



Minutes

September 9th Board of Director's Meeting

📅 Wed September 9th, 2020

🕒 7:30pm - 8:30pm CDT

📍 Remote

👤 In Attendance

I. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm. Attending: Charlie Fry, Paige Sikkema, Jennie Shamburger, Bob Kizer, Dusti See, Erik Cozzad, Louis Demitriades, Ainsley Dodson, Anna Lackner, Emma Burke, Eddie Adams, John Burke, Kate Zabler, Tom Hasz, Julie Bachman, Loren Fischbach, Donna Dormiani, Clay Pruitt, Natalie Melenric, Herb Schwab, Travis Sandifer, Mark Martinez, Seth Huston

II. Mission Moment

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Decision: Motion to approve minutes to BOD meeting on 8.19.20. Motion made and seconded. Minutes approved.

IV. Old Business

Officials documents - this was tabled at last minute. Paige Sikkema presented questions to Donna Dormiani about announcing DQs over loudspeaker. Donna has notified meet refs to work with coaches and meet hosts about how best to get this information to athletes. As a previous AO, Paige suggested one page document for deck ref to hand to AO. Meet Ref and AO can format document and agree. Pre-meet section of document regarding assigning of officials - many times signup genius page helps, but more show up at actual meet than sign up. With dual and tri meets, fewer officials are needed and Meet Ref can directly communicate with officials attending. If more officials show, then meet ref will know how to best place them for social distancing. Process of swimmers finishing and next heat stepping up, swimmers waiting behind the timers should also have 6ft distance and masks on. All of this meet protocol needs to be in meet announcement. Donna was very helpful in answering these questions and concerns. Charlie asked if there was any other old business. No more old business.

V. Officer/Chairperson Reports

a. General Chair

1. Swim Meets

Decision: Charlie mentioned schools in his district (Humble ISD) have been back in person for 3 weeks with only one confirmed COVID case. ISD has opened up school facilities for rentals and all students will return to school on Sept. 21st. There is confidence that we can open up swim meets a bit more at this time as long as CDC guidelines are being followed. A motion was made to open up swim meet sanctioning to include larger numbers than just intrasquad and virtual meets in accordance with CDC guidelines for area. Motion has been seconded. Bob Kizer offered an amendment to include CDC guidelines and local government restrictions. Amendment to motion seconded. Noted that these local guidelines can be different based on Houston location but agreed but said these should be followed based on host team area. Information should be in meet packet based on local facility and rules. Amendment passed. Back to original motion with amendment. Question when this motion would take effect if passed. It would take effect on 9.10.20. Motion approved.

2. Policy re: Swim Meet "Shadowing" prior being able to host a Gulf sponsored meet

Decision: What was regarded as a policy regarding shadowing prior to hosting a Gulf sponsored meet is not listed and should be made a policy. Charlie read wording of policy proposal. Charlie recommended version A become policy. Motion to make this wording a policy. Question about this precluding a club hosting a sanctioned intrasquad meet. Clubs can host sanctioned intrasquad meets. Point of clarification - this only until regular schedule with Gulf Champs meets, etc. This has always been procedure and now will be formally stated. Reason for a club to shadow another club is to help overcome problems that arise with meet hosting. Question about a team having a sanction to host their own meet. Clarification of intent of original rule - if someone was hosting a Gulf sponsored meet this shadowing procedure was required to ensure that teams have infrastructure to host meets before bidding on them. Sanctioning can be Gulf sponsored or club sponsored. Amendment to change wording from Gulf sanctioned to Gulf sponsored in motion. Amended motion seconded. Any Gulf club applying for a sanction for a Gulf sponsored meet must have demonstrated their proficiency in hosting a swim meet by cohosting a sanctioned meet with another Gulf club who has previously hosted sanctioned Gulf sponsored meets. Amendment passes. Motion with amendment passed. Shadowed positions include meet director, AO and safety marshall per Charlie.

3. Southern Zone Convention Meetings

Southern Zone Convention meeting General Business meeting will be Sept. 12th at 2pm central time. Meeting on Sept. 27th will be for candidate elections and locations for championship meets. Information and Zoom link will be sent to Convention delegates. Herb said there would be presentations for the meet bids at the Sept. 12th meeting. Multiple hosts bidding for these meets. In the interim, Gulf delegates should meet and be ready to cast votes - no breakout rooms during this call. Zoom on the 16th with the delegates at 8pm to discuss.

