

Chapter 6.5

Winning story

Amateur Swimming Federation of Fiji

**Dennis Miller – President
Fiji Swimming Federation**

“We are developing a more professional approach in the way they deal with matters related to the sport”

Fiji Swimming is made up of an Executive Committee (President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer), the Executive Board (2 club representatives and Executive Committee members), and seven sub-committees (Sponsorship Marketing & Communication Committee, High Performance Committee, Development Committee, Registration Accreditation Committee, Technical & Competition Management Committee, Selection Committee and Appeals Committee). There are currently seven clubs affiliated with Fiji Swimming, (five in Suva City and one in Nadi Town). All officials, administrators and coaches work on a voluntary basis.



How have you contributed to the development of the key players in your federation?

We have organised and coordinated technical workshops for officials, squad camps and regular board meetings. We have also created “learn to swim” programmes to develop the sport across the Fijian population, particularly in the rural areas of Fiji.

What kind of programmes have you used to put your athletes, coaches and officials in the best position for success?

We have done several things to position our athletes, coaches and officials for success. These include:

- Scheduling regular training camps for the two squads we have developed – the Development Squad and the Youth Squad.
- Scheduling annual weekend swimming conferences for coaches and managers
- Establishing official selection criteria to choose the swimmers and coaches who represent Fiji at international competitions
- Encouraging Fiji Swimming Clubs to participate in a range of events, including off-shore, international swimming championships and swimming meets outside of Fiji (e.g. Arafua Games in Darwin, Australia; Wharenui Winter Gala in Christchurch, New Zealand; and New Caledonia Nationals in Noumea, New Caledonia)
- Developing an appropriate code of conduct for Swimming
- Creating a long-term development plan for Fiji Swimming

In your opinion, how have these programmes helped develop your athletes, coaches and officials?

These programmes and initiatives have helped create an environment that supports the development of Swimming in Fiji. Those involved in Fiji Swimming as officials and managers are developing a more professional approach in the way they deal with matters related to the sport. This is especially important as swimming continues to grow in Fiji and we need more sophisticated procedures to organise meets and maintaining proper conduct and administration of the sport here in Fiji.

When deciding to organise an aquatics event, what are key elements your federation takes into consideration?

Fiji Swimming considers several key elements when deciding whether (and how) to organise a swimming event. These elements include:

- Budget
Identifying a realistic budget for various events
- Venue
Determining whether the proposed venue is FINA-compliant
- Participants
Knowing how many swimmers will be participating in an event
- Volunteers
Ensuring we have enough volunteers to run a successful meet
- Expertise
Ensuring we have qualified stroke judges, starters and officials to run a meet
- Weather
Making sure weather conditions will be conducive for a successful event, especially for open water swimming events