

CARIFTA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

MINUTES CARIFTA CONGRESS 2009

Date: 20 April 2009
Location: Piscina Olimpico "Roly Bisslik", Savaneta, Aruba

Present:

1. Aruba:	Ronald van den Berg; Nicole Hoevertsz; Marion Kan; Mayens Tromp; Ricky Arends; Ezzard Cilie
2. Bahamas:	John Bradley; Valerie Lowe
3. Barbados:	Sonia O'Neal; Juel Gittens
4. Bermuda:	Richard Goodwin; Ben Smith
5. Cayman Islands:	Dominic Ross; Steve Bain
6. Guadeloupe:	Juliette Huyghues; Icheck Didier
7. Grenada:	Jane Noël; Nataly Regis
8. Jamaica:	Jacqueline Walter; Mark Jones
9. Martinique:	Robert Marajo; Janine Victoire
10. Netherlands Antilles:	Valerie Silvanie; Gladwin De Lanoi
11. St. Lucia:	Joyce Huxley; Jamie Peterkin
12. Surinam:	Rik Schuitemaker
13. Trinidad & Tobago:	Hayden Newallo; Roger Rodriguez
14. US Virgin Islands:	Kevin Tyrrell

Guest: Michael Greenwell (official announcer)

1. OPENING

Aruban Swimming Federation President, Ronald van den Berg, opens the meeting and welcomes all delegates to the 2009 CARIFTA Congress, taking place in Aruba, host of the 2009 CARIFTA Swimming Championships.

A total of 14 countries (out of 20) are present, creating the required quorum. Of the invited countries, the following are absent: Antigua & Barbuda; Dominica; French Guyana; Guyana; St. Vincent & the Grenadines; Turks & Caicos.

The agenda, as proposed by the Aruban Swimming Federation and circulated prior to the Congress, is approved by all delegates without any changes.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CARIFTA CONGRESS

The minutes of the 2008 CARIFTA Congress were circulated to all Federations prior to this year's Congress. No comments were received.

In addition the minutes for the XVII CISC Meeting (held on 17 July 2008 in Jamaica) were circulated. While Errol Clarke sent his comments to rapporteur John Eyre, these minutes will be discussed at the next CISC Congress in 2010.

The following correction to the 2008 CARIFTA minutes is proposed by **Mark Jones (Jamaica)**: on page 4, Other Business, third bullet point, the 2008 CARIFTA waterpolo championships took place in Jamaica (not in Trinidad & Tobago). This correction is approved.

With this correction, the minutes of the 2008 CARIFTA Congress are approved.

3. REPORT OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Aruban Swimming Federation, host of this year's CARIFTA Championships, offer a final report of the preparations and actual celebration of the competitions. The coordinator of each functional area presents some relevant information to the meeting.

CARIFTA 2009 included competitions in swimming and synchronized swimming, with an increase in the number of participants. The level of competitions was high and six swimmers were able to meet the qualifying times for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games. CARIFTA 2009 was recognized by FINA as an official meet where qualifying times for the YOG could be obtained.

In the period leading up to the event, several complications were encountered. A discussion about the nationality of the participants lead to a heated debate and finally to an approval by FINA that swimmers could compete either as a national federation member, or as a club member.

The economic situation in the region certainly affected the organization and its ability to find sponsors willing to support the event.

This year the three French countries were invited separately, complying with the decision of the CARIFTA countries last year. French Guyana did not participate, but Martinique and Guadeloupe did.

The hosts were able to put up a temporary stand that offered more space to the participating delegations.

Some delegations included invited dignitaries, confirming the importance of the championships.

Once again Michael Greenwell from the USA was kind enough to accept Aruba's invitation to be the official announcer of all competition sessions (swimming and Synchro). Once again he made a great impression and received a warm applause.

The closing ceremony will be celebrated on the evening of the Congress at “City One”. The practical procedure for transportation of the delegations after the final session is discussed. Questions about the sale of alcoholic beverages (should and will not be allowed), as well about the use of inappropriate music and behavior is discussed. It is decided that delegates should try to supervise the athletes as much as possible.

4. PROPOSAL CAYMAN ISLANDS: AMENDMENT ENTRY RULE 8D

The delegate from the Cayman Islands, Dominic Ross, sent a proposal on 27 March 2009. This proposal was circulated to the Federations prior to the Congress.

Cayman Islands’ proposal seeks to amend Entry Rule 8D to read as follows: “Each country will be allowed to enter three (3) swimmers per event in the Preliminary Heats of events of 200 Meters or less. Only the fastest two (2) preliminary heat swimmers from each Country will be eligible to advance to the Finals.”

During the Congress Delegate Dominic Ross offers further explanation of the proposal. Delegates from St. Lucia, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Aruba express concern about the inevitable increase of the preliminary sessions that this proposal will lead to.

