

MINNESOTA SWIMMING, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes 21 February 2006

Approved as Amended
18 April 2006

Executive Board: David Braun, General Chair
Present: Neil Mahoney, Senior Athlete Rep.
Paul Lundsten, Age Group Vice Chair
Absent: Olga Espinoza, Sr Coach Representative

David Goble, Admin. Vice Chair
Al Ness, Finance Vice Chair

Dennis Dale, Sr Vice Chair

Directors: Eric Seversen, Jr Coach Representative
Present: Rick Biggs, Officials Chair
Absent: Kathy Czuprynski, Safety Coordinator
Junior Athlete Rep.- Open

Rocky O'Neill, Technical Planning Chair
Gail Andersen, Secretary
Bob Pearson, Ex-Officio

Standing Cmte Liz Cutter, Legislative Chair
Chairs: Cassy Shapley, Registration/Membership
Present: Rocky O'Neill, Time Standards Cmte Chair
Natalie Kuramoto, Nominating Cmte Chair
Absent: Equipment Chair – Sarah Stallkamp
Marlene Goblisch, Adaptive Swimming Chair
Sarah Solfelt, Outreach Committee Chair

John Witzel, Board of Review Chair
Sheryl McGuire, Sanction Coordinator
Michael Bougie, NTV Chair
Paul Windrath, webmaster
Susan McNeely, State Records Chair
Pat Anderson, Central Zone Cmte

General Ron Murphy, UNA; Billy Howard, MCA; Ellen Youngers, ROC;
Membership: Mark Davis, Ann Urschel, LLOYD Larsen, FOXJ; David Bentz, WOLF
Shawn DeLeary, Jim Rossel, SHRK; Karen Nelson, Denise Armbruster, NHCP;

1. Call to Order: 7:36 pm by GC Braun (quorum of 7 present)
Additions to Agenda none

2. Review of Minutes 2006-01-17

Action: Motion to Approve: Goble; Second: Lundsten
Motion carried

3. NEW BUSINESS

3a. Proposed Legislation “New Fee Schedule for Club Membership” (Goble/Shapley)

Action: Motion to adopt Legislation: “To provide a monetary incentive for year-round renewing clubs to have their charters approved early in the membership year. The club charter renewal fee would be based on the schedule ...” by Goble; Second: Lundsten

Discussion:

Shapley: Coach and swimmer registrations cannot be processed without the Charter of the Club first being filed and approved. Late charter filing and approval has caused difficulties during the December / January timeframe when swimmer, coach and non-athlete registrations come in which cannot be filed as attached to un-chartered clubs. The fee schedule is intended as incentive to get filings submitted timely. The Club Charter application form will be posted on MSI website. Process only requires a check, 2 non-athlete registrations (Coach and Safety Officer) and the Coach’s Safety Certifications. (Updates to personnel on the Charters can be made at any time.) Submittals will be date-stamped as received. The same Charter fee will apply (\$100) as has been the norm unless filings are late whereby penalties accrue per the schedule.

Lundsten: Many clubs are not fully organized for the fall by the first of October. Applying the first level of penalties so early in the season does not recognize the realities of fall start-up.

Friendly Amendment: “Revise fee schedule to hold \$100 base fee through 31 October then proceed as proposed beginning 1 November.” by: Braun; Second, Andersen.

Friendly Amendment accepted by the Authors.

Motion to adopt Legislation as Amended:
motion carried - unanimous

3b. "2006 - 2007 Meet Schedule"

(Lundsten)

Action: Motion to approve "Fall / Winter 2006-07 Meet Schedule" by Lundsten; Second: Goble.

Discussion: Braun noted that the Women's Big Ten Championships may be at the UofM Aquatic Center on weekend of 10 February 2007; Central Zone Sections Meet are weekend of 10 March 2007.

Vote on motion to approve: *Motion carried.* -unanimous.

Action: Motion to approve "Spring / Summer 2007 Meet Schedule" by Lundsten; Second: Braun

Discussion:

Lundsten indicated this is the schedule approved last month with the split weekend Long Course State Meet. Also, the schedule changes the July 'A' Meet to be on a separate weekend from the July B/C Meets.

Action: Motion to Amend Schedule to Prior Years' Finals Weekends: C-Finals July 21-22; A/B/C Finals July 27-29; Long Course State Meet August 2-5, 2007. by O'Neill; Second: Braun

Discussion:

O'Neill noted that UofM Aquatic Center is the best LC pool in the region and O'Neill believes all Minnesota swimmers should have an opportunity to swim there. The split meet format may cause one of the meets to be located elsewhere due to the cost of UofM pool for a potential meet host.

