points for each swimmer and thus could be more fairly competitive.

- **Motion against this item as proposed: passed.**
- Same for CHAMPS. CHAMPS should be a TEAM event! Not scored on just gold medals...doing this makes it an individual sport. CHAMPS should be scored just like a regular meet.
  - **Motion rejecting item for Champs to be a team event: passed.**
  - (Head Coach Medal Award is not an EFSL award but is perceived as a “team award.”
- Do not like the idea of penalizing larger teams at Individual Championships. Lakenheath is a perfect example of a small team that traditionally always fairs well at Individual Championships because they have exceptional swimmers. Just because you bring a lot of swimmers to champs does not mean you will win a lot of Gold medals. \
  - **No action taken – addressed in Item 1**
- - - Time Standards
  - Adjust the times standards in certain age groups and eliminate pickups at the seeding meeting.
  - BB time standard in some age groups has proven to not fill the 2 heats. Select a time standard that can adequately fill the event and then go with the rule that if you make the cut you swim the meet.
    - LD Champs currently at BB with 15% variation (per 2009 Tech Meeting)
    - Individual Champs at BB (per 2009 Tech Meeting)
      - **Motion that we establish BB time standards for both Championships. 5 in favor – motion fails.**

## OFFICIALS

- Official's Qualifications / certification by HO
  - No self certification.
- EFSL Exams / questions need to be reworked...recommend doing it at the meeting
  - Separate committee

- Training requirements for Starters / Referees – should be a mentoring program. Must officiate with more than one qualified official.
  - How do we assess officials and their performance, how should complaints about judgments by the head official be handled?
    - Tech bylaws 101.8
  - CHAMPS Officiating
    - Experienced starters only
    - No false start rule. If a swimmer false starts the heat goes without call back. Go with the USA Swimming rule on this.
    - No training officials at champs. Duh

### Strokes/Rules

- **Protests** - 30 minutes starting when??
  - Some Referees say after the event,
  - But in the Tech By Laws it says ' 30 minutes after posting of the result of the event protested'
  - The start-time for a protest should start when the head official is approached, not when the document is handed in. It can take quite some time to write a formal protest and the current time allotted is not enough to ensure the facts are straight before launching the protest.
  - Stick with the By Laws or change to after posting the result?? Whatever result, we must make sure that ALL Referees within the League are saying the same thing!
  - **Motion: remove item from technical rules (30 minutes after results posted). Passed. (This puts the EFSL IAW US Swimming on timely notification of DQ protest.)**
- Referees - DQ Cards - signature
  - Should a DQ be overruled if the Referee or DQ Ref has not signed it??
    - **After entry into MM and before the end of the meet, it may be protested and overturned if not signed.**
  - When can the Ref sign it – before end of meet?
    - **Before it is entered into MM.**
- **Motion to accept the new statements: passed.**
- DQ for False Start – 1 False start rule
  - IAW US Swimming – no change.

- When a kid falls into the water in a start, is it really a false start, it certainly is not giving them any advantage - this should be changed
- Swimmer falls in – stand up rule let the swimmer swim
  - **Item from 2010 Tech Committee Meeting – will be upheld for 2 years and will be eligible for 2012 Tech Committee Agenda.**
- Voted in last year
- Must / Do you advise swimmer is DQ'd?
  - Yes – the swimmer must be told they are DQ'd and have the option to swim.
- CHAMPS?
  - See above
- Butterfly clarification again...
  - Rule is clear – interpretation is the issue. From the hands to the elbow must break the surface (over the water).
  - Emphasis point for Officials' Training.
- Fly ruling – develop new DQ code
  - 1G
- DQ codes for a Relay infraction should include 2 codes - the Relay code, which swimmer and the infraction code.
  - Emphasis point for training
  - Relays – which swimmer – which code must be entered on card.
- DQ Code for the feet turned in for Breaststroke – no code.
  - There is no code for this.
  - **Use butterfly kick code.**
- Counters for events – should be equal for all swimmers, or have a coaches agreement
  - 16 and more – use the counters.
  - Meet director/referee/coaches issue.
  - 10256 in Rule Book.
  - Counter issue to be inserted into Meet Announcement
- **Ruling on Jewellery**
  - **No jewellery on arms, hoop earrings, necklaces.**
  - Revisit the language for this ruling.

Running the CHAMPS

- Have a Head Clerk of Course for Champs
  - Individual will be approved by the League Board.
  - **Motion** passed.
- Have separate DQ Referee at Champs (preferred same for both days) keep the DQ admin separate from running the meet.
  - **Motion** passed.

