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New England Swimming  
Harvard-Pilgrim Center - Wellesley, Massachusetts  
September 9, 2014 - Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

**Board Members:**

*Present:* Elise Atkinson (CRA), Arthur Athanas (YNS), Joe Bernal (BGSC), Christie Batchelor (ABF), Chuck Batchelor (ABF), Jamie Bloom (WYST), Carl Cederquist (CRIM), Priscilla Davis (UN), Joe Frazier (UN), Ray Grant (SSA), Nadine Johnson-Jesioneck (UN), Alison Lie (EVO), Judi Lombardi (NSSC), Paul Memont (UN), Bob Menck (UN), Katherine O'Shea (PSC), Rick Osterberg (UN), Kyle Schack (CRIM), Mollie Westrick (KING)

*Late:* Matt Craven (SAC)

*Absent:* Laura Matusak (GMA), Chris Sheppard (CRA),

**Guests:**

Louis Arruda (CRAN), Brian Dirrane (UVAC), Ken Galica (UN), Carol Healey (NES-Office), Mary Riddell (UN-NE), Mary Ellen Tynan (PSC), Ed Westrick (KING)

**7:00 pm – Quorum (17/21) Established - BOD Meeting Called to Order by Ray Grant, General Chair**

1. **Welcome, Ray Grant:** Thank you all for coming. We open the meeting with a new form for all Board of Director (BOD) Members to sign. Similar to USA Swimming, New England Swimming is requiring all BOD members to read and sign the NES Code of Conduct on Ethical Behavior and Conflict of Integrity. Please review, sign and hand it to Carol at the end of the meeting.
2. **Secretary's Report:** Approval of Minutes for July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion to approve made by Rick Osterberg, seconded by Joe Frazier. *Motion Passes 17-0-0.*
3. **Treasurer's Report, Joe Frazier:** All treasury reports as of 9/9/2014 are on file at the New England Swimming Office and available upon request. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Jamie Bloom, seconded by Priscilla Davis. *Motion Passes 17-0-0.* Arthur Athanas presented a new Investment Strategy for NES to invest \$350,000 moderately in a plan that protects the principal with a modest return that is better than the current savings plan. Arthur made a motion to have the authority, along with the Finance Committee of Carol Healey, Joe F, Ray G, and Matt Craven, to proceed with this corporate resolution investment. Motion seconded by Judi. Carol explained that this plan uses USA Swimming's model to invest moderately and have enough left in accounts to cover operational costs for 2 years. *Motion passes 17-0-0*
4. **USA Swimming Convention Report, Ray Grant:**  
Ray reported that all 4 athletes are attending the Convention and NES will be fully represented using all 6 of our allotted votes. He will present all new info post-convention.
5. **Swimposium / Awards Banquet / Swim Clinic, Carol Healey:** The Officials Clinic is open and starting to fill. Same with the Athlete Clinic with Kristy Kowell. The Cost is \$26 for the athletes and the Parent Clinic is free and will run simultaneously with the Athlete Clinic. The AM session is 12 and under with the parent session for swimming 101 info and the PM session is for 13 and up with the parent session for college swimming. The Coaches clinic is open but filling very slowly with only 5 registered. We are looking for at least 30-50 coaches who can gain a great deal from Frank Busch. The Awards Banquet at the Newton Marriot is filling and many are ordering the new Top 6 T-shirts. We will cap the banquet at 500 max. Christie stated that she and Kyle will talk it up and send info out to coaches but wanted to know if we could divide the day in half for those who can't get coverage for practice or have other commitments and want to do a half day. Ray and Carol said they could do that.
6. **Senior Committee, Joe Bernal:** We are on schedule. We have standards done and posted and are looking forward to a great season. The Committee also asked if we could revisit the relay situation with regards to flighting. Rick O asked what has changed since they made the last changes regarding relays and distance events by flighting the first 2 heats. Joe asked if the meet host could decide if flighting is to be used. Rick clarified that the current policy and procedure is that the Meet referee decides flighting with regard to distance events and relays are automatically flighted. Mary Ellen offered that the confusion stems from the last championship meet in which no relay had more than 3 heats. Joe followed with the report that coaches reviewed it and are asking for changes. Carol said that is mostly because it was a 10-lane pool. Ray clarified that a request can be made to Technical and until then, all rules must be followed as written.

