

## Age Group Chair Report – Fall 2015 HoD Meeting

### Championship Meets:

This past summer we had 487 athletes compete at the State meet in Huron. This is up about 40 swimmers compared to 2014 Mitchell. 2015 is the first summer season under the new time standards that were approved last Fall at the HoD meeting. Overall I feel like the new time standards have been a success and are scheduled to be updated again at the Fall 2016 HoD meeting.

### Zones:

South Dakota sent 45 swimmers to zones in Minneapolis. Overall, I heard positive things about the trip from the coaches and swimmers.

2016 is a Mega Zone meet in Indianapolis August 3-7. Wednesday will be practice/picture day then 4 days of competition. There will be bi-monthly conference calls starting in November with the Age Group Chairs from each LSC.

### USA Swimming Convention:

At the Age Group Chairs workshop there was a lot of discussion on 12 & under swimmers wearing tech suits. Coaches spoke out against the use of tech suits in younger swimmers and parent education on the use of suits. The Age Group Development committee will most likely be putting together legislation on banning the use of tech suits in age group competition.

SwimToday – designed as a recruitment tool of posters, bracelets, bag tags, stickers and other materials to help market swimming in our communities. This year they are doing 2 different kits, a Recruitment kit and Retention kit. USA Swimming is going to have the kits ready earlier in the year than previously. Clubs can apply online at [www.usaswimming.org/swimtoday](http://www.usaswimming.org/swimtoday)

Age Group Development committee is finalizing a Athlete development progressions that cover biomechanical, physiological, character and life skills, and psychological skills. They are hoping they will be ready in the next 6 months. These are designed to help develop swimmers from the day they walk in the pool to a sectional level swimmer.

## Safe Sport Committee

**Charge:** To plan, implement and coordinate USA Swimming's commitment to safeguard the physical, mental and emotional well-being of all of its members, with an emphasis on the welfare of its athlete members.

**Membership:** The Safe Sport Committee shall consist of thirteen (13) members, as follows:

1. Three (3) athlete members selected by the Athletes Executive Committee, each of whom shall serve one year terms;
2. Three (3) coach members appointed by the President, each of whom shall serve staggered four (4) year terms ending in odd numbered years;
3. Five (5) at-large members appointed by the President, each of whom shall serve a four-year term, staggered so that one at-large member is appointed each year;
4. One (1) subject matter expert from an organization outside USA Swimming, appointed by the President, who shall serve a four (4) year term;
5. The Secretary and General Counsel, who shall serve as an ex-officio member, without vote.

**Chairperson:** The chair, who may be either an athlete or non-athlete member, shall be appointed by the President from the foregoing enumerated members and shall serve a one year term.

**Staff Liaison:** The Director of Safe Sport shall serve as the staff liaison to the Safe Sport Committee.

**Responsibilities:**

1. To create, execute and continually review USA Swimming's member protection policies, guidelines, educational programs, reporting and adjudication procedures, and make recommendations to the USA Swimming Board of Directors for such changes to existing policies, guidelines, programs and procedures, as well as recommendations for new ones, as are appropriate;
2. To raise the awareness of member protection and the availability of member protection educational resources within the swimming community, including at the LSC and club levels;
3. To coordinate and ensure that the athlete and member protection education requirements for membership are properly developed, implemented and executed;
4. To interface with the USOC, other NGBs, other sport and non-sport related youth organizations and appropriate child protection groups regarding their member protection policies, guidelines, procedures and programs; and
5. To take such further actions as may be directed by the Board of Directors.
6. The Safe Sport Committee shall report to the President.



# 2015-2016 Program Goals

USA Swimming Safe Sport enters its sixth year in 2015-2016. Since our inception in 2010, we have operated from the foundation that effective Safe Sport programming must be leadership driven and locally rooted. Through our first five years, much of the effort has been centralized to support the development of a program at the national level that could be successfully replicated and broadly distributed and the personnel infrastructure by which to do that.

2015 marks an exciting shift in our focus from program development to local level engagement. It is our belief that the best child protection efforts happen every day, at the club level, and are embedded in the culture of those clubs. USA Swimming strives to increase the number of clubs who organically engage in Safe Sport efforts through education and awareness raising.

## **Where We Are Going**

Our 2015-2016 Safe Sport efforts will be wholly focused on the goal to **INCREASE LOCAL LEVEL ENGAGEMENT**.

We believe we can raise awareness for Safe Sport and increase local level engagement through three strategies:

1. **To increase in number and empower the existing Safe Sport Champions:** Empower our volunteer leadership – Safe Sport's Champions - at all levels of the organization. Forthcoming initiatives include:
  - a. Create an LSC Chairs Support Subcommittee to identify, plan, and execute regular training opportunities and communication points with volunteer community.
  - b. Name and activate Safe Sport Zone Chairs.
  - c. Develop onboarding process for new LSC Safe Sport Chairs.
  - d. Publish job description for Solidify the volunteer leadership infrastructure of Safe Sport. Activate committee to provide leadership and support to Zone and LSC Chairs. Identify, plan, and execute regular communication points during the year with volunteer community.
2. **To encourage and support club leadership:** Create and promote tools for clubs to create a positive sport culture and support their implementation and continued use. Forthcoming initiatives include:
  - a. Encourage, support, and promote LSC Safe Sport Chair initiatives to encourage engagement with Safe Sport at the club level. Examples of LSC initiatives available at [www.usaswimming.org/protect](http://www.usaswimming.org/protect).
  - b. Launch Safe Sport Self-Assessment for a club to gauge its existing efforts with Safe Sport and provide support and guidance to increase engagement.
  - c. Incentivize clubs to engage with Safe Sport through Safe Sport Certified Club Program.
  - d. Train LSC Chairs to assist clubs in achieving Safe Sport Certified Club status.
3. **To activate swim meets as parent engagement opportunities:** Capitalize on swim meets that bring together all swimming community constituents and spread the word of Safe Sport. Forthcoming initiatives include:
  - a. Develop and distribute promotional materials for use at swim meets: (1) meet announcer scripts; (2) branded posters; (3) heat sheet ads; (4) parent tip cards.
  - b. Develop Swim Meet Tabling Kit for duplication or purchase by LSCs or clubs.

## SD Top 16 Report

The most important job of the Top 16 coordinator is updating the SWIMS database ASAP following a swim meet. The top 16 is updated once a week – my goal is to do this on Tuesdays. If I don't have results at this time, they will be updated the next week when the reports are run.

Many times I get results later in the week, or corrected results files to replace files previously sent. Please be sure to run recon reports to decrease the number of errors. If there is a discrepancy in results and non-registered swimmers, etc, it makes it difficult to update SWIMS.

Meet directors, please include my email on the list of people you sent results to. Coaches, please send me results when you get results files when you attend out of state swim meets. I can search for meets, but this will help to be sure I get all results for our SD swimmers.

Finally, when it comes to time trials, specifically first leg relay results and splitting out the first 50 or 100 of a longer race, I need actual proof of times.

Thanks for your cooperation.  
Tehra Scott