



Minutes

October 28th House of Delegates Meeting

📅 Wed October 28th, 2020

🕒 8:00pm - 9:00pm CDT

📍 Remote

👤 **In Attendance**

I. **Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 8:05pm. Attending BOD members: Charlie Fry, Paige Sikkema, Jennie Shamburger, Dr Henry Clark, Bob Kizer, Dusti See, Erik Cozzad, Louis Demetriades, Ainsley Dodson, Emma Burke, Anna Lackner, Eddie Adams, John Burke, Kate Zabler.

Gulf Office and Coordinators: Tom Hasz, Julie Bachman, Loren Fischbach, Donna Dormiani, Herb Schwab, Mark Martinez.

Teams represented: AGS, AMBU, AQUA, CFSC, ESA, ECS, ESCA, FRST, HCAP, LIFE, MAC, MARC, NOCH, PACE, PEAK, PFL, RICE, SWIM, SHAC, SHRK, SPA, SSS, STA, SWAT, SSAN, TWST

II. **Mission Moment**

Charlie read the Gulf Mission Statement: Gulf Swimming provides opportunities to learn, grow and strive for excellence, developing leaders through competitive swimming.

III. **Approval of June HOD Minutes**

Decision: Motion to approve June HOD meeting minutes from 6.3.20. Motion seconded. Vote tabulated using the yes/no button from Participants button on Zoom call. Minutes approved. Motion to approve minutes from 1.29.20. Motion seconded. Minutes approved.

IV. **Old Business**

V. **Officer and Committee Chair Reports**

a. **General Chair**

BOD has taken much time for planning and managing LSC during the past eight months. Meetings were every week then two weeks and now monthly. Gulf Swimming approved second highest reimbursement amount to clubs in USA Swimming. Only club who reimbursed more has double the number of members. Sanctioned and unsanctioned times can be used for Gulf meets this year. Nine sites for USA Open this year - closest one to us is San Antonio. 18 & Under Jr Nationals - closest one is Dallas. Open Water Southern Zone meet is June 4-6 in Chattanooga (ChattanoogaSwimFestival.org). Senior Zones will be at A&M in 2021. Senior Zones in 2022 will be in West Virginia. Age Group Zones locations are in report.

b. **Athletes**

Ainsley Dodson presented report. Athlete BOD attending USA Swimming Convention - voting members along with voting/membership rep and finance rep from athlete committee. Enjoyed the Zoom meetings and connections on the Athlete call as well as taking suggestions into first Athlete Committee meeting. Decided to formulate merch with a design contest among athlete reps. Profits will go to Scholarship fund and Outreach. Working on a Trivia Night with Jolyn. Date TBA.

c. **Finance**

Decision: Dr. Henry Clark presented report. Gulf LSC has been trying to help clubs and athletes throughout the pandemic. Clubs were reimbursed Athlete registration fees (Gulf portion). Make sure correct form is used for current registrations so this fee isn't figured in. Splash fees have been reduced to \$1.25 per splash for meets. Reminder to clubs moving forward that this fee is now \$1.25 per splash. Loss on financials due to these reimbursements and reduction of fees. LSC has nest egg that will carry budget through these losses. Investments have rebounded to almost last year standard. Budget is behind but budgeted expenses that won't be used will lessen impact on budget. Hope to break even by end of year. LSC is financially strong.

Athlete Reimbursement Spreadsheet - numbers worked out for USA Open in San Antonio and 18 & Under Jr Nationals in Lewisville are included in form. Document on Gulf website under forms / reimbursement. Julie shared documents with Zoom call. Athlete page highlighted first. Highlighted amounts for swimmers driving / traveling w parents and separate amount for athletes not driving (carpooling with others or second athlete in family). This amount does not include mileage. Coaches reminded to make sure to note which athletes traveled with parents and which carpooled or were second athletes in family so amounts will be correct. Motion to approve the travel reimbursements for US Open and 18 & Under National meets in November/December 2020. Motion seconded. Votes recorded and motion passed.

d. **Age Group Chair**

Dusti See presented report discussing the Ladder of Success reports being sent via email. Coaches will need to review list. This recognition will be for SC 2019-20 season only since there was no LC 2020 season. Target for distribution is end of November / beginning of December 2020.

e. **Governance**

Decision: Herb Schwab presented document regarding rules changes in format same as that at USA Swimming Convention. Added wording is underlined and stricken wording is lined through. These amendments are being presented by the Officials Committee. Motion to approve these changes has been made and seconded. Governance committee has reviewed these proposed changes and recommends a No vote on these proposed changes.