7. **Age Group Committee, Jamie Bloom:** We are working hard and our standards should be completed and posted by September 17<sup>th</sup>.
8. **Coaches Report, Kyle Schack & Christie Batchelor:** Kyle reported that there will be an Eastern Zone Clinic in Billerica in April. Christie reported that they are trying to set up a Coaches' meeting at the Swimposium.
9. **Athletes Report:** Ali Lie reported that they had a busy summer. At the Senior Meet, they enjoyed giving out the awards. They also enjoyed working with Nadine and the Inclusion Committee and volunteering at two Water Safety Days. Lastly, she reported that Athlete Day at Water Country was a success. They had about 70 swimmers from many different teams, which was great given we had weather issues and had to move the day at the last minute. The feedback they received was positive and people are looking for more fun things like this. Elise Atkinson spoke about wanting more involved team representatives. They asked for a booth at the Swimposium to invite every team rep so they could discuss ways to get all the athletes more involved. Ray stated that they could do something and that they would discuss it later. Molly Westrick spoke and made a motion to eliminate the ability to have two swimmers in a lane for any race. Matt Craven seconded the motion. Carol explained that currently, it is only for 400 free and above and only if the meet host allows it. Ray suggested that this be brought to Technical. Rick, who serves on the Technical Committee, agreed that they should bring it to technical and the next meeting will be some time in October. Molly withdrew her motion and Matt C seconded.
10. **Inclusion Committee Report, Nadine Johnson-Jesionek :** Nadine opened up with high praise for the Athlete Representatives. She reported what a great help they were especially helping with the Water Safety Days. One was held on July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Roxbury YMCA and the second one was held on July 26<sup>th</sup> at the Mildred Avenue Community Center, where Rhi Jeffery, Olympic Gold Medalist, was a special guest. At the end of the day, NES swimmer, Maria Burzillo shared a paper she had written for school titled, "The Truth Behind African Americans and Swimming". She did a great job capturing all the facts and hardships regarding this subject. A PDF version will be posted online soon. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final Water Safety Day will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, we are excited to attend the USA Swimming Convention to learn and listen about new ways to build on what we are doing in New England. (*Matt Craven Arrives*)
11. **Technical Committee Report:** Rick Osterberg reported that there will be a meeting sometime in October and if you have any issues; please contact the committee chair, Laura Matusak, to add it to the agenda.
12. **Safe Sport, Anne Kaufman:** Absent, No report
13. **Office Report, Carol Healy:** Given this is first time that we are giving an award to the Top IMX Swimmer for each age group; she is looking for ideas for an award. Also, she would like feedback on listing coaches and credential dates on the website so, host teams and/or coaches can check them for expiration. The majority of LSC's currently do this. Carl asked about a mail merge campaign. Carol stated that is what is currently done and is time consuming. Jamie stated that it sounds good and is similar to what the YMCA's do now. Kyle stated that as a coach, he thinks it would also help in the interest of gaining respect in the profession. Matt C believes it would benefit the host teams and also think it would help listing officials as well. Lastly, she has made an executive decision to not post swimmer's photos on the front page of our website. Photos will be relegated to a pool or piece of equipment due to changing times.
14. **Zone Report, Jamie Bloom and Mary Ellen Tynan:** Mary Ellen reported that they had 105 swimmers this past summer, which is 20 less than last year but it is what they anticipated. In addition, they had 14 Select swimmers take advantage of the offer that NES put on the table earlier this year. These Select swimmers account for 13% of the team and ultimately scored 60% of the team points. There are still a few areas to work on such as 13/14 boys and 11/12 girls for participation as some teams don't always encourage for fear of recruiting etc. However, she never has had a case substantiated ever. Bob Menck reported that it was his first Zones ever and commended the team on how well behaved and focused they were. Ray also stated that he sent two kids and they had a great experience.
15. **Calendar Committee, Matt Craven:** Long Course season is over and he believes it went well. He was most

impressed by the 14 & under meet in which there were so many moving parts to that meet yet, it all ran amazingly. Seniors was packed and he believes as an organization, we need to raise the bar because it shouldn't be that crowded and we need to get a better handle on the top-level meets. Joe B stated that we have come a long way but agree that we need to keep upping the bar. Carl C agreed that the 14 and under went well but felt that the awards situation was an issue.

