



# BAHAMAS SWIMMING FEDERATION

## 2012 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 2009 Elections

The current Executive Team was elected unopposed in 2009 – this team includes Algernon Cargill, President, John Bradley, First Vice President, Sheena Deveaux, Second Vice President, Kathy Dillette, Secretary General, Val Lowe, Assistant Secretary, and Ken Bain, Treasurer. This team has been focused on expanding the reach of the Federation globally through direct linkages with CCCAN and the Bahamas Olympic Association and in this regard, Algernon Cargill was elected as the Vice President of the English Caribbean for CCCAN and also as a Vice President of The Bahamas Olympic Association. These positions have brought considerable benefits to the Federation and have also positioned The Bahamas as a significant voice in Regional and Global Aquatic Sports.

Our focus remains to promote a swimmer friendly Federation and to increase the profile and results of Aquatics in The Bahamas through a sharp focus on ensuring that every person who wants to maximize their potential in swimming or water polo has a positive and swimmer friendly Federation that supports this dream. A key phrase adopted in 2003 that is still a widely held belief: *Swimmers/Athletes first, Federation Second, and Parents Third!* continues to be the mantra of the Federation's executives.

The relationships we have developed with Corporate Bahamas and the Government of the Bahamas position us as a productive and focused Federation that is highly respected locally and globally. The team, though small, has done an excellent job and I thank them on behalf of the entire Federation for their commitment over the past 3 years.

### **BSF Rule Book. Athlete Policy and Constitutional Proposals**

Over the past few years, we have made significant enhancements to the BSF Rules and Regulations, all geared towards ensuring that the Federation understands the focus should be on what is best for the athletes, and how can we ensure that the Federation's goals are aligned with that of its members. We have been able to remove many of the punitive rules that sought to punish instead of reward athletes and teams and the major rule passed at the last Constitutional Meeting was the extension of the Executive Term from 2 to 3 years. Similar to the Bahamas Olympic Association, and consistent with the Olympic movement, consideration should be given to extending the term to 4 years to ensure that the focus will remain the same during an Olympic quadrennial.

The rules proposed this year are attached to this report for review and discussion by the members.



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The Athletes Policy adopted in 2006 streamlined the National Team selection process, the requirement to represent the Bahamas at the International level for subvented athletes, and the additional requirements for all subvented athletes and those intending to represent The Bahamas internationally, to participate in the National Championships. This policy together with the objective input of the Federation Executives is used as a base for continuing recommendations for subventions and team positions. A similar policy is being adopted by the Bahamas Government for athletes receiving Government subventions as there has been a trend in other Federations for subvented athletes to opt out of participating in some regional and even international competitions. We continue to strictly enforce this policy and overall, the support from the Federation and athletes has not resulted in any unfavourable recommendations/actions over the past three year period.

### **Focus**

The current local economic conditions continue to affect our fundraising, and throughout the past three years, our major sponsors have continued to support the Federation. Without question, the largest sponsor is the Government of The Bahamas who has provided an airplane for the CARIFTA Team to travel every CARIFTA, and also provides the Federation with an Annual Grant and this year, increased the subvention of our athletes from 1 in 2003 to 10 in 2012. This is excellent!

Royal Bank also pledged its increased support for our National Championships this year and truly exemplifies the actions of a model Corporate Citizen. We are grateful for RBC's continued and uninterrupted support and are pleased to advise that this support is already pledged for 2013 – largely because of our relationship and secondly, because of the visible quality of the work the Federation displays. Royal Bank continues to also support our Academic Bahamian Swimmer Awards and this opportunity enables our swimmers to demonstrate that they are not only model athletes, but excellent students.

Cable Bahamas continues to broadcast our National Championships at no cost to the Federation and the Royal Bank of Canada has committed to continuing sponsorship of our National Swimming Championships and we this exposure has brought a national focus on swimming as our National Championships remain the only event that is broadcast live on Cable's network. .

The challenge developing is the National Sports Authority and the decreased availability of the Betty Kelly-Kenning Aquatic Center. Simply put, this policy has not been beneficial to the Federation as the increased administration and proposed costs to use the BKKAC even for local meets is having an adverse effect on our Federation. Our team has



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had several meetings with the Sports Authority Executives and will extend these meetings to the Government unless we can work out a favourable win/win situation for all clubs. The downside for the Federation has been that the equipment at the BKKAC was not being satisfactorily maintained, the heaters were not functioning properly, and now that they are, have not been turned on by the NSA, and the facility does not appear to be satisfactorily maintained and/or cleaned regularly. On behalf of the Federation, I must recognize the contributions of David Morley in networking with the NSA and the Government of The Bahamas in not only readying the facilities for CARIFTA 2012, but serving as our representative on the NSA and fronting all communications with the key stakeholders about the facility.