## COACHING

- Pacing for coaches - definition again...
  - There is no rule in US Swimming pertaining to pacing
  - Coaches movements should be unrestricted so long as they are not a safety issue.
- Peter's Coaches Challenges

## LEAGUE – TEAMS/CHAMPS/TIMING

### Meets

- Can there be a minimum amount of meets that each team in the EFSL are required to host? Running a meet is a huge expense and should be shared equally by all teams. It has come to our attention that there is at least one team that has not hosted a meet in years (this does not include Lisbon nor Vipers...I know they were on a trial basis). We feel this is not fair and should be addressed.
  - Acknowledged but not considered a Technical issue.
  - Deferred to Presidents' Meeting.
- Create a new division for teams under 30-35 swimmers
  - Tyrolean is the “small team division.”
  - Deferred to Presidents' Meeting.
- If a swimmer is seeded to swim several events but does not show for some – should their first times still stand? Dependent on the reason – sickness or injury can be excused. (Was a significant issue at long distance meet) – The excuse to depart early is not valid if the meet is on time.
  - Discussed – no change to current practice.
- Teams are scheduled to attend a meet but do not show up. Dependant on reason – weather. Should provide sufficient notice – minimum of one-

week notice – will provide time to adjust planning for pool time and concessions.

- **Motion:** visiting teams must notify the hosting team a minimum of 7 days prior to the meet if they will not be in attendance. Failure to meet this requirement will be subject to a monetary fine collected at the Seeding Meeting. Proposed fine is 100 Euros reimbursed to the hosting fee. **Motion passed** – will be forwarded to the presidents' meeting.
- To run a meet there is a minimum requirement for a qualified Referee, Starter and Stroke and Turn. Should a team know they do not have the officials, they must request a waiver from the League Head Official.
  - This is a clarification point for teams to notify the LHO if unable to meet the minimum requirements to host a meet.
- Distributing information about exhibition swimming - we only found out this was possible one meet before divisionals (I would have done it long before this had I known), and then told it was only for long distance events (200 m or more), then Naples had a ton of exhibition swims in their divisionals for short distances so kids could better their times right before champs - how fair is this!!!
  - Point of clarification – there are no exhibition swims in any championship meet – LDM, Individual Champs, & Divisional Championships.

### Long Distance

- Order of swim at long distance – swim each age group one heat then remainder swim together based on times – thus filling the lanes. Swim the group first then age groups
  - **Motion: LDM Champs will be swum by time – slowest to fastest by gender. Passed.**
- Suggestion that the **Long Distance Championships** be held After CHAMPS in May timeframe.
  - **Long Distance Championship** is very early in the season.
  - Kids barely have time to get into shape after the long summer break, which is probably why the Championship does not have all EFSL teams participating. I have talked to several coaches and most agree that we should move the Long Distance Championship to after the Individual Season is over. **Late May** would be a good time to move it to because it would be before the final exam period

and there is usually a long weekend near the end. It would also give the athletes an event to train for after the Individual Champs

- **Motion to reject the issue.** Passed.
- Can we make Long Distance later in the year?
  - **Motion to reject the issue.** Passed (1 abstention)
- Before Long Distance and CHAMPS should plan on a coaches meeting the night before.
  - **Motion:** There will be a team representative meeting the night before Championship meets (LD & Individual). Passed.
- How do we attain qualification times for long distance? Teams should hold a heat at the end of a scheduled fall meet. If unable to do this should a team wish to hold time trials, the minimum standard would be at least one official (S&T min) plus two watches per swimmer (preferred timers)
  - **Motion: Update technical bylaws: LDM Qual Times may be obtained if a qualified League official is in attendance. Teams will notify the league that a time trial is occurring and name the official who will be in attendance. Times will be obtained using two watches per swimmer and will be submitted to the EFSL Statistician.** Passed.
- - For the next year I recommend to remain at Lignano or move to Eindhoven.
  - Keep it long course.
  - Allow the following age groups to score points: 8 & Under, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-19.
    - **Motion is score LDM the same as Individual Champs:** Passed.

#### Divisionals

- Divisionals needs a date change. Divisionals has consistently fallen during SAT and Mid-Term exams, therefore creating a lower turn out from the older swimmers.
  - Informational request.

#### **1200 – 1300 Lunch Break (Pre-order during morning session)**

Divisionals will be the weekend of 28-29 January

Seeding Meeting on 4 February.

Champs on 18-19 February

## CHAMPS

- No air or blow horns permitted at CHAMPS or any meet
  - **Motion:** passed.
  
- Some wish to return to a Podium for awards – closer for pictures of top 10. As opposed to having swimmers going up to award person in the stands. – Proposal for solution – DQs coordination – DQ area Heads.
  - Addressed at the 2010 Tech Committee Meeting – item is at the discretion of the hosting team.
  
- 3 Minute Rule
  - Eliminate the rule
    - If swimmer is not behind the blocks one event prior the alternate will be called. Once the alternate is called no changes can be made.
    - **Motion to eliminate the 3 minute rule at Championship Meets:** passed.
      - **Motion to allow proxy to pick up card.**
        - Motion Failed.
    - **Motion:** Swimmers must be in marshaled in place two heats prior to their heat/event. If a swimmer is not in place, an alternate will be placed in the heat. Once the alternate is called, no changes will be made. If no alternate is available, the lane will be empty. Passed
  
- Marshal one event at a time and call the next (eliminates swimmers waiting for an extended period of time).
  - See motion regarding 2 heat rule for marshaled swimmers.
  
