



Illinois Swimming Inc. Board of Directors Meeting November 11, 2020 via Zoom



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

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Jeff Arce, Jack Yetter, Mark Tucci, Brian Brown, Melissa Healy, Amanda Schleede, Rob Emary, Amie Adams, Laurel Whittington, Todd Capen, Carlos Ceja, Jon Cabel, Ron Jefferson (observer)

ABSENT: Jayne Spittler, Casey Hnatiuk, Carolyn Grevers, Sean Finley, Greta Pelzak, Annabel Oliva, Jenna Krull, Steve Mitchell, Bill Schalz

2. Adoption of Oct. 2020 BOD Minutes

Motioner – Yetter, Second – Brown. Approved with no discussion.

3. Current Business & Strategic Discussion

Arce reported that the meet packet for the 18&Under meet is now posted on the website, with entries opening on Friday, Nov. 13.

Arce and Lowenthal updated the status of Phase 4 checks. 39 teams applied and checks will go out on Thursday, totally \$113,000, still under budget for this effort. An additional two teams discussed on Wednesday will be added to this total.

4. Consent Agenda

PULLED: None

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED: General Chair, Treasurer, Operational Risk, Program Ops, Safe Sport, Officials, Registration/Membership, Open Water.

Motion to approve all reports as presented: Motioner - Brown, Second - Yetter. Approved with no discussion.

5. Items from Consent Agenda Pulled for Discussion and/or Action Required - none

6. Old Business

COVID-19 cases reported in the Operational Risk report sparked a discussion of reporting, and what is being done with the data. Yetter asked if we are encouraging teams to notify us of positive COVID test results. Arce's general feeling is that we are getting some, but not all. Having the numbers is helpful in aggregate, to support discussions that swim team activities are not responsible for spreading the virus. **Pam noted that USA Swimming would like clubs to report COVID cases on incident reports, also for tracking purposes.**

Discussion segued into an update on lobbying efforts. Arce reported that the situation is changing daily. Regions 5, 7 and 8 are in Tier 2, with maximum swim-related occupancy of 50, but local

entities like park districts are interpreting guidelines differently. In the absence of an Illinois Sports Commission, we are lobbying only on behalf of ourselves, making our case that our activity has not contributed to the spread of cases. Hoping that if/when Illinois reaches Tier 3 mitigation, there will be some cut-out for us to stay in the water at 25-50 capacity. In communication with IDPH two or three times a week; they at least are open to these updates.

7. New Business

Development of Policy for Participation of Outside LSCs in Illinois Meets

Several neighboring LSCs (WI, IA, IN, MN) have or soon will be issuing policy statements regarding the participation of visiting LSC clubs in their competitions. Arce asked if we should be developing an Illinois Swimming policy regarding Illinois Swimming sanctioned meets.

Far-ranging discussion ensued, both on clubs going out of our LSC to compete, as well as other LSCs coming to our meets. Lowenthal shared that entries for WI's 18&U meet had come from as far as Hawaii, and Wisconsin does not want to take the risk of transmission, since their hospitals are almost full. Yetter shared that USA Swimming asked LSCs to hold off on issuing policies until after the US Open. He also noted that LSCs don't want the responsibility of knowing health regulations from other states; rather, putting individual LSCs in charge of promoting their own local restrictions.

While Illinois Swimming does not have a lot of meets scheduled (only some duals, time trials and intrasquad), it was decided that a policy regarding participation by clubs from outside LSCs should be developed for such time as we can host larger competitions. Since IDPH guidelines only apply to residents of the state of Illinois, we would be developing our own policy for this. Our 18&Under Open specifically stated that meet was open only to state of Illinois residents who were physically residing in the state by November 25. Lowenthal noted that Sterling did have a dual meet with Iowa last weekend. Arce and Yetter to research how to proceed, since sanctioning would be involved, and develop draft wording to share via email with Board, for possible vote. Pam to share Wisconsin Swimming policy regarding LSC participation in its competitions. Policy does not apply to practices.

Beyond competitions, there was some discussion about responsibility of clubs to handle college students returning home from out of state, asking to practice. Do they need to quarantine for 14 days? Also, if/when athletes do go out of state (following guidelines or not), clubs need to follow local guidelines for quarantine (e.g., those in Chicago City Limits). Arce noted that teams need to be thinking smartly about these issues.

Updating Policy regarding Participation of Illinois Clubs in Meets outside Illinois LSC

Discussion shifted to Illinois Swimming's position on clubs competing or practicing out of State. Whittington asked why participation in another LSC's meet becomes a decision by the host LSC. She is concerned that this could create infighting on the Board, with clubs not wanting to be told how to manage their teams. Yetter reiterated that Illinois rules say that sports teams are not to be traveling out of state. Our Board can't be seen as ignoring state guidelines. Arce expressed frustration that we have no teeth in enforcing the state guidelines, and that USA Swimming also has provided no enforcement umph. He also noted that Illinois regulations about out of state competition won't be changing any time soon, in his opinion.

Capen asked about clubs that practice in WI or IN. Yetter noted that WI policies only apply to competitions. Lowenthal noted that we have Illinois residents who belong to clubs in WI and IN. Club address is operative in these situations.

To have a policy and procedure in place if/when Illinois guidelines are loosened, Yetter suggested updating the form developed in July on the topic. Our policy must state that we will follow IDPH guidelines. Everyone agreed this was a good exercise. Jack will revise and update, and circulate draft to Board members via email, for possible electronic voting.

Bottom line of all discussions: The Illinois Swimming board, all its clubs and all members who live in Illinois must abide by IDPH guidelines to avoid further restrictions. IDPH guidelines apply to all residents of Illinois, regardless of whether their club is in Illinois or not. A club's responsibility is not only to itself, but also to its region and every other club in Illinois. If reports start looking bad, state will not look on an individual pool basis, but will close all pools

ACTION ITEM: Yetter to rework July document used by clubs to request ability to compete out of state into an application for this purpose. Goal to have in place if/when IDPH lifts guidelines that Illinois residents cannot compete outside the state. To be circulated by email to Board members, with possible electronic vote.

ACTION ITEM: Yetter and Arce to do some homework regarding our sanctioning rules and the process required to amend them (i.e., Board passes interim measure to Rules&Regs which would then need to be ratified at next HOD). Then develop a policy statement regarding participation of clubs from other LSCs in Illinois-sanctioned meets. To be circulated by email to Board members, with possible electronic vote.

8. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 9, 7pm. Committee reports in pdf format due to Pam by Friday, December 4, if possible.
9. **Adjournment:** 7:37pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Spittler
ISI Secretary