Herb reviewed specific line redundancy using Gulf Swimming. Non-voting positions aren't term limited on Gulf BOD so Governance committee doesn't see a reason to have terms stated in this document. He referred to section about having committee set minimum qualifications for committee - this will exclude ability for oversight. Further down, the wording regarding "advice and consent" is wrong and should be "advice and consent of Board of Directors". Committee chair is allowed input. Current wording regarding specific number on committee is highly restrictive.

Limiting number of athletes to two goes against specific wording of number of athletes as set by the AEC. He also addressed change regarding duties being set by Officials Committee. Noted that these changes are not good governance and no committee sets it's own duties. Dr Clark and Charlie Fry also spoke to these proposed changes as member of Governance committee and confirmed the recommendation for a No vote because they feel these changes aren't in the best interest of the LSC.

Tom Hasz asked if any changes in by-laws needs to be sent to USA Swimming / Rules and Regs committee to approve. Changes could be kicked back even if approved, and Herb expects that to happen.

Several HOD members spoke against adopting these changes.

Everyone who serves in Gulf LSC works at will of LSC BOD and HOD and no single committee should be able to govern themselves. Hard limits on size of committee is bad business.

Herb clarified that the Officials Chair is elected by the Meet Referees. The Committee Members are appointed by the General Chair with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors. It was asked that someone For this motion speak to present both sides. Lisa Blok spoke as member of Officials committee. Changes were created (set number) to avoid too many people "too many cooks in kitchen". Officials committee number would ensure work would get done. She expressed disappointment in the Governance committee for not working together prior to this meeting to work on a document that would be acceptable to all. Constant need to micro manage the officials is disturbing. Officials don't tell coaches how to do their job - everyone should be working together.

Officials are volunteers and work for the love of the sport. It was stated that everyone should be working together to provide the best experience possible. Going forward everyone needs to work together to improve LSC. Mark Martinez spoke as chair of a committee also appointed by the Gulf. He also stated that these changes are poor practice. This proposal has been discussed at previous BOD meetings and communication from Officials Chair should have been shared with Officials committee. Lisa asked

about waiting for a BOD or HOD meeting to ask for corrections as opposed to reaching out directly to committee to make changes. Paige Sikkema asked purpose for these legislative changes. Donna Dormiani addressed these proposed changes and said that these changes will put their committee more inline with Coaches Rep and Athletes Rep position. She didn't recall any instruction to change wording of this proposal. Herb clarified that in current by-laws, meet referees nominate and elect Chair of Officials committee. This is same procedure as Coach Rep and Athlete Rep. Lisa asked if there is fair representation on the BOD from Coaches, Athletes and Officials. Herb clarified that Coach and Athlete reps must be part of BOD per USA Swimming rules. Several large committees (TPC, DEI) not part of BOD. Lisa clarified her question asking if the BOD has fair representation from officials as well as coaches. Sharon Powers said this seems like a discussion for Officials and Governance committees to take this back and work to make it ready. She also questioned the presentation of this information as being adversarial instead of clearly presented. Charlie said these changes were presented by the officials and because of by-law changes by USA Swimming at last Convention, then it could be voted on. Charlie said this has to be HOD and this is first voting meeting since Jan. 2020. Bob addressed the representation of BOD - HOD decides who will fill most positions and not limited to coaches with exception of Coach Rep and Athlete Rep. Task of any BOD or HOD is to act in best interest of LSC rather than individual. Motion on floor needs to be voted on. Jerry Hardt spoke to the concern expressed from the officials due to not having an opportunity to hear both sides. Proposed amendments were distributed three weeks ago according to by-laws. Eddie would like to move to table this motion. Motion to table original motion seconded. Vote on tabling original motion. Motion has been tabled. Charlie noted that next HOD voting meeting will be in January 2021. Lisa asked if Officials committee could meet with Governance committee to work on this legislation before next HOD meeting. Herb and Donna as Chairs of their committee will schedule next discussion on this issue.