The motion brought forward by Cayman Islands is seconded by Bermuda and brought to a vote. The result is:

4 votes in favor

10 votes against

The proposal is rejected.

5. PROPOSAL JAMAICA: INCREASE MEET ENTRY FEE

ASAJ President, John Eyre, sent a proposal by email on 11 April 2009 to increase the meet entry fee from the current US\$ 50 per person per day, to US\$ 55 per person per day. This proposal was circulated to all Federations prior to the Congress.

Specifically the proposal seeks to amend the CARIFTA Swimming Championships Guidelines rule 17.3 as follows:

Current text: “The Accommodation rate was fixed at US\$ 50.00 per person per day for 4 persons in a room and including breakfast and dinner.”

Proposed text: “The Accommodation rate was fixed at US\$ 55.00 per person per day for 4 persons in a room and including breakfast and dinner.”

In addition to this accommodation rate, delegations are responsible for their own lunches and pay an additional fee for transportation of US\$ 30 per person for the days of the meet.

Representative from Aruba, Marion Kan, expresses that she considers the meet entry fee to be enough to cover the accommodation and meal expenses, but that the transportation fee should be increased.

Jamaica's proposal is discussed extensively by the delegates. While the delegates express concern about the increase in the participation fee, it is understood that the costs of hosting an event like this have gone up. **Jamaican delegate, Mark Jones**, expresses willingness to modify the original proposal, so that the new rate be applicable for a trial period of one year. This proposal is not seconded.

Delegates request particular attention for the number of persons per room: keeping in mind the total number of persons in a delegation, as well as the ratio male/female persons, it is not always possible to have four persons per room. The official rate should distinguish between those delegations who particularly request to be with less than four persons in a room (higher rates can be applied), and those delegations whose numbers lead to them being with less than four persons in a room (all benefit from the fixed meet rate).

The **delegate from St. Lucia, Joyce Huxley**, moves to modify Jamaica's proposal so that it reflect that the same rate apply when because of the number of persons in a delegation the number in a room is less than four. St. Lucia's motion is seconded by Grenada. This modification is approved by Congress.

Jamaica's motion, as amended by St. Lucia's motion, is seconded by the delegate from St. Lucia and Grenada and brought to a vote. The result is as follows:

11 votes in favor

1 vote against

2 abstentions

The motion is carried. From now on the official meet entry fee will be US\$ 55 per person per day, based on four persons per room, or such a number that – based on the ratio male/female persons, as well as the total of number in the delegation – is applicable. When a delegation specifically requests for less than four persons per room, other rates may apply. Other fees that are charged under the CARIFTA guidelines (lunches, transportation, and registration fees) remain unchanged.

Martinique delegate, Robert Marajo, expresses hope that this increased fee not be permanent. This proposal is brought to a vote and leads to the following result:

10 votes in favor

4 votes against

The **delegate from Trinidad & Tobago, Hayden Newallo**, requests Congress and organizing committees to take into account that sometimes, due to arrival and departure issues, delegations have to arrive or depart outside of the official dates. In those cases the same fixed rate should apply, since it is beyond control of the delegations.

The **delegate from Barbados, Sonia O’Neal**, reminds the delegates that it should remain profitable for Federations to organize and host these meets.

The **delegate from Cayman Islands, Dominic Ross**, trusts that organizing committees will try to accommodate delegations for reasonable rates.

6. PROPOSAL JAMAICA: AMENDMENT ELIGIBILITY RULE 3-A. CITIZENSHIP CLAUSE; B. GOOD FINANCIAL STANDING WITH OTHER PARTICIPATING FEDERATIONS

ASAJ President, John Eyre, sent a proposal on 13 April by email, proposing a rule change to the CARIFTA Swimming Championships Guidelines Rule 3 Eligibility.

The proposal consists of two separate aspects: 1. The citizenship clause; and 2. the requirement for participating Federations to be in good financial standing with other participating Federations.

A detailed text proposal, explaining the different aspects of Jamaica’s proposal, is included and was also circulated prior to the Congress.

The **representative from Aruba, Nicole Hoeverstz**, informs that the citizenship clause created quite a discussion in the period leading up to this year’s CARIFTA Championships. It was due to the intervention and good services of FINA Honorary Treasurer, Julio Maglione, that a solution could finally be found. We should all be grateful for this support, which made it possible for swimmers who did not have the nationality of the country, yet had lived there for a considerable period of time, to compete for that country.

After a discussion of the entire proposal, a motion is brought to the table by the Jamaica delegation. The motion is seconded by Aruba, Cayman Islands, and Surinam. The motion is brought to a vote and lead to the following result:

13 votes in favor

0 votes against

The motion is carries unanimously.

