

Working Document

Questions submitted by Clubs within the Far North Coast Area in preparation for the 1st February 2009 meeting in Alstonville to discuss the future affiliation options available to them.

The questions have been extracted from individual submissions and endeavoured to be placed in groupings for ease of continuity and attention by the appropriate official and decreasing repetition throughout the proceedings.

Questions from a NSW perspective on merger with MNC:-

Administration

- If we stay what happens with the positions on the new North Coast Area's executive?
At the inaugural AGM a new committee would be elected adopting the Draft Constitution and By-Laws drawn up by SNSW.
- Will membership of the new Committee be put to a vote immediately or will it comprise equal members of FNC and MNC representatives?
A vote would be taken from the nominees. Suggest a 9 person management group.
- Where will the first meeting be and who will arrange it all and preside over it?
eg if in the lower part of the Area not many from here will go resulting in less representation as voting will be reduced and vice versa.
The inaugural meeting would be presided over by SNSW at a central venue.
- If we amalgamate with Mid North Coast where would the Area meetings be held? To be decided by the new committee.
- Given the large distances involved, how frequently is it envisaged that the management committee would need to meet?
This would be a management decision.

Finance

- Will FNC and MNC be required to contribute an equal amount to the new merged entity, or will funds be contributed on a per club or per swimmer basis?
This is a decision for the merged areas.
- What will happen with any existing funds above the contribution required above? Ditto.
- If some FNC Clubs go to Queensland and some stay in NSW, will funds held by FNC be distributed among clubs equally or on the basis of membership numbers? A decision for FNC.
- Will the new Area of North Coast be given the same amount of development funding that is given now to both Areas? eg the amounts added together.
Yes, also a Development review is being undertaken for the 2009/10 season re increased funding.

Competition

- Given the distances and travel times involved, will it be possible to have 2 carnivals (eg Taree and Lismore) on the same date?

Yes

- Currently, FNC have 2 and MNC 4 major Championship carnivals. Whatever the compromise, parents are certainly going to be hit with petrol, accommodation and meal expenses to attend a joint Championship meet. Any solutions or proposals?

- Will the new North Coast merge carnivals be open to us?

Yes

- The current zoning of regions have been in place for many, many years now accumulating traditions such as annual championships, perpetual trophies etc; will the significance of these events be lost?

- Would it be possible that this region could hold smaller Area championships within the region then combine for overall championships to avoid losing traditions?

Open to new area decision.

Swimmer Development

There is a move to recruit and place a Development Officer in the area

- Same problems as outlined in 'competition' above. Will there be any funding allocated to offset costs incurred attending development camps, meets etc?

No

- What incentives will there be in future for promising NSW country swimmers to stay home and compete at an elite level? At present the only alternative is to move to Sydney.

Leigh Speechley & Lara Davenport: NSWIS recognize Kingscliff as a top pool. Jim Fowlie (NSWIS) has been offering scholarships to Sydney and Macquarie Unis for Country Athletes to move to Sydney.

General

- Will the MOU exist between both states regardless of which way we go? That is if we remain in NSW will it be easy to compete in Queensland and vice versa? Will the MOU cover all carnivals or just the major ones such as the State Championships?

Yes. This may also cover Development, not just events.

The following 3 questions are open to discussion.

- There is a query as to whether the whole of FNC would move to Queensland or just a part of the district? If only a part, where is the dividing line?
- If we go can we come back?
- If we stay can we go at a later time?

Questions from a Queensland perspective on an affiliation with them

Administration

- If we go as an entire Area eg Far North Coast, would we be able to remain as an Area given our size or would we be made to join Gold Coast and, if so, are they happy to have us?

For QLD to decide on consultation with Gold Coast.

- If we amalgamate with Queensland would we be part of Gold Coast or Toowoomba?
- How frequently does the management committee of Gold Coast District meet and are individual club representatives able to attend?
Monthly
- What is the significance of the grading of Clubs in Queensland and how will they affect us?
SQLD do not grade competitions, but BSA grade for competition.

Finance

- What is the annual cost of affiliation with Swimming Queensland / Gold Coast District compared to Swimming NSW / Merged North Coast?
SQLD Area Affiliation \$125, Gold Coast Club Affiliation \$16.50, Individual Affiliation \$6.50, QLD \$29.40
- What would the cost be to affiliate with Queensland Swimming? See SQLD Fees Attachment.
- What would be the individual club and member affiliation fees be? \$125 per club, \$6.50 per Individual
- What would be the commencement date for affiliation? 1 July for swimmers, before 30 September for Clubs.
- Will FNC as a whole or individual FNC clubs be required to contribute funds to the Gold Coast District in proportion to funds already held by GC clubs? For discussion when required. (When Ipswich amalgamated with BSA, Ipswich funds were quarantined to be used for their area.)

Competition

- What would be the structure and guidelines for carnivals in Queensland?
Clubs apply to Regional Association. SQLD run the A Grade meets.
- What is the carnival program for Gold Coast District? See SQLD website.
- When is the program set and how do affiliated clubs get invitational carnival dates allocated?
Programme is set in May-June. There are approx 15 meets over the season.

There is the ability to elect members to the Gold Coast Committee to represent your club/area.

- How are carnivals allocated to clubs and how are they are organized? See previous question.
- FNC currently have 2 Championship and 2 Non Championship long course carnivals plus summer and winter sprint carnivals. What does Gold Coast do in terms of District Championship carnivals? See SQLD Website.
There are Regional Long Course and Short Course Championships on the Gold Coast. Areas can still hold district championships. District Championships are closed meets.
- How are host clubs for these Championships chosen? – roster, application, bidding process etc.
This is by a bidding process at open meetings held at the Miami Club House.
- NSW Country swimmers can compete at Country and Country regional carnivals. Does Queensland have something similar for non metropolitan swimmers?

Swimmer Development

- We currently have 4 levels of swimmer development from Novice up to National level. What is the structure for swimmer development in Queensland and what financial assistance is given? (we currently have to pay airfares to Sydney to attend camps)
Gold Squad – under QLD Institute of Sport
Silver Squad – SQLD
Flippers Squad – SQLD National Age Medalists 18 & Under
Bronze Squad – SQLD National Age Finalists
Junior Development Squad – National Age Qualifiers (costs all covered by SQLD)
Regional have a template underpinning the SQLD Squads in line with the JX qualifiers. Trying to align these.
- What are the details of their development programmes?

Details of programs can be found on the SQLD website.

- Do Queensland have development camps? How do these operate?
- If we were to join Queensland what training development opportunities are there for our swimmers?
- To qualify for Queensland development squads, are times swum at NSW regional and invitational carnivals, or NSW schools competitions acceptable, or do they have to be swum at national or Swimming Queensland sanctioned meets?
Times must be swum at an approved qualifying meet with a SQLD qualified referee, starter. Look at the guidelines.
- What does Gold Coast District do for swimmer development apart from the State body?
Trying to broaden the level of activity and JX involvement.
- Do club coaches attend and participate in development programs, and is there any funding available for this?
ASCTA QLD provide.
- What financial support would Queensland give us to help move our swimmers into the top 10%?
- What are the proposed changes to Queensland development and what input will FNC clubs have in making these changes?
Involved at Regional level.

General

- Can we still compete in NSW competitions, for example, if Ballina move up to Queensland can we compete at a carnival in Grafton for example?
- If we join Gold Coast, will we then require clearance to compete at NSW competitions?