



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Steve Connock  
**Phone:** (513) 633-3860  
**Email:** adminvc@swimohio.com

**Ohio Swimming Inc and Lake Erie Swimming Inc announce plans to merge into a single new LSC.**

**Oxford & Bay Village, OH December XX, 2023** – Ohio Swimming Inc (OSI) and Lake Erie Swimming (LESI) have announced plans to merge their independent LSC's into a single new LSC in the State of Ohio. The LSC (Local Swimming Committee) is an administrative division of USA Swimming with supervisory responsibilities within certain geographic boundaries designated by USA Swimming.

Athlete Representatives from both OSI and LESI met during the USA Swimming Workshop on April 21, 2023 in Denver Colorado to collaborate and discuss how a merger would directly benefit athletes. Below are a few of the merger gains identified by our athletes:

- LSC Unification - combine resources and expertise to deliver high quality services, programming & support throughout Ohio under a single consolidated LSC.
- Enhanced Competition - improve the competition position & experience by adding quality venues; offering higher levels of competition by bringing all Ohio athletes together.
- Strengthen Operational Efficiencies/Strengthen Financial Position - maximizing results through minimizing costly duplications.
- Improve Member retention/attract new families - the merger will re-energize the base as we strategically plan for long term future successes.

Jim Peterfish, OSI General Chair and Vince Colwell, LESI General Chair have commented "Today marks a historic and exciting milestone for all of us as we combine our exceptionalism to create new levels of achievement and success in competitive swimming for every athlete, family member, coach, volunteer and community within the State Ohio. Jim and Vince added "We are eager to begin the merger planning process immediately with an announcement during mid 2024 of our Merger "live" date.

**ABOUT OHIO SWIMMING INC AND LAKE ERIE SWIMMING INC**

OSI and LESI express their sincere appreciation to their 100+ Clubs, 9000+ Athletes, 800+ Coaches, 500+ Officials and countless volunteers that continue to pledge their support in making USA Swimming Competition in Ohio a rewarding lifelong experience.

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