4. Times not in database (18 and older swimmers)

USA Swimming email - reminder that 18 & Older swimmers need to do their APT or their times will not go into the SWIMS database. Paige asked if there is a way coaches can review this information. Loren said there will be an alert listed in individual club portals. Julie asked if this notification can be sent to clubs and Loren said it could but the information changes daily. USA Swimming will not cover teams for any interaction/practice if 18 & over swimmers aren't in compliance with this certification. Loren said clubs should do pre-meet recon and they appear as an error and can work with teams prior to meet happening.

b. Athletes

Ainsley Dodson introduced all the new athlete reps. Anna Lackner is new Jr Rep (Swim Ohana). Emma Burke (PEAK) is new at-large/communications director. Ainsley has compiled list of all athletes to help BOD use to get athletes on committees and it's a google sheet to access easily. Contact info will be constantly updated to make communication easier. Ainsley also listed all new reps coming into leadership positions. Athletes have meet with Jolyn to increase engagement with LSC athletes. Scenario of projects with Jolyn are both Covid based and non Covid based. Either a virtual / online trivia call or a clean up the beach in person project.

c. Sanctions

1. Collaboration with officials and TPC to empower ALL of our teams, regardless of size, to be able to host a sanctioned swim meet (intrasquad)

Donna, Clay, Natalie and Julie have been working on solutions for teams who aren't able to participate in meets during pandemic. Obstacles recognized to ensure every swimmer having a chance to swim in a sanctioned swim meet. Donna reached out to officials, Clay reached out to meet directors. Now there is a group of people willing to help run these meets. Another obstacle is facilities without official measurements for certification. Meet director calls beginning tomorrow to educate and ask for help from meet directors. Document will be sent out with steps needed to host a sanctioned intrasquad meet to new teams.

d. TPC

Decision: TPC meeting report given by Clay Pruitt. Charlie asked TPC to get virtual meet schedule together. Three tenants were inclusivity, engagement and access to competition. Motion to accept virtual meet series as presented. Motion seconded. Flexibility will allow swimmers to qualify for Gulf championship meets by hosting meetings during practice time, or having a month long window. Swimmngly can tie all results together. Being used as hub to gather results. As long as clubs are using provided templates and sending results files - Swimmngly can be used to compile results. Julie has done lots of work on virtual swim meet series. Fliers are included in BOD packet. Example is September Sprint Sizzler. Results file due last day of month. Sanctioned meets could be intrasquad, dual and in a weekend. Those who can't sanction meets have entire month to do that. Paige asked about monthly Swimmngly fee. Julie said all teams covered until 10.31. Team fees for Swimmngly are \$250. \$50 will go to Gulf and \$50 to Swimmngly for admin fees. Remainder will be given back to teams in prize form. Charges by clubs to swimmers can make the \$250. Suggestion for October is odd distances or IMX/IMR. Julie asked coaches for feedback. Vote on motion to accept virtual meet series as presented. Motion approved.

Second motion from TPC is to allow all swims in a legal pool to count for Gulf Championship meets at end of season. At this time would include both sanctioned and unsanctioned meet times. Motion seconded. Intrasquad, IntraLSC meets only - not TAGS, Sectionals, etc. Master database through Swimmngly and USA Swimming - now tracking unsanctioned / virtual swim meet times in SWIMS database. Motion approved.

Need to discuss unattached athletes and teams became moot point based on other actions taken during meeting.

e. Officials

Number of certified meet refs and AOs available to help small teams hosting meets (9 refs and 10 AOs). List will be sent to team reps and teams hosting meets of officials available.

f. Finance

Tom Hasz gave report. Investments are strong and helping any deficits from refunding to teams. With new registrations coming in, end of year should be close to break even. Balance sheet looking strong.

VI. Executive Director Report

Decision: Julie asked if \$50 from (\$250 fee per club) could go to scholarship. Motion to give \$50 Gulf receives from fall virtual meet series go to scholarship fund. Motion seconded and passed.

Recommendation from banquet committee is to officially cancel banquet for this year. Discussion of ways to recognize athletes for accomplishments this year - suggestions included virtual banquet and awards or recognizing via social media and inviting them to 2021 banquet. Ainsley said athlete recommendation was second option - allow them to attend next year's banquet with that process and recognize their accomplishments this year but actual physical awards will be presented in 2021 with no Zoom call this year. Also discussion for a more informal banquet to make it more fun for athletes. Voting for recognitions will still happen for 2020. Committee also looking into renting an outdoor venue space and have a band/party atmosphere with food trucks. Lots of support for informal banquet recognitions while still presenting awards. Recommendation is to proceed with banquet committee formal plan.

VII. New Business

Decision: Dusti See brought up Ladder of Success - with no LC season due to COVID, question about doing Ladder of Success shirt for 2019-20 SC season since we were able to do through TAGS and Sectionals. Agreement from BOD to proceed with this single season shirt.

Seth Huston presented proposed updates to Open Water event in October. With limited water time and limited competitions, the Open Water Champs Allstar selection meet for LSC team would be better moved to April for May team event. The October meet won't be true Champs format with new restrictions. Motion made and seconded. Motion approved.

Parking Lot

Charlie proposed next BOD meeting in 5 weeks. October 14th at 7:30pm. Southern Zones general meeting and business meeting can be attended by all but LSC only gets 5 votes.