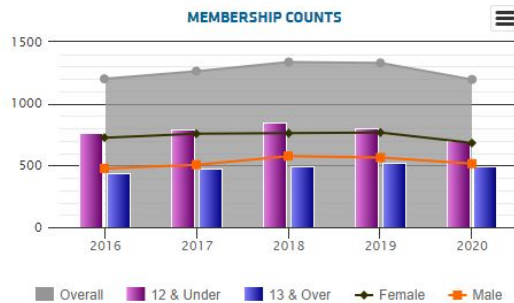


**General Chair Report**  
**LSC House of Delegates Meeting**  
**May 3, 2020**

### State Meet

I want to thank the Riptide and Watertown swim teams for hosting our State B and A Short Course meets this year. Thank you for welcoming us into your new facilities. We are lucky to have these wonderful new pools in our state. Thank you both for hosting very successful meets. Each was among the largest to date. Thank you to all your volunteers for giving of their time to host us.

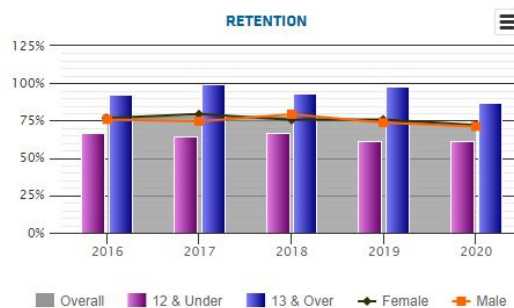
### Membership



*(previous years are comprehensive and not year to date)*

As of March 28, we had 1196 registered swimmers compared to 1280 at the same time last year. Based on last year's numbers, we should be able to exceed 1300 swimmers again this year if we are able to host a summer season of swimming. This is exciting. 2013 was the first year we had more than 1000 swimmers. If we can have a summer season, we will have seen growth since the last Olympics and maintained three years at nearly the same number of swimmers. In past years, our membership starts to dip 3-4 years after an Olympic season. We have the potential to go into the next Olympics without the membership dip. This bodes well for future growth.

### Retention



The retention report is this year to date compared to the entire last year. Through the short course season, we have retained 71% of our swimmers. This is the exact same number as last year at this time.

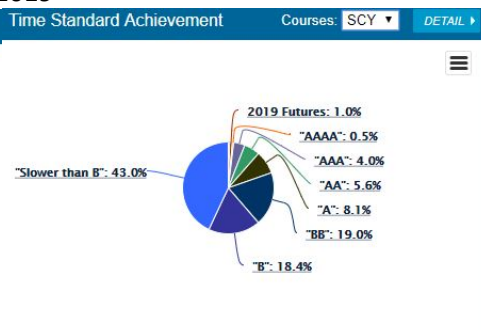
### Performance

Below are four years of performance data following the short course season. Over the past four years, we have seen growth of swimmers swimming times at or above the A standard from 16.2% in 2017 to 18.5% this year. This is very exciting. We have two goals, to grow the sport and to improve the performance of our swimmers. I am proud to report that the data shows that we are doing both.

