

Good evening all,

By now each of you have received the material that has been collected from everyone concerning the issues surrounding clubs in cross LSC border situations with Virginia Swimming and Potomac Valley Swimming. A substantial amount of material has been distributed to each of you and every possible viewpoint has been presented.

Let me begin this e-mail by thanking each of you for participating in this facilitated session. Your willingness to participate is much appreciated and is invaluable. Everything in this process has tried to be above board.

This meeting is, to the best of my knowledge, the first time all the clubs between two LSC's, who are in cross border situations, will be present in the same room, at the same time, with an opportunity to work out mutually acceptable solutions, It is in the swimming community, a historic opportunity and challenge.

Let me emphasize three topics.

First, this facilitated meeting is an opportunity for all the impacted clubs and LSC's to work out a solution on your own. If the day results in no change, but with greater understanding, that is ok. If the day results in a proposal for rule changes to USA Swimming, that is ok. If the day results in a proposal for boundary changes or mergers, that is ok. If the day results in agreement for clubs changing LSC's, that is ok. If the day results in jointly sanctioned meets, that is ok. And so on and so forth. There are no restrictions or constraints as to where the discussion leads. The role of Peter Carney, Wells O'Brien and Sue Anderson is to provide a facilitated forum for the group to collectively work out a solution. That is the good news.

Now the bad news. If a mutually acceptable solution, which can include no changes, is not found then it is likely, although not certain or even desired, that someone(s) in Virginia Swimming and/or Potomac Valley Swimming will initiate a board of review process. While the board of review process has many merits, the result will be an imposed decision, which is far more likely than not, to result in at least one or more unhappy people and clubs. In addition, a board of review process will be expensive, time consuming, polarizing and is certainly not conducive to a collaborative solution that is worked out by the impacted clubs and LSC's.

Second, there is no hidden agenda by USA Swimming. From the time that George and Jim jointly initiated, at my urging, a request for this process, an overriding principle has been one of transparency. Jim and George have been terrific representatives not only for their LSC's but also to each other. They have freely shared information and have brought to each others attention issues and facts each of them might not have been aware of. Potomac Valley and Virginia

Swimming could not have had more able general chairs. For their work thus far, they deserve and have earned a tremendous thanks.

Third, while the history of how the present situation developed is relevant and is useful for understanding, it is more important to agree on where you are now and most importantly, where do you want to go from here.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to participate in this meeting as a representative not only of your club, coaches and parents, but also your LSC, USA Swimming and last and certainly most important, the swimmers.

Jeff Gudman
Vice President National Administration