

MEMORANDUM

TO: PVS Board of Directors

FROM: Bill Stephens

DATE: 8/23/07

SUBJECT: USA-S Risk Management Conference

I represented PVS at the USA-S Risk Management Conference conducted 8/17 – 8/19 in Minneapolis. The conference was conducted by the Safety Education Committee with input from Risk Management Services and coordinated by staff members Sue Anderson, Cathy Durance and Sandy Vollmer. There were about 35 participants representing 25 LSCs. The only other large LSCs in attendance were Illinois, Metropolitan and Middle Atlantic.

There was a very full agenda that provided an in-depth review of all the various elements of risk and safety. Below are a few details that should be of interest to PVS. As follow-up to this conference, I believe that we should include a short segment on risk management during our Swimposium, especially for our coaches and officials. Also, our BoD needs to review our safety program and revise our guidelines and procedures.

Points of interest:

1. Liability coverage for team activities other than practices and meets is usually available and included, but requires a call to RMS to verify.
2. The term “Swimathon” is trademarked by USA-S (they acquired it from someone else) and teams are required to register and to follow specified procedures in order to use this term.
3. RMS’s “learn to swim” insurance for club “clinic” programs has grown to over 150 teams. The base cost is \$150 a year for up to 150 swimmers for \$2 mm of liability coverage.
4. USA-S has negotiated a special code for workers compensation insurance that saves money for teams (9063).
5. The Code of Conduct should be referenced in all meet announcements.
6. The Code of Conduct should be the basis for a more comprehensive employment document for coaches.

7. The Code of Conduct is being used as the basis for a ban on recording devices in locker rooms. Also, as a guard against inappropriate information on personal web sites and cell phone, etc. photos.
8. PVS apparently is the only LSC that does not take seriously the requirement to provide meet marshals. Many LSCs not only have multiple marshals throughout the meet, but actually have them meet with the referee prior to warm-ups for their instructions and to review safety procedures. There is an effort to delete the requirement that marshals must be members. This may be proposed as a floor item at convention. PVS needs to review and amend our procedures regarding marshals. Note: in many LSCs, the host team provides the marshals.
9. Pool Depth took up a lot of time. RMS reported on the Counsilman Study that is undergoing peer review prior to being released by the University of Indiana. This study profiled a large number of actual water entries during practices and meets over a long period of time. The apparent results of this study were the basis for the emergency rule change in January that now requires a 6' depth for teaching racing starts, i.e. head-first entry. (They are trying to discourage the use of the term "dive.")

There are many more insurance claims each year that I would have guessed and many more serious incidents than I had been aware of. PVS perhaps has been lucky in recent years and this may have led to some complacency. Other LSCs appear to take safety much more seriously than we do, especially during warm-ups and regarding deck crowding. PVS and all our teams need to have an active safety program that provides evidence that we are pro-active and out-front regarding safety and risk management.