



Illinois Swimming Inc. Board of Directors Meeting December 14, 2021 via Zoom



General Chair Jeff Arce called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Jeff Arce, Brian Brown, Jayne Spittler, Mark Tucci, Amie Adams, Pam Lowenthal, Rob Emary, Casey Hnatiuk, Tom Rieman, TJ Moran, Amanda Schleede, Ben Pearthree, Savanna Huang, Aidan Puk

ABSENT: Jack Yetter, Todd Capen, Will Barker, Alex Cramer, Annabel Oliva, Jenna Krull

2. Approval of November 2021 BOD Minutes

Hnatiuk moved to accept; Moran seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

3. Current Business & Strategic Discussion

None

4. Reports and Action Items

REPORTS SUBMITTED: General Chair, Treasurer, Operational Risk Chair, Program Ops Vice Chair, Registration/Membership Coordinator, DEI, Officials, Open Water, Safe Sport

NO REPORT AT THIS TIME: Age Group Chair, Senior Vice Chair

NO REPORT SUBMITTED: Administrative Vice Chair, Coaches Rep, Athlete Reps, Safe Sport

Rieman moved that reports not pulled be approved; seconded by Emary. **Approved unanimously**

5. Items Pulled for Discussion and/or Action Required

GENERAL CHAIR

Arce noted that his report included an action item to pursue the exploration of a hybrid position of Performance Director/Executive Director. He is seeking approval from the Board to create an initial task force of Yetter, Tucci and himself to explore the financial feasibility of doing this. Later, a couple of coach Board members and non-Board coach members would be named for a total of seven (7) members. A job description would be developed prior to the March Board meeting, and prior to presentation to the Spring HOD.

Arce moved to create the task force; Pearthree seconded.

Brown sought clarification of the goal of task force to include the financial feasibility before developing the job description. Arce confirmed. Adams asked about the actual title/position we are attempting to create. Arce said it would be a hybrid of the responsibilities handled by Tony as Performance Director and Pete as Executive Director. He noted that he and Pam have been handling many of these, to the detriment of other things our LSC should be doing.

Motion approved unanimously.

DEI

Report pulled by Ben Pearthree, who noted that there would be a couple of updates coming out of committee meeting on Thursday. The group has seven target projects, which need to be prioritized, a leader identified and put on a timeline. There will be competitions that DEI will help facilitate, as well as outreach and engagement.

Brown moved to accept the report, Moran seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

OPEN WATER

Rieman updated the Board's task to set a date for the Open Water state meet. It will be held on Monday, August 15 at a site to be determined. Rieman noted that high school will start after this date and hopes that publishing the date early will get people to commit. Brown expressed concern that participation will be low due to vacations, etc. Rieman replied that the committee wanted to use time earlier in the summer for two prep meets in addition to Central Zone OW on June 16. The first would be June 21 or 22, with another date either the first or last week of June. Arce mentioned that water temperatures might be low that early. Rieman said the Committee's goal is to have a more robust schedule to prepare for the State meet in August. Emary commented that the August OW meet could be used as an early season fitness bridge, especially leading into the Las Vegas OW Champions Cup in October

Brown moved to accept the report, Pearthree seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

6. Old Business

Arce noted that a list of people to attend the USA Swimming Workshop in Denver April 21-24, 2022 will be discussed next month. He and Pam will talk to develop a feasible list.

7. New Business

SAFE SPORT

TJ Moran reported that Safe Sport has been teams who have not met Safe Sport requirements for funding during COVID. He was not certain of how many teams fall in this category, but Pam said she just asked USA Swimming which clubs were in compliance when they asked for relief and who is up for renewal. There are 13 clubs. Teams that haven't made an effort to get started or those who were denied but didn't do anything more to produce an acceptable application, we will go after. If they don't meet requirements, there are issues with sanctioning and other things, per the agreement. Pam noted that we really are looking for compliance, not money and hopes we can help clubs along with their paperwork.

Moran also reminded the group that new USA Swimming mandates require anyone involved with athlete contact must be a USA Swimming member by January 1. This includes background checks and APT. The requirement was pushed by our NGB on behalf of the US Center for Safe Sport. Lowenthal noted that this is coming from the USOPC. She shared that the Zone Council was working through this, with a webinar on December 15 at noon MST. She encouraged members to get on the webinar to express concerns about the burdens this will put on clubs and the membership in terms of not only dues, but background checks. She also offered to pass along comments sent to her to USA Swimming. She noted that in our policies and procedures manual, the meet marshal does not have direct authority over the athletes; they must go to the Meet Director or Meet Referee to resolve an issue.

In the future, volunteers will pay a \$30 membership fee, but this discount cannot be accommodated by SWIMs at this time. A new database has been in development for three years and USA Swimming does not want to take resources away to put a band-aid on the old program. Lowenthal noted that USA Swimming is down to 63 employees, who are multi-tasking. IT is involved in the new program, but it has been contracted out. Pearthree asked when the new program, with the new membership category would be ready. No answer was given.

Arce expressed frustration with the way that this was presented to the membership. Information was received a few months ago but did not include meet marshals. He did remind the Board that this mandate includes club boards. He noted that CATS will be paying for another 18 people when the club hosts a meet to cover marshals and the board. At a time when volunteerism is at a low, the cost of meets will go up.

Rieman asked how USA Swimming can police this mandate. Arce noted that the USOPC is going to audit the upcoming TYR Pro Swim Series. They will make certain all APT and other requirements have been met. Board member asked if USOPC will be given access to our database. Lowenthal asked this and got an answer of possibly.

[**NOTE:** After this meeting, USA Swimming issued a clarification that Meet Marshals were not included in the mandate for volunteers, because they did not have direct contact and control with athletes.]

BOARD MEETINGS

Arce would like to meet in person at least once each quarter, but definitely not in January. Months will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 12 at 7:30pm via Zoom . Committee reports in .PDF format to Pam by Friday, January 7. Please note "No Report" if none is available.
9. **Adjournment:** Moran motioned Brown seconded. Unanimous approval at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Spittler
ISI Secretary

APPROVED