



Illinois Swimming Inc. Board of Directors Meeting December 9, 2020 via Zoom



General Chair Jeff Arce called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

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, Jayne Spittler, Casey Hnatiuk, Carolyn Grevers, Sean Finley, Annabel Oliva, Jenna Krull, Michael Lawrence (observer)

ABSENT: Greta Pelzak, Bill Schalz

2. **Adoption of November 2020 BOD Minutes** Motitioner – Tucci, Second – Brown. Approved with no discussion.

3. **Current Business & Strategic Discussion** - none

4. Consent Agenda

PULLED: Program Ops

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED: General Chair, Administrative Vice Chair, Operational Risk, Membership/Registration, Officials, Safe Sport

Motion to approve all reports as presented: Motioned – Brown, Second – Healy. Approved with no discussion.

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

Brian Brown provided an addition to his report, stating that we will not be adhering to the February 1 long course sanctioning deadline. Rather we will continue on as we have been doing and will revisit a deadline when we are again able to host meets. Capen asked how much lead time clubs will be given. Both Brown and Lowenthal answered that we will be certain to give clubs who are interested in hosting every benefit.

Arce noted that we should be something together to notify the membership. Lowenthal reminded the Board that we are in the process of moving to an electronic sanctioning process. Yetter shared that online sanctioning should be live by January 1.

ACTION ITEM: A communication to the membership will be written to announce the online sanctioning process and to update members on the extended deadline for long course sanctioning. A Town Hall meeting for Meet Directions and those involved with hosting will be scheduled to go over the process and provide any additional updates.

Motion to approve the report: Motitioner -- Yetter, second – Brown. – approved with no discussion.

6. Old Business

Winter 18&Under Championships – National Senior Committee Meeting

Capen announced that the National Senior Committee is having a meeting tomorrow to discuss all the Winter 18&Under meets. There is a possibility that the deadline for competition will be extended because many LSCs are in a situation similar to ours. Todd will provide more information when it is available.

Learnings about USA Swimming liability insurance vis a vis mitigation guidelines

Arce reported that in efforts to support activities to service our clubs and athletes during Tier 3 Mitigation, research was conducted to create clarity for us as a Board and for our members. One topic involved USA Swimming liability insurance issues that may arise for clubs or athletes not following local and state COVID-19 mandates.

Yetter provided background on a draft letter circulated to the BOD earlier in the day. Intent is to send letter to the membership no later than Friday to inform them of learnings and implications.

line: if you knowingly deviate from an Illinois guideline, you are most likely not to be covered by USA Swimming insurance. In addition to conversations with USA Swimming Risk Management, Yetter consulted two insurance professionals, who feel that this is a shot across the bow warning. While there has not yet been a test case, the feeling is that failure to adhere to local and state guidelines very likely means that coverage would be in jeopardy.

Yetter also noted that other LSCs are asking USA Swimming very difficult questions, without receiving substantive answers. One question has to do with liabilities as meet hosts for accepting entries from clubs not following their local and state guidelines.

ACTION ITEM: Yetter's draft, with an additional sentence stating that adherence to a club's local guidelines is a discussion between the club and their local department of health, will be sent out tomorrow (Thursday) to the entire Illinois Swimming membership. Capen to post on webpage.

Updating LSC Membership on our current status and approach

Arce commented that as an LSC, we have gone through highs and lows of the COVID situation. He feels at this point that we have taken 25 steps backward compared to March. While we were good at communicating at the beginning of the pandemic, Arce admitted that he and the Board have fallen off sharing what we are learning and hearing. Several others concurred that the Board has not done enough to let members know efforts being taken to support clubs and find water.

Arce plans to draft a letter to membership, looking for comments and review by Board members. The letter will detail our continuing efforts to advocate on behalf of all swimmers in the state, including our current lobbying efforts and other activities to keep clubs and athletes active. The goal of the letter, from the entire Board, will be to preach unity as a swimming community and reiterate that the Board's responsibility is to protect the well-being of the LSC as a whole – every club, every member athlete, every official, every coach. Currently there is a lot of infighting and frustration. We need to take a step back to regroup and refocus. We will eventually get back to normal activity if we do this together as a community, not as individual clubs, coaches and athletes.

In addition to the letter, Arce said he plans to have a Town Hall meeting, or series of them, to give verbal updates on lobbying efforts and to allow member clubs and leaders to let the Board know how they are doing, how they are dealing with frustrations, and how we can help going forward.

The April and May Town Halls were helpful.

ACTION ITEM: Draft, review and circulate update letter to membership (Arce and Board). Schedule and communicate Town Hall meeting for Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7pm.

Status of Policy development for out of LSC competition/outside LSCs competing in Illinois meets

At the November Board meeting, out of state travel to meets and development of a policy for teams wanting to come into our state for competition were discussed. Arce noted that minimum work was done on the action items, because we knew we were going into Tier 3 mitigation and would not be hosting any meets in

the near future. Yetter will continue to work on a statement that would require clubs from outside LSCs to secure written permission that they can compete at an Illinois meet. On the flip side, the Board will continue to deny permission for clubs to compete at out of state meets, per Tier 3 mitigation requirements.

A discussion about club participation in out-of-LSC meets ensued. Arce believes that we aren't the police in terms of dealing with mitigation violations. We don't want to be turning in teams or athletes. He hopes the insurance letter will help everyone understand the risks involved with not following local, state and federal guidelines.

Whittington asked where the policy leaves us with the TYR Pro Swim Series meets that USA Swimming is hosting in January. Brown replied that Illinois athletes can't go out of state, period, and that the Board will not sign off on it. We are following the USA Swimming mandate to follow our state's guidelines. Yetter noted that it is important to understand that Illinois Swimming is advocating through our lobbyist to grant more use of pools. If IDPH found out that we are not following the rules, they could shut down our pools entirely. It is best for everyone to act in the larger interest, not just their own. We are enjoying the lap swimming cutout because of our efforts to show compliance.

Observer Michael Lawrence noted that there are three LSCs in Illinois and asked if the lobbyist was working with all three. Arce replied that the lobbyist is working on behalf of the 119 clubs and members of Illinois Swimming. Lowenthal reported that we have had discussions with the other LSCs, and that Ozark is aligned with us. Edwardsville, their largest pool, is not hosting meets. Whittington countered that OZ athletes are entered in the 18&U Championships in Pleasant Prairie. Yetter added that Wisconsin Swimming is in conversation with USA Swimming about their liability in accepting athletes from other LSCs (especially Illinois swimmers) and are wondering whether they should stop taking out of LSC entries entirely.

Lawrence's chat comment asked if actions of one of those other LSCs could negatively impact the entire state, and/or if athletes who travel to train in another LSC are jeopardizing us. Lowenthal noted that we will continue to talk with OZ and IN. Yetter said that if an athlete is registered in another LSC and training and competing, we have zero jurisdiction. The situation has been communicated to IDPH.

ACTION ITEM: Town Hall Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7pm via Zoom. Letter to be circulated to Board for approval and comments, with hopes to send out on Friday.

7. **New Business** - none
8. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 7pm. Committee reports in pdf format due to Pam by Friday, January 8.
9. **Adjournment:** Motioned – Yetter, second – Brown. Unanimous approval at 7:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Spittler
ISI Secretary