- Awards
  - Reduce the costs of the meet and medals 1, 2, 3 places and either ribbons or a less expensive medal for 4, 5, 6 place.
  - Champs Medals should only be given out for First – Third and ribbons Fourth – Sixth. Giving 1-6 medals out at Divisional championships is a good thing but not at Individual Championship.
  
- **Motion:** Proposal for Presidents: Passed.
  - 1-3 Medals for Individual Champs & LDM
  - 4-6 Ribbons for Individual Champs & LDM
  
- **Motion:** Proposal for Presidents: Failed.
  - Team only recognition at Divisionals.
    - Awards for team only 1-3 with no individual medals.

- Divisionals remain the same (medals 1-6)
- Coach's award should not be combined medal count for Long Distance and Individual Champs, just Individual Champs. Long Distance Champs is a totally separate meet and should not be included.

**Motion:** There is no team award at LDM or Individual Champs. Passed.  
This eliminates the Head Coach's Medal Count trophy.

- Re-open discussion on champs going short course
  - The possibility of running two 25-meter courses. The meet will run in less time and there will be time for awards.

Note: There are advantages to LCM. Tradition and the maintaining of records. It sets feel of the meet. Disadvantages are that swimmers don't really know if they have improved on their times over the season. **Item was addressed at the 2010 Technical Committee Meeting and will be in place for 2 years. The item can be added to the 2012 Tech Meeting Agenda.**
- For Champs, would like the seeding to be changed back to 3 events per day plus relays.
  - Motion: keep the events per swimmer at Individual Champs the same for the next two years. Motion passed.**
- Minimum of 2 heats for each event at Champs 2012. Motion: passed.
- **Motion:** Form a steering committee to research the future championship development reporting back at Champs 2012. Passed.
- Suggestion that the **Individual Championships** be held at the **beginning of March for 2012.**
  - Understand that the reason the Champs were previously held in February was to ensure that they were finished in time for the end of the Winter Sports season in the DoDEA system. Finishing at the beginning of March should still meet this requirement.
  - Noted.
- Putting CHAMPS into a 25-meter pool will also make it more fair for the league across the board, especially since most teams do not have the luxury to practice in a 50 meter pool. AND...we wouldn't have to

convert from long course to short course times either. Refer to new Steering Committee.

- For Champs, any events with less than one full heat of qualifiers should be limited to 1 heat only..if not for all age groups, than especially 8 and U and 17 - 19...both those age groups had difficulty filling 2 heats at times....
- Champs should be champs; currently we pull swimmers up into the meet and run way too many heats of many events.

Recommendation A: Only run two heats of each event regardless of how many swimmers qualified in that event. By only taking the top 20 swimmers then throughout the season swimmers will be checking the standings to ensure they are in the top 20 for events they really want to swim. After meeting the qualification time they will still be fighting for their spot for that event.

Recommendation B: Restructure champs to be Preliminary and Finals giving it a championship fill all together.

Swimmer Eligibility Proposal:

-- Retain the 4 meet minimum per season. Passed

**Motion:** Swimmers must swim at least one meet in each of the following time periods (Aug – Nov, Dec – Jan). Divisionals can count as one of those meets. (Exception would be per EFSL Board). Passed.

-- This will give swimmers visibility throughout the year.

#### BY-LAWS

- Post both long and short course qualification times on the web.
- Aging up only applies to 12-13 years old. No other ages. How it applies to long distance (Age at the start of the meet.)
- Technical Committee
  - Each team must have the chance to be represented at the meeting.
  - The majority of representatives must be coaches.

#### EFSL

- Geographical teams - By Laws need to be changed (INCLUDING must attend Divisionals)

- Relocating swimmers: discussion about what should be done. (EFSL Board temporary ByLaw)
- Discussion of who will be hosting this years' Long Distance Champs, where it will be held and whether it will continue to be a 'one meet' or go back to Northern and Southern meets will held at the Technical Meeting.
- only 3 levels of medals at long distance - when did this change ? the meet announcement should provided details about the medals as some people may not attend if no chance of medals.
- I would like to propose the creation of a separate division for teams under 30 or 35 swimmers (or a suitable number). This would allow the smaller teams to be competitive in their divisional meets rather than consistently overwhelmed by teams with a huge swimmer base. This would also relieve the financial impact of a large team having to travel to a smaller venue for a divisional meet as many of our smaller teams are in outlying areas such as Lisbon, Sig, Rota, Graff-Vilseck areas and for the most part these smaller teams have to travel long distances regardless of where the divisionals would be held.

#### **Long Distance Meet Hosting Rotation**

- The Southern Division will host the 2011 LDM
- A rotation list for hosting the LDM will be created. This will allow each division the opportunity to host the meet and allow them time to search for a suitable pool facility.

**Motion: LDM to be moved through the Divisions instead of by teams.  
PASSED.**

- Should 5 year olds be allowed to swim in a regular season meet? They can swim as exhibition only until their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday.

An EFSL sponsored Swim-a-thon will be announced with proceeds going to the Japan Earthquake Relief Efforts. Teams will schedule the events locally. EFSL will collect the monies raised and will submit one payment to the relief effort organization.

**Head Coach Discussion** "Seasonal Planning as it refers to Training and Competition"