

**Central Zone Athlete Committee—Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM CT**  
**Via Conference Call**

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### **I. Call to Order and Attendance**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Swanson at 7:04 PM CT. Attendance was taken.

Those Present: Jack Swanson, Brad Jacobs, Patrick Hunter, Joe Gazzarato, Erin McCarthy, Ashton Pearson, Emma Schaetz

Those Absent: Sophia Brauer, Joncy Mastel, Peyton Werner, Lexi Monty, Craig Tompkins, Jack Van Meter, Amy Schulz, Bailey Grinter

### **II. Approval of Minutes from Past Meetings**

Swanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the past meetings in November in February. A motion was made. Seconded. All in favor.

### **III. AEC, Central Zone, and National Committee Updates**

Swanson gave an update on the Athletes Executive Committee and on the Spring Zone meetings. He hopes to cover some higher-level information on mission statements and LSC structures with future programming. The AEC has discussed having a governance and training camp for athletes, which would include all four zones. It is still in its preliminary stages, but it would focus on athlete committees, LSC structure, as well as incorporate a training aspect. Swanson asked the Committee as to what time of year would be best to have this. Several Committee members felt that this would work better after Spring season-ending championships as attendance would be better supported by coaches. The first or second weekend after Easter is one timeframe that could possibly work.

Jacobs and McCarthy reported on the Rules and Regulations Committee meeting, which was held June 9-10 in Seattle. There was extensive discussion on the governance proposal which will be a major topic of discussion at Convention. This proposal was recommended for approval, however, all House of Delegates members are encouraged to read the legislation fully, attend information sessions, and make an informed decision based off of their own points of view. There was also a piece of legislation involving water temperatures for open water meets. Another piece of legislation involves adding another tier of athlete memberships which is designed to help build the base and aid in insurance coverage. Some changes to Board of Review procedures have also been proposed. There were also a significant number of housekeeping items.

Swanson provided an update on the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee has also been focused on the governance proposal, and is taking a big-picture approach to the proposed changes from transitioning swimming governance from a management perspective to a governance perspective. More educational information should be available soon.

Hunter provided an update on the Officials Committee, which will be leading a meeting of the LSC Officials Chairs in Houston June 16-17. This will provide several informational and educational opportunities for the LSC Officials Chairs. Hunter will be delivering a presentation entitled, "Athletes and Officials: We're on the Same Team," which will focus on how athletes and officials can better work together and focus on looking at officiating from an athlete-centered perspective.

Gazzarato reported that he has no major updates from Registration and Membership, but that the Committee has not seen the full proposal in regards to the new membership category.

#### **IV. LSC Updates**

Gazzarato also provided an update on Michigan Swimming, which will host its first sanctioned open water event in two weeks. He stated that it would have been helpful to have some more guidance from USA Swimming as far as advice and instruction for executing the event. Additionally, the Michigan athlete representatives are looking into the idea of having some sort of athlete committee retreat.

Schaetz provided an update on Wisconsin. At their House of Delegates meeting in April, two new athlete representatives were elected, but will not be acting until September. This will allow them to shadow and learn from the current athlete representatives in the meantime. Wisconsin is also looking into the idea of an athlete retreat. She has also been in communication with Paul Stockett in regards to the diversity and inclusion legislation passed in Indiana, and is hoping to propose something similar in Wisconsin.

McCarthy provided an update on Minnesota. There has been significant discussion in regards to the structure of championship meets, as the LSC only has two indoor LCM facilities. Minnesota is also working to improve the quality of competition of their senior LSC championship, in the hopes that swimmers/teams will choose to attend this meet as opposed to alternatives outside of the LSC. Schaetz noted that Wisconsin holds many of their championship meets before the higher-level meets outside of the LSC to encourage participation in the LSC championship meets. They also allow the top seed in finals for each event to pick the song for the A-Final parade for that event in finals.

Swanson posed the question as to if any LSCs have senior championships in December. Pearson commented that Missouri Valley does this; Hunter added that New England has a senior championship just prior to Christmas with a 15-18 age group championship in March.

Pearson provided an update on Missouri Valley. They had their first athlete committee meeting in April, and has also worked on instituting several means of social media communication, as well as an athlete newsletter. Missouri Valley also elected two new athlete representatives in April.

Jacobs provided a brief update on Indiana and some of the recent projects in their LSC.

#### **V. Review of USA Swimming Mission Statement and Core Values**

Swanson provided a brief review of the USA Swimming Mission Statement and Core Values and asked that the Committee keep these in mind throughout the discussion.

## **VI. Review of Spring Zone Meeting**

Swanson commented that he thought that the Zone meeting was successful overall, and asked for feedback from the Committee.

Most of the Committee found the content beneficial.

## **VII. Central Zone Newsletter**

Swanson commented that this is something that is important, but realizes that due to time constraints has not been done as consistently as desirable. He asked the Committee if a newsletter is something that the Committee considers to be important, and, if so, if any Committee members would be interested in contributing.

Several ideas were proposed. Gazzarato commented that he felt that the number of people who actually read the content is low, and that the time and effort to produce something like this could be better suited for social media and other initiatives.

Hunter suggested that the Committee work with the Zone Directors to review the Central Zone Newsletter, and the Committee could be once source of content for this publication. This would then allow the Committee to reach a larger audience.

Another suggestion was to post short updates, either on social media or via email, on a more frequent basis. This would be simpler, but more frequent, communication.

Swanson proposed than a Zone Athlete Newsletter not be continued going forward, but that the Committee write articles on a regular basis, which can be shared via social media.

Jacobs also suggested that all Central Zone athlete representatives attending Convention write a short bio that can be shared with other representatives throughout the Zone.

Swanson asked if any Committee members would be interested in writing articles for the Zone.

## **VIII. Pre-Convention Meeting**

Swanson suggested that the Committee have a Conference call prior to Convention (approximately one month before) to field any questions on legislation and any feedback, questions, or suggestions for anything to be discussed at the Zone meeting. This will be open to other LSC athlete representatives, not just Committee members.

Hunter added that it would be helpful if any concerns in regards to items being voted on at the Zone meeting be made known to Swanson and others prior to the meeting so that these ideas can be shared through the appropriate channels and allow the meeting to run more efficiently.

Swanson also asked that all Committee members attend the Zone preview meeting on Wednesday night, to ensure that everyone is on the same page to help the Zone meeting run more efficiently.

#### **IX. Central Zone Athlete Committee Mission Statement Task Force**

Swanson explained that the Committee is working on developing a mission statement and asked if any Committee members would be interested in this task. Swanson, Jacobs, Hunter, and Schaez expressed an interest to help.

#### **IV. Adjourn**

Motion was made. Seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Hunter