The water polo team continues to grow, and prior to 2007, we were not seeing any real growth in this program, Coach Lotty has demonstrated his commitment to reviving the program and his efforts are commendable. I challenge him to reintroduce a female water polo team and to maintain his focus on ensuring that the Bahamas is represented at Regional Championships.

SWIFT Swimming is commended for its introduction of a National Learn to Swim Program at several primary schools in The Bahamas and its negotiations with the Ministry of Education and Youth Sports and Culture for an expansion of this program, on behalf of ALL swimming clubs, will extend the reach of swimming in The Bahamas. I am especially pleased of their success at the Thelma Gibson Primary School and Schools in Gambier and Adelaide and expanded plans at the Sandilands Primary School. The Water Survival program also introduced by the YMCA and Swim to Empower, funded by the Bahamas Olympic Association, and has also enabled the Federation to expand water safety and survival knowledge outside of New Providence.

Mancer Roberts was appointed as the Secretary to the Open Water Swimming Technical Committee for CCCAN in 2010 and will be working very closely with the Federation to expand the Open Water Swimming in The Bahamas. The FAC, Conch Man, Abaco and SWIFT programs are very successful and the Federation will be focused on adding Open Water Swimming to our National Championships.

Our Female Relay team that won our FIRST Pan AM Medal, a Bronze in 2007, fell short of our goal to represent The Bahamas at the 2012 Olympic Games, BUT is the highest ranking program in CCCAN. . We certainly believe that we have the talent and with continued focus and increased opportunities, and of course, expanded funding; The Bahamas will one day have a relay team at the Olympic Game Level.



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Without question, Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace has been an amazing Ambassador for our Sport. She is not only a double and repeat NCAA Champion, but secured our first World Medal at the 2010 World Short Course Championships in Dubai in the 50 meters freestyle. Her performances at the 2012 London Olympic Games, that I had the opportunity to witness, were amazing. She is our first Olympic Finalist in the 50 meter freestyle, and also is our first semi-finalist in the 100 meters freestyle.

The Federation is committed to developing our swimmers beyond CARIFTA/junior level and did provide an opportunity for our female relay team to qualify for the London Olympics. We will start earlier this year and will develop a pool of relay swimmers and will also encourage our male swimmers to duplicate the results of our outstanding females.

Locally, the hosting of the 2012 CARIFTA Games was a success and I must thank the Committee, particularly the hard-working Finance Team, led by Cecile Greene, and all of the core committee members that worked to ensure that these Championships were indeed the best ever. The feedback from all visiting countries is that it will be difficult to duplicate the Bahamas' success and the committee has cemented our reputation as an outstanding organizing committee. A special thanks to our Title Sponsor, BTC, for its support of CARIFTA, and the gifts to the entire team.

We are very proud that we have more Bahamians qualified as International Judging Officials than any other local Federation. Algernon Cargill, Mancer Roberts, and Kathy Dillette, Dr. Susana Campbell, and John Bradley are FINA Officials and Dewey Taylor has been recommended for the 2013-2017 list. Mancer Roberts participated as judging official at the 2010 World Championships, the 2011 Pan American Games and has represented the Bahamas with pride. John Bradley, Mancer Roberts and Algernon Cargill represented The Bahamas at the 2012 Swimming World Conference in Moscow and John and Mancer also participated in the Swimming Coaches conference held prior to the World Swimming Conference in Moscow

Mancer Roberts is commended for his excellent work in leading the team of local judging officials and coordinating all local meets – his contribution in getting all Officials ready for CARIFTA was exceptional.



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## Membership

Swimmer Membership has grown each year as well as the number of registered clubs and paid BSF members.

A summary is as follows:

	Swimmer Registrations	Masters	BSF Registered Clubs
2003	?		6
2004	387		7
2005	478		9
2006	514	25	8
2007	538	38	8
2008	601	42	8
2009	663	48	10
2010	694	52	11
2011	709	56	11
2012	732	61	12

The Mantas Water Polo Club, Team Orca, Sea Waves and Alpha Aquatics were registered during this period and this has increased our member clubs to 12 registered clubs. The Growth in swimmer registration is also positive and speaks to the extended reach of our program.



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**International and Regional Competitions**

The following tables show The Bahamas' representation in international championships and medals won/best performances.

We continue to enjoy considerable success at the Junior levels and are continuing to focus our strategies on translating this success to the international senior level.