7. PROPOSAL BARBADOS: UPDATE CARIFTA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES

Barbados Swimming Federation President, Sonia O’Neal, proposed by email on 13 April to review the CARIFTA Swimming Championships Guidelines in its entirety. The proposal, as well as the Guidelines, were circulated among the Federations.

Representative from Aruba, Nicole Hovertsz, proposes to request the Federations that hosted CARIFTA since 2002 (Barbados, Bahamas, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Aruba) to look into this matter further and to present their comments and ideas to the Federations. Their comments should be ready by the upcoming CCCAN championships (July 2009). This proposal is approved by the Congress.

Trinidad & Tobago delegate, Hayden Newallo, reminds the Congress that the Guidelines are applicable to all aquatic disciplines.

Martinique delegate, Robert Marajo, expresses his opinion about the participation of the French Antilles, who are now required to participate as separate delegations. Mr. Marajo is reminded that this issue was discussed extensively during the 2008 CARIFTA Congress in Aruba and was voted on in Jamaica (July 2008).

8. PROPOSAL TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: DRAFT CONSTITUION FOR THE CREATION OF A CARIFTA ASSOCIATION

The delegate from Trinidad & Tobago, Hayden Newallo, complying with a decision made by during the meeting of Federations in Jamaica (July 2008), prepared a draft Constitution and By-Laws for an “Association of National Federations for Amateur Aquatic Sports Invited to the CARIFTA Games”.

This document was circulated among the Federations prior to the Congress, enabling them to study it.

Hayden Newallo presents a short introduction of the Draft and explains some of the main aspects.

The Cayman Islands delegate, Dominic Ross, proposes to accept the draft as a “working document” that will be studied further by each of the Federations. This proposal is approved by the Congress.

Representative from Aruba, Nicole Hovertsz, suggests to initiate an informational “campaign” with international partners (FINA, CCCAN, UANA), so as not to create any confusion about the objective of the new association.

It is finally decided that Hayden Newallo further work on the document and that all comments by the Federations should be presented to him as well. Comments should be presented no later than 1 October 2009.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Representative from St. Lucia, Jamie Peterkin, requests a clarification on the use of equipment by swimmers in the pool during warm up and training sessions. During FINA meets this is permitted.

Cayman Islands delegate, Dominic Ross, warns for injuries and prefers not to use equipment during warm-up sessions. His proposal is seconded by **Bermuda**. It is necessary, however, to control the application of this agreement.

Some additional thoughts on this matter are discussed: in case there is more than one pool could it be permitted?; could some specific equipment be permitted?; could it be permitted in the warm-up pool but not during warm-up in the competition pool?

Dominic offers to circulate a guideline on this matter and based on that will further the discussion in the future. For now the use of material will not be permitted and the application of this decision shall be policed. Congress approves this.

Representative from Aruba, Nicole Hoevertsz, explains that the International Swimming Federation, FINA, will elect a new President (and a new Bureau) during the World Championships in Rome in July 2009. Two candidates have expressed interest: current President Mustapha Larfaoui, and current Honorary Treasurer, Julio Maglione. The latter has been in contact with the Federations for almost two years now and has sent his ideas and proposals to all National Federations in April 2008. A copy of Mr. Maglione document is once again presented to the CARIFTA Congress. The document clearly explains Mr. Maglione's plan, which seem to be beneficial for all aquatic disciplines and for all regions.

Particular attention is drawn to the fact that it is important for all CARIFTA Federations to be present at the FINA General Congress on 24 July. **Jamaican** delegate reminds all Federation that FINA offers financial assistance, enabling all Federations to be present at the Congress in Rome.

10. HOST OF 2010 CARIFTA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jamaica offers to host 2010 CARIFTA Swimming Championships, in all three disciplines. The proposed dates are the Easter Weekend, from Saturday through Tuesday.

The **Netherlands Antilles (Curaçao)** also offers to host next year's championships, in all three disciplines. The proposed dates are the weekend after Easter.

The two proposals are brought to a vote and lead to the following result:

Curaçao: 6 votes

Jamaica: 8 votes

Jamaica will host the 2010 CARIFTA Championships. Curaçao accepts to be alternate host.

11. FREE WORD

Cayman Islands delegate, Dominic Ross, congratulates Aruba on the organization of this year's CARIFTA Championships.

Jamaica delegate, Jacqueline Walter, congratulates all participating Federations on the good results that were obtained. The times swum were fast and six athletes qualified for the Youth Olympic Games.

Martinique delegate, Robert Marajo, looks forward to receiving the reviewed Guidelines before the deadline.

12. CLOSING REMARKS

With no other business to be discussed, **Aruban Swimming Federation's President, Ronald van den Berg**, adjourns the meeting at 14.40 hours.

Aruba, 26 June 2009.

Nicole Hoevertsz

Secretary General

Aruban Swimming Federation