

Allegheny Mountain Swimming

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Present:

Scott Wilshire – General Chair
Lynne Shine – Administrative Vice-Chair
Ryan Johnson – Secretary
Donna Beyerl - Treasurer
Charles Lersch – Age Group Vice-Chair
Todd Clark – Senior Vice-Chair
Mike Kristufek – Coaches Representative
Laura Hartman – Permanent Office/Registration Chair
Luke Modrak – Technical Planning Chair
Hosea & Dana Holder – Diversity/Inclusion Co-Chairs
Lisa Kocsis – Safety Chair
Franny Dean – Sr. Athlete Representative
Patrick Lersch – Athlete Member at Large

Absent:

Zachary Buerger – Sr. Athlete Representative

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by General Chair, Scott Wilshire

Having no exceptions, MOTION was made to ACCEPT the Minutes from the last meeting of October 16, 2013.

I. Consent Agenda:

MOTION was made by Donna and seconded to by Mike to ACCEPT the Non-pulled Consent Agenda Reports.

II. Action Items:

A. Safe Sport Appointment of Lisa Kocsis

Discussion:

Lisa was appointed by Scott to fill the unexpired Safe Sport Term left vacant by Paul until the May H.O.D. meeting. Lisa is excited to be involved in this role.

MOTION was made and Accepted for Lisa's appointment. Congratulations Lisa\

B. Surcharge Request for Baldwin Whitehall Aquatics

Discussion:

Baldwin has requested a \$5 athlete surcharge for their IMX Meet of January 4th and 5th, 2014. The Fee will not be used to cover facility costs, but will go to offset awards and gifts to the athletes.

MOTION was made by Donna, Seconded by Lynne, and Approved.

C. Long Course Meet Schedule

Discussion:

Charles stated that the Steel City invite is going to become a Friday, Saturday and Sunday meet on May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2014. Summer Celebration is up in the air because their pool may not be done with construction by then. This meet will be a see as we go occurrence. Charles has been talking to the hosting teams of the summer meets and hopefully we can have this posted within a week. The 10 & Under meets have been kept off of the schedule. If someone would like to hold one, they can pick up a date. Todd said we should take note in this meet process, that the Short Course Schedule is driven by the Structures, whereas the Long Course Schedule is driven by the Host Teams and the Sites. We have two completely different ways of working the meet process. Charles stated that you are welcome to submit something that is not on the calendar as long as it is not in conflict with the Championship Meets. Lisa feels that we should get blocks to host more meets in the summer as some of the city and township facilities. Charles said that the pool space just isn't there. Hosa stated that we should reach out to the new mayor who is interested in Youth Involvement. None of the Open meets are site restrictive, so teams can potentially swim at all meet weekends. This was overlooked by the Age Group Committee and will be addressed before the Final Schedule is published.

MOTION to Accept this preliminary Long Course Schedule, Lynne, Mike Second, Approved.

D. Mixed Gender Swimming

Discussion:

Mike stated that the Coaches Committee has voted to remove Mixed Gender Swimming from the LSC Meet Process. He also said that Mixed Gender Swimming is not being done at the National Level of USA Swimming, and it is not common place among the LSC's. Also, while some prefer it, Mixed Gender Swimming is not always in the best interest of all the athletes, and we should not be employing a method if it is not being well received across the whole of our LSC. He would like to proposed going back to separate gender events except for the last heat where we combine the boys and girls to save time. Charles like the idea of mixed gender swimming as he said in such a small LSC, it promotes greater competition. Todd stated that they are allowing mixed gender relays at Worlds. It should be noted that there are specific rules for this type of competition. Athlete Reps Franny and Patrick stated that they are not necessarily wholly in favor of Mixed Gender Swimming. Franny explained that she finds it less serious than competition at championship meets because you are not racing against those athletes that you are training to

beat in season. It was argued that this is an issue for the Age Group Committee to review and decide upon, not the board. Scott tabled the rest of this discussion for purposes of time and moved to vote on the Motion.

Motion to accept Coaches recommendation for remainder of the SC Season, Lynne, Mike, not approved.

E. Proof of Times

Discussion:

There are errors in the Meet Announcements that need to be corrected with regard to Proof of Times. These requirements should not be on BB meet or lower announcements. BB meets require Time Trial Form 11 for proof of times. A meets need times in the SWIMS database. Scott adds to Governance to apply or remove fines from the Operating Procedures. Charles and Luke indicate that the Meet Announcements will be corrected to reflect these changes.

F. 11 – 12 Rooming for Zones Trips

Discussion:

Many other LSC operate this way with respect to Zones Trips, and it could save the LSC and the parents of the athlete's money.

MOTION that the 11-12 be able to room together, and add additional chaperons to monitor this age group based on the swimmer participation with the advice and consent of the Safe Sport Chair. Leave the number of Chaperons open as to allow for proper supervision and athlete protection for these ages. Scott, Donna seconded, APPROVED.

G. Pay the Zones Coordinator a Stipend.

Discussion:

Niagara employs this method. We hope that this will encourage a greater outreach for this position which has a high degree of turnover. It would also be nice to have someone whose interests are not vested in an athlete on the trip, and paying this position may encourage this.

MOTION to pay the Zone Coordinator a stipend of \$250 and cover travel expenses for each trip. APPROVED.

H. Banquet Date

Discussion:

Laura will look into a couple of weekdays in May through June. Lisa indicated that we should try to offer the opportunity for anyone to attend, not just the recognized athletes.

