



Illinois Swimming Inc. Board of Directors Meeting April 7, 2021 via Zoom



General Chair Jeff Arce called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Jeff Arce, Jack Yetter, Todd Capen, Jon Cabel, Brian Brown, Mark Tucci, Jayne Spittler, Melissa Healy, Casey Hnatiuk, Amanda Schleede, Amie Adams, Rob Emary (late), Pam Lowenthal, Annabel Oliva, Greta Pelzak, Jenna Krull, Sean Finley, Michael Lawrence (observer).
ABSENT: Carlos Ceja.

2. Adoption of March 2021 BOD Minutes

- a. Motioner – Cabel, Second – Tucci.
- b. Approved with no additional discussion.

3. Current Business & Strategic Discussion - none

4. Consent Agenda

PULLED: Senior Vice Chair, Officials

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED: Admin Vice Chair, General Chair, Treasurer, Operational Risk, Program Ops (Nothing to report), Safe Sport, Registration/Membership

NO REPORT: Age Group Chair, Coaches Reps, Athlete Reps, Diversity/Inclusion, Open Water

Motion to approve reports as presented: Motion – Yetter, Second – Tucci. Approved unanimously with no discussion.

5. Items from Consent Agenda Pulled for Discussion and/or Action Required

Senior Vice-Chair

Spittler asked an information question about athlete travel support, and whether it would be different based on participation in Wave I or Wave II of Trials. Capen responded that athletes would be supported up to \$1,000, but the amount was receipt driven. He also noted that the latest information from the Senior Committee was that athletes would need to be on site three days before competition, so the support will only partially fund all expenses for either Wave.

Yetter asked how many athletes currently have Trials cuts. Capen estimated 25 and said that we had budgeted for between 31-33. He noted that some athletes moved out of state during the shutdown and may not meet eligibility requirements for LSC Support.

Arce asked that Capen share information about Trials travel requirements when he has it.

Motion to approve report as presented: Motion – Yetter, second Tucci. Approved with no further discussion

Officials

Schleede noted that Illinois Swimming will have three officials serving in Wave 1 of Olympic Trials. Previously \$2,100 had been approved to cover one official at Wave I (\$600) and one at Wave II (\$1,500). Now, only \$1,800 will be needed to cover the three officials. She also noted the possibility that one of the officials also may also have an eligible swimmer. In the past, we have never allowed double dipping by the official and athlete. But USA Swimming will require that athletes travel

independent of their parents. How will we handle? Capen asked if we had this situation yet? Schleede suggested we table this part of the discussion until the situation develops

Motion by Schleede: Approve three officials for Trials scholarships at \$600 for a total of \$1,800. Capen second. Approved unanimously, with one abstention (Yetter).

Motion to approve report as presented: - Brown moved, Capen seconded. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

- **Old Business - none**

- **New Business**

- Arce thanked Melissa Healy and Jon Cabel for their time, effort and energy service the Board and the LSC as Safe Sport Chair and Age Group Vice Chair respectively. He expressed gratitude for everything they have brought to the Board, especially during trying COVID times.
- Lowenthal thanked athlete reps Jenna Krull and Sean Finley for their participation in the Central Zone Leadership Summit. She hoped it proved beneficial for them and the Board.
- Lowenthal reminded the Board about the virtual **Zone Workshop** April 30-May 1. Links to register were distributed to Board members.
- Arce reported that Laurel Whittington has resigned as Open Water Chair, effective immediately. He will work on finding replacement to submit to Board for approval. Capen asked if the position was up for election; Arce replied not until Spring 2022. Hence the appointment process.
- Capen asked if there were upcoming Open Water events that will need direction. Arce replied that Central Zone Open Water is scheduled for June 17-18, and the state meet is on July 3. Discussion ensued about both events.

- **Zone OW:** Spittler expressed concern that the first correspondence about CZ OW had gone out from Steve Frye at RecPlex/Lake Andrea on Tuesday seeking input and looking for people to help. No officials have been named to lead the event, and all past RecPlex personnel who supported the competition (directed lifeguards, plotted the course, secured boats, gathered equipment) have left. Also, Frye will not be present at the event, as he has other commitments. She asked what Illinois Swimming's level of interest is to participate, as the question will be posed at the CZ General Chairs' call on Friday. Ten weeks is a short time to plan an open water event from scratch.

Lowenthal shared that the Zone is doing the best it can to make the meet happen, and that she had a call with Kevin Milak (former Meet Director for Lake Andrea meets) and Frye on Friday to answer questions raised by Milak. She said we will know more after this meeting, and that there will be an interim meeting with General Chairs and Open Water Coordinators when we have more information. Yetter asked who will represent Illinois. Arce said he and Lowenthal will be on the call.

- **State OW:** Concern was raised that the date for this event was on a Saturday of a holiday weekend. Capen confirmed that this was the date given to Whittington by Steve Frye. Capen and Cabel suggested that a weekday would make more sense, possibly July 1. They also noted that it can't be moved much later due to other meets, and high school girls beginning their season. Spittler thought a gauge of swimmer interest and official/volunteer availability also would be important, as well as coordination with Wisconsin Swimming. Arce to contact Steve Frye to ask about changing the date.
- **Summer Championship Meets** – Arce asked for a discussion about championship meets in terms of what they might look like and whether we would pursue regional meets. He noted that

we have not had a championship meet in over a year. While we are not sure of what restrictions will be in place, he would like to get the sense of the Board moving forward.