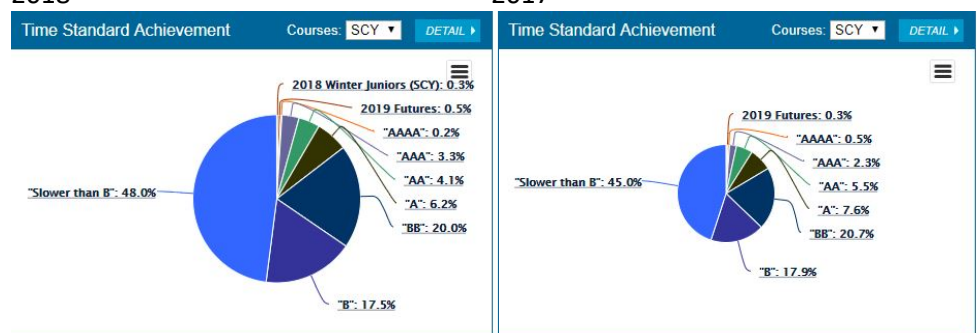
2020



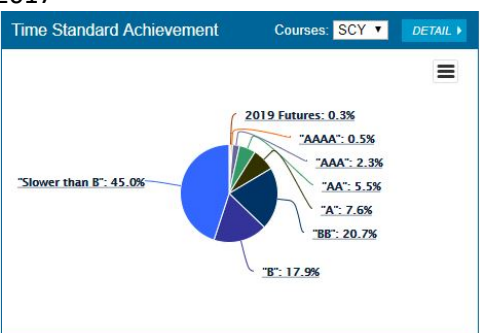
2019



2018



2017



## Agenda

This is a quite lengthy agenda. We have twenty proposals. Several are very straight forward. Some are drafted to start a conversation about our goals for the State SC meets. Many of these proposals were drafted by Martin, Kyle and me with the intent to capture conversations that we heard on deck at the state meet. We hope you will take time to read these prior to the meeting and spend time considering them. Some of these proposals may require us to have difficult conversations. I am confident that we are up to that task.

My goal is to use the same format that we used a year ago when discussing state meet proposals. Prior to the state meet proposal part of the agenda, I will open the floor for 45-60 minutes of general discussion regarding the proposals. This seemed effective last year in helping shape consensus around the proposals before moving forward. Following the discussion, we will proceed with the proposals using Robert's Rules of Order whereby we will read each proposal title seeking a motion and a second before discussion on that specific proposal.

## Elections

I will not be seeking re-election this spring for the General Chair position. It was originally my plan to seek re-nomination for another term. However, I have recently accepted a position out of state. I start in June. I believe it will be too complicated to try to serve as General Chair while spending most of my time out of state.

I have been discussing this possibility with Martin for a few months. Martin has agreed to be nominated for the General Chair position. I am grateful for his service and for his willingness to lead South Dakota Swimming. I know that you will be in better hands. In addition to being one of South Dakota's top officials, Martin has also served as the President of the Aberdeen Swim Club. I have enjoyed his counsel

as the Admin Vice Chair for the past year. He brings great experience to the position. I hope you will support Martin's nomination. I look forward to continuing to participate in SD Swimming in an ex-officio capacity as the Past General Chair so that I can work with each of you and to support Martin in this position.

We have asked Barry Hein (SFST) to serve the remainder of Martin's term as Admin Vice Chair. I will ask the Board to approve that when we convene in April.

Cole will be finishing high school in Rapid City. He and Melissa will stay in South Dakota for the next year so that he can do so. Melissa will then join me in New York. I know that I will be returning next year for swim meets. I look forward to seeing you each on the deck.

I look forward to seeing you all at our House of Delegates Meeting so that I can thank you in person for the privilege of serving with you.

### **Thank you**

In closing, I want to say my thank you's.

I want to thank the athletes for all your hard work. You have demonstrated tremendous leadership in our LSC and for your sport. I am honored that you allowed me to work with you on your ideas. I hope you learned as much from me as I learned from you in this process. I spent many years as a volunteer youth sports coach. I stopped five years ago. I did not realize how much I missed engaging with young people. I am grateful that you provided me this opportunity to serve with you. This is your sport; we are simply its' stewards. Keep up the great work.

Thank you to our coaches. You are leaders within your teams and role models within our state. Your love and passion for the sport is contagious. Thank you for sharing it broadly with swimmers in South Dakota. Thank you for encouraging our swimmers and for using swimming as a means to prepare our athletes for their future.

Thank you to the members of the Board of Directors. Each of you wear many hats in our sport as coaches, parents, volunteers, and team leaders. You added one more responsibility when you agreed to serve on the Board of Directors. It was an honor to serve with you. It isn't every day that you get to work alongside so many people that you admire and that are your friends. Your service to the sport is inspiring. You are inspiring. Thank you for allowing me to lead the team the past two years.

I have been blessed to have a great partner in crime in swimming. Laura Pineiro and I have served together for five years. I hope everyone is as lucky as I have been to serve with someone that is always up for a new opportunity and is always willing to tell you when you are wrong. We have served together so long and have such a unique communication pattern that we have been mistaken for spouses. We have laughed much during these five years. *I am including this in my report so that it makes the minutes. Its also my way of getting the last word on the subject.*

Finally, I want to thank my wife, Melissa. Melissa graciously sat in camping areas with a book while I roamed the deck to thank our coaches, officials, and volunteers. I am grateful for her love and support.

Serving as your General Chair has been a tremendous privilege. This has been the greatest volunteer experience. I hope that I served you well.