

June 1, 2009

TO: Convention Attendees

FROM: Duke Zielinski, President

**SUBJECT: Convention 2009, Rosemont, IL
Registration Fees, Forms, Personal Conduct**

Dear Member:

Our annual United States Aquatic Sports ("USAS") Convention is one of the most important events that our members attend. It is here that our organization makes the decisions that frame its long term future. It is here that the legislation is passed that governs our sport. And it is here that you, our members, including our athletes, have your opportunity to be heard as a group and to vote on those issues that most affect you as you participate in our sport. Convention is also a place where you can socialize with others who participate in our sport across the country.

We want to make sure that your participation is a positive, successful, exciting experience. As you prepare to attend, a few reminders may enhance your experience.

Registration Fees. There are two registration fees to attend the Convention. One is payable to USAS to register for the Convention as a whole. The other is a \$25 registration fee payable to USA Synchro, and is used to help defray our costs of conducting our portion of the Convention. The USA Synchro registration fee (check only) will be collected at the USA Synchro registration table when you check in. A form for the USA Synchro registration is included as a part of the USAS/USA Synchro Convention Waiver and Release of Liability.

Guidelines for Personal Conduct at the Convention. In the past, behavior of certain convention attendees in each of the attending sports has been less than exemplary, and that behavior has caused the USAS leadership to ask each of the attending sports to remind our attendees, and particularly the parents of our minor athletes, of certain guidelines that must be adhered to for their safety and enjoyment of the Convention experience. All Convention delegates must comply with the following guidelines established by U.S. Synchronized Swimming.

1. Members must refrain from indiscreet use of alcohol. The possession or use of alcohol, tobacco products or controlled substances by any minor is prohibited throughout the duration of Convention. (Please see our Code of Conduct.)
2. Our Code of Conduct also requires that members refrain from indiscreet or destructive behavior. Put another way, all attendees must refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of U.S. Synchronized Swimming.
3. An adult should be assigned responsibility for the supervision of each minor athlete in attendance at Convention. That adult may establish a curfew for minors under his or her supervision. Minors must adhere to any curfew so established.
4. To insure the safety and propriety of the athletes, there will be no males in minor female athletes' rooms, and no minor female athletes in males' rooms.
5. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in:
 - a. the minor being excluded from further participation in Convention;
 - b. the minor being returned to her or his parents' custody immediately. The parents shall be responsible for getting the athlete home. If the athlete's parents are not in the Chicago area for Convention, the parents will be contacted immediately. U.S. Synchronized Swimming will escort the athlete to the airport and ensure that the athlete is boarded, if necessary as an unaccompanied minor, on a return flight to the commercial airport nearest the athlete's home town. The parents of that athlete will be required to meet the flight upon its arrival, sign for the unaccompanied minor, if

- required by the airline, and escort the athlete to his or her final destination. Any expense incurred by these changes in itinerary will be the expense of the parents; and
- c. further disciplinary action under the provisions of Article 24 of our rules.

Waiver and Acceptance Form. All Convention attendees must sign a waiver acknowledging their acceptance of these guidelines and their willingness to abide by them. In addition, parents of minor athletes must sign a waiver and medical release form, and designate a contact person at Convention who will be responsible for the minor athlete. These waivers must be returned to the National Office prior to the Convention.

Wishing everyone a happy and successful 2009 Convention!!

Sincerely,

Duke Zielinski
President