- There was overwhelming agreement that our athletes need to get back to racing and that the Board and committees should do everything in their power to make Championship Meets happen. This will be a daunting task requiring lots of work and will need LSC buy-in to pull off successfully.
 - To this end, the Board discussed, but did not yet vote on, offering pool rental relief to hosts. Seniors and Age Groups up to \$20,000; Regional sites up to \$5,000. Assuming 12 regional sites and with \$22,000 already budgeted for Championships, this would be an additional budget item of \$78,000. Board consensus that this would be money well spent on behalf of our athletes. Vote to follow when more specifics have been determined.
 - Yetter asked how we should handle at HOD and suggested that we report that we currently have no bids for Championship meets, but the Board is contemplating every option we can think of in order to give our athletes a Championship experience. He cautioned that the HOD is not the venue to design a meet, nor pass legislation that would constrain options.
 - Several threads of discussion involved having timed finals vs. prelims/finals. Athlete reps thought strongly that any competition would be good, and while second swims are nice, racing is better. They also felt strongly that attention to age group swimmers is very important, since the older and faster athletes have had and will continue to have other opportunities to compete. Age groupers have only been racing their own groups. They also supported bonus cuts for Age Groups so athletes have more opportunities to swim at a big meet.
 - Another thread involved comments as to whether these meets would really be Championship meets, or if they should be called invitationals. Cabel commented that formats could be different than previous years, and that formats for regionals could vary greatly by venue. Capen believes that formats can be different across years and venues. It is important that our athletes race in a season-ending meet. Spittler concurred, saying that we don't combine our regional meet results, so each competition is stand-alone.
- **Senior Championships:** Capen said that the Senior Committee wants to run a championship meet this summer in some form and knows of at least one venue/host intending to bid. He noted that dates of the meet (July 29-August 1) were changed to be in line with other available USA Swimming meets to keep the meet small by driving down participation. Venue can handle social distancing, meet format may have to be tweaked to meet current restrictions (if any).
- **Age Group Championships (July 22-25):** Cabel knows of one team interested in bidding that has secured a venue that will support COVID guidelines. Formats would need to be considered and worked out. Do we do timed finals, eliminate relays, put 10&U over four days to handle numbers. Cabel believes we should do a prelim/final format for 11-12 and 13-14, even if they need to be two different sessions.
- **Regional Championships (on calendar July 16-18):** Capen noted that hosting regionals will be a much trickier task, in his opinion, beginning with locating hosts and venues. Capen and Cabel believe that we need 12-15 sites to split up athletes by sessions. With Lowenthal, they have been cold calling previous regional meet hosts to determine site availability and host interest, as well as looking at other pools that are currently being used by clubs that might support competitions. This effort is hampered by

the fact that some high school pools have not yet reopened to club swimming. They have nine "I think I can" as well as several nos.

Meet formats need to be determined and could vary by location. Looking at possibly three sessions. In 2019 we had 3,600 unique athletes in regionals. Twelve sites would put 300 at each venue. Cabel suggested that we may need to make events 12&U to fill them, since 10&U were small previously. He also asked how teams would be divided and noted that most likely teams will be travelling all over the place to meet venue requirements and provide competition with different clubs.

Capen asked Schleede if 12 regional sites could be staffed by officials. She felt they could, although identifying qualified Meet Refs and Admins could be more challenging, especially if meets are in weird and obscure locations. Yetter commented that the Meet Ref at a site might not be everyone's first choice. He also suggested that Schleede be part of the discussion on assigning teams to sites, since she knows which teams have more officials than others.

- Arce concluded the discussion by saying that the Performance Committee would continue to pursue and develop options. He noted that buy-in has to happen across the LSC to make this work, but in any event, we need to pursue making these meets happen. If we fail, we fail but we need to move forward with planning.

- **House of Delegates** – Sunday, April 11 at 1pm. Board members are asked to sign on a couple minutes early. Spittler will run elections, while Yetter will provide the actual voting ballots and tallies. In the event of a nomination from the floor, it is easy to add candidates for a vote. Capen asked if candidates for a contested position are allowed to speak from the floor. Spittler replied that candidates are given 3-4 minutes each. Capen asked if a candidate was not present, if someone could speak on their behalf. Arce answered yes.

Athlete Rep Pelzak asked about an athlete Zoom to elect junior athlete reps. She was concerned that athletes might not know enough about the election if we tried to do it at Sunday's HOD. Arce suggested that Pelzak and Finley communicate with Pam on when they would like to set up the meeting. A Sunday sooner as opposed to later was suggested as meets begin to pick up.

- **Next Meeting:** HOD on April 11 at 1pm via Zoom. Next BOD meeting Wednesday, May 12 at 7pm via Zoom. BOD Committee reports **in pdf format** due to Pam for posting by Friday, May 7. It is likely that a special meeting might be called prior to this date to discuss and finalize details for summer championship meets before this date.
- **Adjournment:** Motion–Yetter, second – Hnatiuk. Unanimous approval at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Spittler
ISI Secretary