

Spectator Task Force Report

The spectator fee task force was charged by the NCS Board to study the feasibility of allowing spectator fees at NCS sanctioned/approved meets. The task force looked at a number of different aspects of this proposal to come to an informed and unbiased recommendation in the best interest of the entire LSC.

It is the recommendation of the task force that NCS not allow the implementation of spectator fees at LSC meets at this time.

The following points were carefully considered in formulating our recommendation:

- Legality - The HOD has the authority to regulate this fee which was addressed in the June BOD conference call by Peter Carney.
- Comparison with other LSC practices - Sixteen different LSC representatives were contacted to discuss practices involving spectator fees. A summary of the findings is:
 - About 1/3 of the LSC representatives polled confirmed that it is a common practice to allow spectator fees, typically with input from the local HOD or BOD.
 - Indiana practice was the norm - allowing each club or facility to charge as they desire with the market dictating the success.
 - Most LSC that have spectator fees made it a part of the bidding process and required it published in the meet information.
 - Florida Swimming tried to implement spectator fees but discontinued the practice when faced with parent opposition.
- Financial impact of additional fees:
 - When considering the financial impact on the families attending a meet, it was acknowledged that a spectator fee (although a small percentage increase in the cost of a swimming weekend) would possibly have a negative impact and alienate a significant part of our swimming community.
 - The financial impact on the facility would be marginal. Michael Curran of TAC suggested that spectator fees would not be an economical way to raise needed revenue because of the cost involved (paying staff to collect fees, cost of processing payments, etc.)

Task Force Chair
Jon Fox