

TISCA SPRING 2022 MEETING
February 12, 2022, 12:30 PM CDT

ATTENDANCE: Briarcrest Christian School, Elizabethton HS, GPS, Harpeth Hall, McCallie School, MBA, Science Hill HS, Unattached Roszel, University School of Nashville, White Station HS, + Zoom teams (NEED TO ADD), Lenoir City, Anderson County, Knoxville Catholic

Roll Call of teams (please put your Name/School Name in the chat, as you enter)
-check the chat and the sign in forms

Reading, correction and adoption of minutes of the last

[Meeting Spring, 2021](#)

[Spring Minutes from 5/3/21 are HERE:](#)

[Fall Minutes from 9/25/21 are HERE.](#)

Minutes from Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 are adopted – no abstentions or no's

3. Reports of Officers

-Jackie Bertucci, Rules & Regulations:

-Justin: Financial changes to state meet registrations.

-Pat Killian, VP. Eligibility – no transfer protests this year. One interesting question about eligibility. Review Committee looked at the 5th year eligibility question for a swimmer who did NOT transfer schools – rules say that if you compete in a single meet, you burn a year of eligibility. Review Committee decided that the swimmer could sit out a year and preserve a year of eligibility. Review Committee was unanimous in this decision. Our TISCA bylaw rules allow a swimmer to preserve a year of eligibility if they repeat a grade.

Stan: I have had 2 swimmers come to McCallie and repeated a grade...as long as someone holds out a year, are they eligible? I have had this issue – in the future, do I need to alert TISCA that someone is repeating a grade? I have been under the impression that they had to complete 4 years of eligibility in 4 consecutive years.

Pat: The ways the rules are written right now, the Review Committee would say yes

Review Committee said – this language as it's written would be a logical conclusion for this interpretation ("a swimmer who has had one meet"). More broadly, do we want to follow TSSAA, or do we want to continue to do things differently as we have been? It would be a good question to handle.

NISCA would let swimmers in 5th year WOULD be eligible for All American.

Chris C: there is a precedent from 2009 where a transfer student had to sit out a year, but only got 4 years of eligibility.

-Membership: 176 teams registered for the season, and ~130 at the State meet.

-Rachel (Treasurer): we had to rebuild the records for finances. We have successfully straighten this out. Balance \$37-38K. Will pay all our state meet bills out of this amount.

-Rachel (President): this season is not as exciting as last year. Good to be back in a common state meet site. LOTS of new coaches this year (almost 40 who are new to HS coaching). Several new teams have joined in TN, and schools whose teams are returning.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

West TN (Rachel, in lieu of Gui Passos): included Jackson and other areas teams in our regional meet. Things went well!

Middle TN: see emailed report from Skyler and April

Knoxville (Tom Schumann): We are back to nearly normal. This year we had 43 high school and 28 middle school teams. Some HS were co-op teams, so it was more like 35 teams competing in Regionals and throughout the season. Knoxville pool access was mostly back to normal. The December Ray Bussard Invite had 850 swimmers, which included teams from GA and Middle TN. KISL Championship meet was held a couple of weeks ago – 850 swimmers total (both MS and HS combined). A bit of a rough season but numbers are back up.

Chattanooga: no report

East TN (Chris Coraggio): welcomed one new team b/c of consolidation, and had one homeschool team as well. Ran a prelim-final Region meet. Numbers are down from pre-pandemic but beginning to work our way back up.

4. Annual budget presentation. We're at \$37K right now. More to come.

5. Proposal for a Diving Task Force – we've had eligibility questions for diving, and it's clear that the members of the board are not diving coaches or diving experts. We'd like to have an odd number of schools who are willing to participate in a diving task force, to help us answer questions about diving in the future. Email Rachel or any other board member to get involved in this. We would like your participation, and would prefer to have current diving coaches in Tennessee; but ANYONE with diving experience would be eligible for this.

Water Polo is all the way back! They are reviving the sport for spring 2022. If you have interested athletes, we expect to have a normal 2022 season. We will post their contact information soon.

New Business: Elizabethton High School wants to discuss a question about a homeschool swimmer who is zoned for a different school, who doesn't have a swim team. They are currently a team of one. They would like to allow homeschool athletes to co-op outside of their district.

Forrest LASTNAME?: AD at Elizabethton HS. Proposing that a student who is a homeschool athlete in another district, wants to be in line with TSSAA co-operative programs' rule. Since Hampton HS and Elizabethton HS are co-oping for all sports, that would include homeschool athletes who are also districted for Hampton HS.

