

April 10, 2019

## CONVENTION TASK FORCE PROPOSAL

### Hold the USA Swimming Convention as an independent Convention in 2022.

**Background:** The Convention Task Force was assembled to examine the makeup of USA Swimming's annual Convention and to determine what (if any) changes should be made to the Convention. Currently the USA Swimming Convention is held as a part of the United States Aquatic Sports (USAS) Convention with attendees from USA Diving, US Masters Swimming, USA Synchro and USA Water Polo (in a very limited capacity). USAS has made agreements with hotels and locations for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The task force has met several times over the past year and one-half to discuss the annual Convention. We considered not only our own Convention experience, but also examined the results of the post-convention surveys of our delegates. Survey responses indicate a desire from Convention attendees for a shorter Convention with more networking and "best practices" sharing opportunities as well as content that is more globally-appealing and not necessarily targeted to only one group (officials, coaches, LSC leaders, etc.),

After considering all facets of Convention (attendees – both athlete and non-athlete, governance content, educational content, legislation and election requirements, social events, networking opportunities, affiliated member attendance) it was determined that USA Swimming should pursue booking their own independent Convention for 2022. This Convention would be for USA Swimming delegates only. The following outlines our reasoning.

#### Rationale:

- We can control our meeting space, logistics, schedule and special events tied to Convention. We would not be obligated or constricted by the needs of the other sports.
- We would be able to source the Convention location through our Marriott sponsorship. Currently, USAS is contracted with Hyatt properties.
- A USA Swimming-only Convention would mean fewer attendees. This would give us much more flexibility in possible locales, timing of Convention, and host hotels.
- With the progression of the Zone Workshops, there is less need for targeted educational opportunities. Education presented at Convention could be more globally-oriented to all convention attendees instead of niche groups. LSCs might send fewer delegates to convention and place more focus on Zone workshops.
- Convention could focus on governance and being a celebratory event for the sport of swimming.
- We might have the option to hold Convention in conjunction with a larger USA Swimming event, such as a national championship.
- We may be able to partner with ASCA for a future Convention (they are booked through 2023). Many of our delegates and exhibitors also attend the ASCA Convention. If we were able to combine events or make them back-to-back, we benefit on logistics, timing and finances for those attendees.
- We could also consider holding Convention in conjunction with US Masters, who shares many of our same needs/interests and are the second largest (USA Swimming is first) group at the USAS Convention.

If we were to hold our own Convention, the following is a **possible** schedule.

Wednesday – athlete leadership/education as needed. Networking and Arrivals. Keynote speaker opening session.

Thursday – Board of Directors and Committees (if needed) meetings, educational workshops as needed

Friday – Zone meetings and House of Delegates, other meetings as needed

Saturday – conclusion of House of Delegates followed by a "Celebration of Swimming" luncheon banquet

With this type of schedule, LSCs could focus on sending voting delegates and delegates involved in governance. Expenses would be less – many could arrive Wednesday and the majority could depart Saturday afternoon.

Respectfully submitted, Convention Task Force

2019 Convention Task Force Members – Mary Jo Swalley (Chair), Jayne Spittler, Sean Redmond, Ellaine Cox, CJ Fiala (Athlete Rep), Janelle Nguyen (Athlete Rep, AEC Convention Chair), Dakota Noble (Athlete Rep), Gina Mensay (Staff Leader)