



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**2011 YMCA Short Course, Masters & Diving
National Swimming Championships
Facility Update: 01/27/11**

In an effort to keep everyone informed with regard to the Ft. Lauderdale Aquatic Complex (FLAC) grandstand closure for the upcoming YMCA National Championships, we share the following information and chart of work as we know it today.

- Initial communication regarding the closure of the grandstand seating at the FLAC was sent out to all affected audiences on January 20, 2011.
- National Task Group (John Mendell, Y Meet Director, Jim Ryan, Y Competitive Advisory Committee, Bob McDowell, Chair, Y Competitive Advisory Committee, Ed Miller, Y Officials Chair, Mike Leonard, Y Coaches Representative, Noel Brendefur, YUSA Sports Specialist, Jim Weaton, YUSA/MSPS National Events Director) convened on January 21 to begin planning immediate steps to collect information and develop a strategy to conduct successful national meets.
- Participation in National Y Swim Coaches Advisory Group (January 25) and National Y Swim Group Representatives (January 26) to inform, answer questions and accept helpful feedback. It was the overwhelming consensus of those taking part in these calls that the meet should still be held in Fort Lauderdale, for a number of very good and valid reasons, and that any plan must put the athletes first and have as its primary goal "not to disrupt our athletes' "Y Nationals" experiences considering the circumstances."
- Safety assessment of remaining facility requested of FLAC.
- All contracts (facility, hotel, insurance) related to the national meet under review by YUSA.
- In exploring all options, alternate event locations in Ft. Lauderdale and transportation issues are being explored and reviewed.
- Reconfiguration of current facility being prepared and presented by FLAC and national task group for further discussion with facility staff, city officials and others. Seating accommodation alternate options that affect athletes, families, officials and volunteers being explored.
- Alternate ticket options being explored.

All of the above work will lead to the on-site visit to Ft. Lauderdale by Jim Ryan, Mike Leonard, Karyn Boston (YUSA legal counsel), John Mendell, Jay Thomas (USA Swimming), Noel Brendefur and Jim Weaton **January 31-February 2**. This team will begin to visually inspect, meet with the appropriate parties, process all information collected and prepare a logistical plan

to conduct Y nationals. We hope **by February 10**, to be able to make everyone aware of our plans in more detail and let you know how they will affect each of you.

We respectfully remind everyone that, with time being short and the situation being what it is, coaches, families, officials and volunteers coming to the meet will need to be prepared for some sacrifices ahead to deal with this unfortunate situation. In advance, we appreciate your continued patience and support as we deal with this unexpected development and, with your support, we will make this the best "Y Nationals" experience for all.

John Mendell, Short Course Meet Director

Claudia Multer, Masters Meet Director

Gary Cox, Diving Meet Director

Jim Weaton, National Director of Events, YUSA/MSPS

Bob McDowell, Chair, National YMCA Competitive Advisory Committee

Noel Brendefur, YUSA Staff Liaison, National YMCA Competitive Advisory Committee