Rachel: This can't be a legislative proposal; it's just a conversation/discussion right now. In the state of TN, TSSAA doesn't govern TISCA. TISCA doesn't allow co-ops outside the district. One reason we don't co-op at the state level is b/c we want to avoid the potential for 'super teams' joining together. We don't allow this so that everyone will represent their own school.

Forrest: What I'm suggesting is a co-operative program with ONE additional school that doesn't have a swimming team.

Memphis Homeschool coach (name?): Within your league, you can do this if the league allows, but not at state. If we open this up across the state, then other teams could begin to poach homeschool athletes.

(Name?) from Lenoir City: we have a few neighboring schools who get to swim together at KISL but have super fast swimmers who don't get to compete. We have one swimmer who should be on this super fast relay but who doesn't get to allow this swimmer to compete with the boys he's been swimming with all year long. Is there a way to allow a co-op for "x number of miles" or 'co-op" up to a certain number of athletes?

Hume-Fogg April: I don't like allowing this, co-oping outside their district. How is their home school student different than our ONE kid from another small school? It's a bit of a double standard to give homeschool athlete the ability to co-op without the potential for small public/private schools to do the same.

Pat Killian MBA: This idea that "there's not a team available" sounds like a hardship, but is it? As soon as they're registered with TISCA they have a team. We have 15 one-person teams at this meet. That sounds like swimmers who are teams of one are supported by TISCA. This is a SCHOLASTIC competition, not a showcase for the fastest swimmers in TN. A hardship would be an AD/principal saying "We don't support swimming," → THEN, we could justify bringing schools across this line. We applaud those coaches like Skyler and April who work for multiple teams, many of whom are teams of one.

Stan Corcoran: Many coaches, like me, have other homeschool athletes under their umbrella. It wouldn't be fair for me to include them on McCallie School's team, even though I coach them.

Skyler (Hume-Fogg): We have lots of 1 person teams to accommodate; I'd like to see us give them the chance to exhibition for relays, keeping them outside of the circle seeded heats.

Rachel: You can put this on the agenda for the fall if you want.

Elizabethton HS: This swimmer affected is my son. Our entire county has one program and one pool. Hampton HS (where he's districted) doesn't have a program and doesn't want a team. What we're trying to find out: If there is a program within a county, we don't want people to have a chance to shop around. BUT if you're in the area of a school that has ZERO other teams, can we let a homeschool athlete participate in a program that is the closest one geographically? Public school athletes who pay tuition for a private school team can participate, but not homeschool kids are not afforded this opportunity.

Rachel: We'll go back and look at other teams of one and figure out what their status is – are they teams who have no other options in terms of zoned public schools? We're going to look into this and see if other teams are in a similar predicament.

Chris Coraggio: We give homeschool swimmers/divers THREE different options to participate in the state meet:

- 1) as a team of 1
- 2) if they're in a school district that has a team, they can swim for that school
- 3) they can latch onto a homeschool team by Region: the "Kingsport Area Swim team" or MTHEA Makos are examples of this.

The philosophy of TISCA has always been, if you go to a brick and mortar school, you represent that school. Period.

Obviously Hampton doesn't have a team, so option 2 is off the table for this athlete. But Option 3 is an option for your athlete, though.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections:

This is a rotate year for the Secretary. Justin is happy to defer and if anyone wants to do this. If no one else wants to do it, then he is happy to continue.

Justin is nominated (Stan). Pat second.

Membership Chair. Only one person interested has stepped forward – April Parker from Hume-Fogg. If anyone else is interested in serving...?

Motion for April Parker (Stan), Second (Skyler). April Parker is confirmed as Membership Chair.

Last thing – meet bid for 2023.

We have a bid from UT Aquatics Center for February 10-11, 2023. The Athletic Directors for the SEC haven't finalized their schedule. There's a possibility (low) that the SEC could schedule a meet on the weekend of Feb. 10-11; if that happens, we'd be bumped to February 3-4.

Stan: would like to ask question about diving/warmup.

Rachel: We can't answer that until the bid is approved.

Pat: When would we know about Feb. 10-11 vs. Feb. 3-4? *Answer: First week of July.*

Motion, Second to approve Feb. 10-11 with Feb. 3-4 as backup date.

Motion to adjourn. Second.

Adjourned at 1:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Justin Karpinos
TISCA Secretary