f. **TPC**

Task: Charlie presented report for Clay Pruitt. Virtual Meet series is posted online with instructions on how to participate for Nov/Dec 2020. Charlie opened floor for questions and Mark Martinez will field questions. Sharon Powers discussed awards for 15 and Over individual awards - wording regarding "team" is listed and should be removed for clarification. Mark to get this correction to Clay.

g. **Sanctions**

Charlie highlighted Sanction report submitted by Natalie Melenric.

VI. **New Business**

Decision: Jennie Shamburger respectfully resigned as Disability Chair for Gulf Swimming. Charlie asked for a motion to appoint Kim Audibert from LSST as Disability Chair. Charlie asked for BOD to vote on this nomination. Nomination passes and Kim is named as the Disability Chair for Gulf Swimming.

Louis Davis spoke to email from USA Swimming Officials Committee discussing non-approved timing systems for meets. This list included the Swimmingly app as a timing system. He asked as a Meet Referee.

Charlie received same email and was waiting on ruling from Rules and Regs committee and something from USA Swimming in writing. He stated that our LSC should wait for this to be sent in writing before we stop using this system. Herb confirmed that nothing from Rules and Regs has been confirmed regarding timing systems. Dr. Clark spoke to the technology problem with Colorado, Daktronics, etc that are incredibly precise as are the analog stopwatches compared to digital systems driven by software (using mobile phones as with Swimmingly app). Official time shouldn't be taken from instrument not designed for that purpose. Charlie said our LSC will continue to use this as timing system until official ruling from Rules and Regs. He feels that everything we can do in our LSC to help teams and swimmers at this time should be done. Change will only be made once received in writing from USA Swimming. Bob asked if Swimmingly used at a sanctioned meet - do they run risk of having these times not count at future date. Herb said yes - the usage would be risky at this point. Times and recognition people who run SWIMS saying not to use these times which puts our NTV person in bad situation. He said we would be taking a chance regardless of what we do. Bob said teams need to be aware of risks involved in using this platform at this time and make their own decisions. Usage for unsanctioned meets will still allow these times to count for Gulf meets since our LSC approved this. Julie spoke to Dolphin watches not being able to be used per this communication and would it wipe years of times out. Swimmingly serving a purpose in our LSC to make meets easier and less expensive to run so it is working for us in spirit of helping our clubs and our swimmers.

Parking Lot

Next HOD meeting will be January 27th, 2021 as approved per Gulf calendar with next HOD meeting after on April 21st 2021. Charlie is going to form a task force to look at all committees in our LSC. He will select people to work with him and help determine what is working and what isn't and what can be done to improve all committees. He asked that everyone be willing to help out.

Terry Jones asked if there was a plan for Spring Champs and asked if there was any word about TAGS/Sectionals and if the BOD had any info to share. Charlie said the TAGS committee sent out an email asking clubs if anyone was interested in hosting with possible multiple sites. Charlie plans to sit down with TPC for ideas about Gulf Champs type meets for teams in Feb. Would need many hosts to manage numbers. Rules in varying counties of Gulf Swimming will also require consideration. No definite answer yet. Dr. Clark was on Senior Circuit call - idea if Spring Sectionals would be SC only and two weeks after state meet with possibly three sites and swimmers could travel to any of these sites. Jarrod Murphy from TWST stated that TWST bid on this meet for spring 2021 and still plans on hosting some form of this meet. Meeting next month with his team to work on details. Charlie feels like this multi-site format with composited times will help keep numbers down. Eddie Adams said TPC decided that Feb Champs meets will be similar to December unless rules/policies change.

Motion to adjourn meeting made and seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.