The declined medal performances at CISC/CCCAN are a direct result of the Bahamas deciding to field smaller teams with only qualified athletes and practically no relays at these championships.

Our goal remains to win the CARIFTA Swimming Championships in both points and medals – we have won in medals during 2006 and 2007 and narrowly lost in the points category. Our Team's performance in 2012 was amazing!

MEDAL SUMMARY										
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CARIFTA	35	33	65	65	79	50	49	35	41	49
CISC		30		52		42		39		28
CCAN	3		8		22		10		28	
CAC				5				8		
World U.	1									
Pan Am					1					

2003	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	18	7	10	35
CCCAN		1	2	3
WORLD U			1	1

2008	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	22	18	10	50
CISC	15	17	10	42

2004	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	13	12	8	33
CISC	10	9	11	30

2009	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	18	17	14	49
CCCAN	2	3	5	10

2005	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	24	20	21	65
CCCAN	1	3	4	8

2010	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	8	13	14	35
CISC	12	14	13	39
CAC	2	3	3	8

2006	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	19	24	22	65
CISC	27	12	13	52
CAC		3	2	5

2011	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	12	13	16	41
CCCAN	6	17	5	28
PAN AM	0	0	1	

2007	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	42	17	20	79
CCCAN	7	6	9	22
Pan AM			1	1

2012	G	S	B	T
CARIFTA	13	20	16	49
CISC	13	10	5	28



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**National Championships**

The National Championships continue to grow and the BSF remains grateful to our perennial sponsor, RBC Royal Bank of Canada. 2011 and 2012 Nationals were FINA sanctioned meets for the London Olympic Games and the 2012 Championships was particularly memorable as it was the last qualifier in the Americas and we had several international swimmers competing and qualifying for the Olympic Games. Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace also re-qualified at these Championships.

Swimmers seeking to represent The Bahamas internationally and/or swimmers receiving subventions are required to compete in these championships unless they have received a written exemption from the BSF. The Barracudas Swim Club won the championships in 2009 and 2010, and Swift Swimming won 2011 and 2012.

A summary of the RBC Nationals Results (points) from 2003-2007 is below. The data is sorted by the most recent results.

CLUBS	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Abaco								27	268	291.5
Barracudas	1308	1028	1519	1858	2006	2197	2153	1802	1310	1480
Blue Marlins								165	91	135
Dolphins	1128	989.5	965.5	771	688	681	745.5	1186	486	610
FAC	669.5	659	525	275.5	161	96.5	29	263.5	229	365.5
Flamingos	106	53	-	-	17	4	2			
LLST									320	284
Lyford Cay				19						
Mantas										26
ORCA								40	135	128
Sea Bees	434	509	813	1168	1293	967	1369	680	1604	733
Sea Waves				20	20	48	-	-	2	31
Swift			1680	1032	1529	1447	1326	1719	2153	2187
TPAC	365	303								
YMCA	163.5	328	395	578	474	688.5	369	219		



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3212	2730	3009	2923	2872	2979	2929	5882	6597	6271
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 DID NOT PARTICIPATE

### Local/Club Meets

These continue to be the highlight of the year with the larger crowds at the meets where the younger swimmers participate. A special thanks to Mancor Roberts for taking the lead on deck as the Referee at the majority of these meets. Through his leadership, we are developing a fine cadre of officials and I now send a plea out for more parents and supporters to join the small group of volunteers on deck as a meet official.

### Water Polo

A special thanks to Chris Illing and Paul King for providing the financial and technical support to maintain the water polo program. Of course, Coach Lotti, particularly through his aim in rebuilding the program should also be congratulated for his stewardship. The program does require more funding and parental support and the Federation will refocus on building this program as it is critical to our continued development and should not be allowed to falter.

The Water Polo program is promoted as a complementary program to competitive swimming and also an opportunity for swimmers who may not have attained one of the top qualifying times to continue to contribute to the Federation by participating in this alternative sport at the international level.

### Bahamas Olympic Association

A special thanks to the Bahamas Olympic Association for its continued direct sponsorship of our Federation through the provision of Olympic Solidarity Funding for BSF senior female relay team, senior athletes through the IOC Olympic Scholarship programme, Swim to Empower through the IOC Sport for All programme as well as providing much needed Adidas uniforms for our National Teams.





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I thank everyone for their continued contribution to the development of Aquatics in The Bahamas and will continue to focus on the expansion of Aquatics in The Bahamas and the creation of more opportunities for everyone.

There are many persons who contribute to the success of the program and I thank everyone for their continued support and ask them all for their continued support and shared vision.

Algernon Cargill  
BSF President