Larsen (FOXJ) suggested that a split weekend format shortens the LC season even further. He also reiterated Solfelt's opinion (January) that the swimmers want to swim with teammates rather than splitting for Finals and also her comment about the impact on families to attend Finals two meets.

O'Neill responded to a question: his motion to amend does not imply any change to the overall format of the LC State meet.

Davis (FOXJ) said that he does not believe that the split meet(s) would be even minimally profitable to a host club and that the meets may not be worth bidding on.

Lundsten reiterated his concern that the LC State meet as formatted in the past is a "marathon" with a "survival" aspect for swimmers rather than an opportunity to swim well. He noted that the UofM pool is available both weekends to host the split meet(s).

Bentz (WOLF) suggested that the meet may be more a "marathon" for coaches than for the swimmers. Swimmers and coaches choose event participation based on each swimmer's goals for the meet.

Mahoney concurred that the P/F format is not taxing for the senior swimmers but did highlight the overcrowding for warm-ups.

Bougie noted that the Age Group Timed Finals get more condensed time-wise every year and also that the extended split warm-up may not be good for the younger swimmers.

Howard (MCA) noted that there are still a number of issues that have not been addressed in the proposed split weekend LC Finals format.

Vote on O'Neill Amendment:

motion to amend carried (1 opposed)

Vote on motion to approve 2007 LC meet Schedule as Amended

motion carried (unanimous)

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

a. General Chair

(Braun)

i.) GC Braun reported on the Big Ten Women's Championships. Swimmers from Minnesota coming back for the meet were outstanding. Also, the Gopher Women did extremely well placing a close second.

Action: Motion to send congratulatory letter from MSI to Gopher Coaches Kelley Kremer and Terri Nieszner.

by Braun; second: Goble.

motion carried (1 abstain)

ii) Financials look very favorable. An Investment Policy is being developed by the Financial Committee.

iii.) Work continues on the "Redbook".

iv.) GC Braun reported that, as previously indicated in closed session to the full Board, the Executive Committee has determined to reject application by John Sfire for individual membership in MSI and as a coach. A letter notifying Sfire dated 6 February 2006 was forwarded to Sfire notifying him of this action and citing reasons for the rejection of application for membership.

b. Age Group Vice Chair (Lundsten)

- i.) Inconsistencies have been found between the printable version of the 2005-06 Time Standards and the Team Manager Time Standard file. Where inconsistency exists, swimmers should use the slower of the two times for determining qualifying times. This will be in effect through the remainder of the Fall-Winter 2005-06 season. Inconsistencies are expected to be resolved before the beginning of the 2006 Spring-Summer season.
- ii.) Summer Season meet zoning now is available.
- iii.) Meet bids for 2006-07 Seasons are due 24 April. These will be voted upon at the 13 May HoD meeting.

c. Finance Vice Chair (Ness)

- i.) Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2006 indicates that finances are in good condition.
- ii.) Finance Committee is preparing an Investment Policy Statement to be submitted as proposed legislation.
- iii.) Committees should submit budget requests for the 2006-07 Budget as soon as possible.

d. Senior Athlete Representative (Mahoney)

- i.) Gathering information on the V8 Splash Tour for upcoming sites.
- ii.) Planning SWIM program presentations for summer Y and Country Club swimming groups.
- iii.) Sr. Rep will propose a candidate to the General Chair for appointment as Jr. Athlete Representative.

e. Administrative Vice Chair no report

h. Senior Vice Chair no report

f. Junior Coach Representative no report

i. Senior Coach Representative no report

g. Junior Athlete Representative no report

5. DIRECTOR REPORTS

a. Technical Planning Chair (O'Neill)

- i.) O'Neill commends AGC Lundsten for bringing forward and pursuing the issues regarding the LC State Meet format.

b. Officials Chair (Biggs)

- i.) Current Minnesota certified officials: 40 Referees; 22 Starters; 96 Stroke/Turn Judges; 33 trainees.
- ii.) Training for current Stroke/Turn officials is planned for 29 April.
- iii.) Referees' Training Clinic will be scheduled for Aug/September.

c. Ex Officio no report

d. Safety Coordinator written report submitted: *(inserted by amendment)*

1) *Safety Training for Swim Coaches on April 1 at Highview Middle School in New Brighton at 12 noon. I will be the instructor.*