III. Old Business:

A. Update on Financial Review

Discussion:

Donna was supposed to get an email from Kim of the status update. She has yet to receive an email. She will update us by the next meeting.

B. Athlete Funding

Discussion:

Todd has a plan. It will be reviewed and prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

C. Realignment of Committees

Discussion:

Todd, Charles, and Luke were tasked with writing up and distributing a process as to how the Senior, Age Group, and Tech Planning Committees will work together on the Meet Process. Scott indicated that the plan was to be presented to the General Chair in advance and sent out to the B.O.D. in preparation of this meeting. Scott questioned why after countless attempts to contact the three individuals, that no one returned or responded to his requests. No answer was presented. Instead, Charles moved forward to present to the B.O.D. what agreement was reached between the three committee chairs.

Charles stated that the Meet Management Committee would become part of a fictional committee which represents the collaborative workings of the 2 chairs. Age Group Committee would posts bids awarded, then all meet management from that point forward would be handled by Technical Planning after the meets have been awarded. (Meet bidding being done inside Senior and Age Group Committee for respective meets). A venue will be found to hold an open bid meeting. Senior and Age Group will make the schedules and structures, get the bids, award the bids, then post the bids. After that time, the Tech Committee will handle Meet Management and evaluate the Meets. Todd said there are two pipelines, one side and the other. Todd also stated that there needs to be a stick so that we can 'encourage' teams to follow procedures for posting. Lynne would like to know how this works practically and logistically as opposed to philosophically. Operating Procedures will be written to make this an established course of action and brought to approval before the B.O.D. Lynne would like to also know how they will handle/settle agreements, the General Chair would then step in to mediate issues. Scott indicates that this needs written up as a specific process with procedures for the B.O.D. to approve and we need to move towards this change in a timely but cautious manner.

MOTION for conceptual approval pending development of appropriate documentation and procedures, and to rescind the creation of the original Meet Management Committee from the Operating Procedures. Scott, Donna seconded, APPROVED.

D. Lake Erie Silver Dolphins Branch Club in AMS.

Discussion:

Scott spoke to USA Swimming and Lake Erie. They cannot run meets within our LSC as a Lake Erie Sanction, nor can they compete in any closed AMS meets.

E. Purchase of Radio's

MOTION for the Officials Chair to be authorized to spend up to \$3,200 for the purchase of this equipment. Ryan, Lisa Second, APPROVED.

F. Deck Credentials

Discussion:

Mike moves to have a band or other wrist credential to identify proper personnel on the Deck during meets. Laura will set something up with a vendor, Lisa will convey this to the Clubs. It is the Clubs responsibility to ensure that only credentialed people are on the Deck.

MOTION that Starting January 1st, 2014, All Coaches, Officials, and Meet Personnel are required to wear wrist bands or other identifying tags to ascertain appropriate personnel to be on the deck. Mike, Todd Second, APPROVED.

G. Website Proposal

Discussion:

We took a step back when we jumped ill prepared to the Teamunify platform in not revamping any structures to the website. This is an opportunity to complete the process.

MOTION for Luke to move forward on revamping of the Website to be completed by April 15, 2014 not to exceed \$2,300 to be made in two payments, once before work begins, and once at the completion of the website. Scott, Lynne Second, APPROVED.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Warm Up Policy

Discussion:

Mike will send his information to Age Group Committee and Officials Chair to get better warm up procedures in place.

B. Mission Statement and Goals

Discussion:

Ryan indicated that you need to have a purpose and a vision in place for each committee and chair. Scott would like by the next meeting for the committee/chairs to establish what your

goals are, what is your mission statement, and how does that align with the strategic objective. Also a list of who is on your committee to be sent to Scott and Governance.

C. Diveristy and Inclusion Opportunities

Discussion:

Looking at different clinics, such as give back from elite to younger, High School, College, B, BB. Age Group Opens and their relevance to club development. Scott again mentioned that we should reach out to Bill Peduto (new mayor of Pittsburgh) to encourage outreach, funding, and publicity. Dana will reach out with the possibility to come to the Christmas Meet. We need to develop programming outside of our meets from the bottom to the top. – Charles. Dana stated that the Diversity Summit that we would have on the off years would bring in those other swimmers outside of our LSC and helping to set goals, promote the sport of swimming, our coaches, officials, parents [4day 3night] motivational speakers, there is a social aspect to the sport besides the swimming aspect. This will also help to increase the awareness of other camps and initiatives within our LSC. This will be in the Spring of 2014. Have details prepared for next month's meeting. Also discussed outreach funding for Zones Swimmers in need. There are only a few and this should be an as needed basis.

D. Deck Entries

Discussion:

We are here to provide opportunities to the swimmers, and we have stepped away from this in the past. Different methods of deck entering were discussed, and it was decided to go with a trial basis proposal from Luke.

MOTION to be done on a trial basis for the 2 B Meets in January, and Including John Schaefer as Officials Chair in the process. Luke, Ryan Second, APPROVED (Donna opposed to locations as too soon). He will talk to them about bringing a national athlete with them as well.

E. Meet Entry Fees – Closed Discussion

F. Coaches Education

Discussion:

David Marsch and Jeff will come up to talk to the coaches on April 5, 2014. Mike would also like to see them do something for the OTC kids and the elite athletes as well.

G. Zones Manual – Tabled

H. H.O.D. Meeting Date – Scott, Lynne, Ryan and Laura via email

Notes: Anne Kisik retired as a referee.

The Meeting was adjourned 9:55 PM by General Chair, Scott Wilshire

Next Meeting December 18, 2013 at 3080 Babcock Blvd.