



## IPC SWIMMING SUMMIT 2009

Brendan Keogh  
National Paralympic Coach  
Swimming Australia Ltd  
[Brendan.Keogh@swimming.org.au](mailto:Brendan.Keogh@swimming.org.au)

### Topics for discussion:

- **IPC Swimming**
  - We must develop a vision for our sport; where are we going? What are we trying to achieve?
  - We have to remove all the hurdles that exist in our sport to drive it forward.
  - Quality control is great....if it promotes quality.
  
- **Meet approval and process**
  - Within Australia all Meets are run by Swimming Australia or member organisations.
  - We run the disability events at our Meets in line with the IPC Swimming rules. In 2006 IPC Swimming approved our rules.
  - At the 2006 IPC Swimming General Assembly Australia proposed that any Nation that had followed this process should have their Meets automatically approved by IPC Swimming. This was voted for and passed by the members.
  - **All Meets should be automatically approved if run by an NPC or its partner (eg Swimming Australia) as long as those Meets are run to a high standard and they are run under the IPC Swimming rules.**
  - All results should be sent through monthly.
  - The current process run by IPC Swimming is holding the sport back. As a member of FINA, Swimming Australia doesn't need to ask for Meet approval for every Meet they run as they are the National Sporting Organisation for the sport and therefore have the responsibility of delivering that sport to a high standard to their members. The same should apply with IPC Swimming.
  - Asking organisations to have entries (Start lists) to IPC Swimming 4 weeks prior to an event is ridiculous when many swim meets don't close their entries until 2 weeks prior to the event.
  
- **Rules need to follow FINA**
  - FINA is the International Organisation for Swimming, they are the sport. We base our part of the sport on FINA and its rules; therefore we must follow those rules extremely closely.
  - By not following the FINA rules closely, IPC Swimming loses credibility and its swimmers are the ones who suffer. (Example: Most swimmers swim in mainstream squads with mainstream coaches and for those coaches to have to teach members of their squad different rules can be difficult, but above all else it is not inclusive. It makes the swimmer with a disability stand out as not being a full part of the group as they have different rules.)
  - **When FINA releases a new rule IPC Swimming should adopt that rule within 4 weeks.**
  - These are the rules of the sport, classification issues to do with the rule can be addressed after the adoption of the rule but should never stop us from adopting a rule.
  
- **Coaches Commission**
  - **Coaches need to have more of a voice in the running of the sport and the future of the sport.**
  - Coaches are the people dealing with the swimmers on a daily basis.
  - Coaches are the people who are pushing the swimmers to higher levels.
  - Coaches are the people who are developing better, more efficient and faster technique.
  - **Current top coaches should have more of a voice in classification (even if they aren't classifiers).**



- **Relays at Paralympic Games**

- **Women should have the opportunity to swim in relays at the Paralympic Games.**
- **Relays should be extra to the total number of events on offer at a Paralympic Games and all relays should be run.**
- Relays are a crucial part of the sport; they encourage teamwork, develop swimmers and are great for spectators and TV.

- **Classification**

- **Elite coaches should be called on to voice their opinion/s of the classification system and any issues that may exist.**
- Coaches are dealing with Paralympic swimmers on a daily basis and understand the technique, the dynamics of propulsion, drag and all facets of the swimmers they are dealing with.
- The classification pathway for classifiers needs to be more transparent.

- **Officials**

- **Officials should be FINA accredited with IPC Swimming offering a course (extension) for officials to gain IPC Swimming accreditation.**

- **Point Score**

- **There are already Nations using a variety of different point scores, IPC Swimming should investigate and adopt/or develop a point score.**
- Point scores are good for comparing swims across classes and events.

- **Major Events**

- First year of quadrennial      - World Short Course (December)
- Second year                      - World Championships (August)
- Third Year                         - Regional Meet (eg Europeans, PanPacs)(August-December)
- Fourth Year                       - Paralympics (August/September/October)
- **Correct dates should be on the calendar further in advance to allow for planning.**