2) *I have secured Sandi Blumit from Peak Insurance for a talk after the HOD in May. Clubs are encouraged to attend this informative seminar after the meeting. She will be available for questions after. This information is important for clubs.*

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. National Times Verification (Bougie)

- i.) Fine notices have been sent out for non-registered swimmers who participated in meets.
- ii.) Number of unregistered swimmers entered in meets is declining.

b. Registration/Membership Cmte (Shapley)

- i.) Swimmer registrations are still coming in strong (5,258) as compared to February of previous years. Non-athlete registrations are also up.
- ii.) Two new clubs have been chartered: "GSL"-Glencoe Silver Lake- as a provisional club and "NRTS" -New Richmond Tigersharks.
- iii.) Seasonal Registrations will be available 10 March through 7 August.

c. Sanction Coordinator (McGuire)

- i.) Awards are specified in the Meet Information templates. Clubs have questioned the specifics of those requirements in light of the awards policies recently put into place.
- ii.) ALEX has requested permission to issue computer-generated custom Time Standard Achievement Certificates for A/B Finals. These would incorporate the logo from the awards. *No objection from the Board.*

d. Board of Review (Witzel)

Reported on USAS Workshop for LSC Board of Review Chairs attended in Atlanta 3-4 February.

Witzel noted the USAS ByLaws “Template 6.10 with comments” regarding make-up of Boards of Review recommends 9 Regular members with 5 Alternates. Currently MSI Bylaws require 7 with 3 Alternates. It is Witzel’s opinion that the current number of members is not sufficient. He noted that several occasions have precipitated use of “special members” to supplement the panels. Witzel expects to introduce a Bylaws Amendment at HoD to expand to Board of Review to the USAS recommended number of members.

Additionally, Witzel noted that the USAS General Counsel holds the opinion that Boards of Review must have athlete members. Witzel expects to introduce a Bylaws Amendment at HoD to expand to Board of Review to facilitate inclusion of athletes on every panel.

<u>e. Equipment Committee</u>	no report	<u>j. Webmaster</u>	no report
<u>f. Adaptive Swimming Committee</u>	no report	<u>k. Outreach Committee</u>	no report
<u>g. Time Standards Committee</u>	no report	<u>l. State Records Committee</u>	no report
<u>h. Nominating Committee</u>	no report	<u>m. Central Zone Committee</u>	no report
<u>i. Legislative Committee</u>	no report	<u>n. Public Relations Committee</u>	no report

7. New Business: discussion of Fines Policy

Chair recognized David Bentz (WOLF):

- (i.) Bentz opened discussion of Fines Issues levied for unregistered swimmers entered in meets: His observation is that the fines levied are substantially due to “clerical errors and computer glitches”. He believes that the fines are exorbitant and that the overall policy is punitive to clubs still developing electronic registration skills.

Severson noted that reviewing the Recon Report is critical in January during the transition of girls HS swimmers. Clubs need time to catch up and also to become more proficient with the system.

Action: Motion to Extend; Lundsten; second: O’Neill motion carried

Shapely and McGuire noted that workshops and one-on-one assistance are always available to Clubs. They noted also that during the first year a number of registration situations were cleared up in lieu of assessing fines when clubs were notified. There were, however, some Clubs which did not respond to the notices. It is hoped that the new incentive policy for early Charter filing will help with backlog of timing issues at year-end.

Goble pointed out the insurance exposures associated with swimmers who are not registered properly.

- (ii.) Bentz continued with discussion of fines in the “Proof of Times” portion of C-Finals Meet Information. He believes that the fines for C-finals are “absurd” and that the policy is creating a perception of MSI as more concerned with enforcement than with swimming.

Windrath noted that the “Proof of Times” policy is long past legislation developed as a response to abuse by repeat offenders. It may be useful to review the history of the Board’s need to respond at that time with Legislation to regulate intentional falsified entry issues. (1994)

Action: Motion to Extend; Ness; second: O’Neill motion carried

O’Neill pointed out that C-Finals and A/B Finals are the “championship meets” for those levels of swimmers. He believes there are ample opportunities during the season for Novice and “no time” swimmers to enter meets to achieve recorded times and thereby qualify for these Finals meets.

AVC Goble requested Junior Coach Representative Severson to review the issues presented and to bring a proposal to the Board.

8. Adjournment

Action: Motion to Adjourn 9:50 pm; Andersen; second: Lundsten

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Gail S. Andersen, Secretary