**16. New Business:** Ray was contacted by a NH group and was ultimately given 2 petitions asking the BOD to rescind 2 technical rules as they believe they are a HOD matter. The first rule is actually an old rule, which does not allow swimmers with a Senior cut to swim that event at Age Groups. The second rule, passed in June, was to require that all qualifying times needed to be in the SWIMS database. Ray told them that they could go back to Technical for reconsideration but the group opted to proceed with the petition due to the fact that the season was starting. Therefore, he invited Brian Dirrane to present the petitions to the BOD for discussion, review and options on whether we need a special HOD meeting. Brian Dirrane is representing the group of 13 teams in the NHSA, which are all USA/NES teams as well. Brian proceeded with his presentation:

The NHSA teams have a few issues. First of all, we have location issues. It is a huge expense for us to attend a 3-day sanctioned meet in Boston, involving hotels, meals etc. In addition, our group believes that this is a HOD matter and not a BOD issue to vote on. Finally, we believe the data is flawed. Statistics state that over 70% of swimmers with non-SWIMS times fail to swim the cut time at a championship meet. Our group runs tri meets often. We follow all the same rules as USA Swimming. We utilize timing systems, back up watches etc. We don't understand the urgency to push this through at this time because it won't stop bad times from being entered into the system. We are just asking for a delay so more information can be gathered. Ray Grant asked about the other issue on the petitions. Brian stated that they are not addressing the second rule and are withdrawing the petitions since he believes the structure was flawed. They are requesting a delay in implementation of this rule.

Ray asked if there is a motion. Jamie Bloom motions to have the BOD delay the implementation of the rule. Ali Lie seconded the motion. Rick O suggested that the rule be sent back to technical and disagrees that it is a HOD issue. Chuck B does not agree with a delay due to the fact that earlier discussion concerning the size of our meets already. Kyle S reported that he voted against it and has sympathy for the issues facing Brian's group. Arthur A spoke that regarding the first arguments, every team in New England at one point or another is geographically challenged and forced to endure added costs. He also asked why their meets are not sanctioned or observed. Brian stated that High School meets are not included and sometimes due to heavy team competition, many kids have a huge swim. Plus, he stated that most of these times are not the swimmers only time so, it will not increase crowding on the deck since most will be there already. Bob M spoke that NHSA is a good recreational league but it does not follow USA Swim Standards. It follows the National Federation of High School Swimming. USA Swimming doesn't fully trust the process either and have added more stringent standards, such as the admin official who is there solely for the purpose of overseeing the process. He suggested that observed meets may be the avenue to aid high level meets. Jamie B offered that YMCA is trying to get caught up too but the cost of Observed meets at \$5 plus the \$1.50/ splash can add up but she believes it is more of a calendar issue because meets need to be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup> for sanctioning. She wants to know why this rule is it because of accuracy, integrity or that we are snobs. Ray responded that we are here to represent all of New England as a USA Swimming body, not YMCA, NHSA or even MIAA. Swimmers cannot get into zones, sectionals or other big meets without being in swims, so I am opposed to the delay. Carol, as sanction chair clarified that the process is not because of bad times, it is because of consistency as a USA body. With no more hands raised, Ray asked for the vote on the motion to delay the implementation of this rule. Motion failed 2-14-2. Rick made a motion to move the issue to Technical, Priscilla second the motion. Motion passes 13-3-2. Brian Dirrane thanked the BOD for the opportunity to speak.

Priscilla Davis- Asked that we look at requiring each club to pay for one official registration. She doesn't believe it should all fall on host teams running the meets.

Rick Osterberg- Bravo to the Athlete Reps.

Ali Lie – Thank you to Nadine for all your support. Thank you to Carol and to Mary Ellen as well. Also, we wanted to announce that we have a new Facebook pages for all NES Athletes, so spread the word.

Paul Memont - Believe all teams/coaches need to speak with parents about their role after the abuse of officials

that occurred this summer at 14 & unders.

Kyle Schack – In 2 months, I am going to be submitting a subcommittee proposal and looking for volunteers now regarding two issues. First, given that our LSC is growing, we need to look at the LSC from a business viewpoint with over 100 teams and secondly from a competitive viewpoint as to why our performances are not getting better.

Christie Batchelor – Asked Carol to send out a note on how to get meets sanctioned or observed.

Matt Craven – He just wants everyone aware of the Facebook page that was made after Seniors this summer that ripped into a bunch of teams. It was viciously done and anonymous and it even featured a photograph of one of his swimmers who had a medical incident at the meet. He asked if we need to pursue this further since it was very upsetting to many. Ray agreed and relayed information that Brown University was also named and there is a possibility that NES may lose that venue for future meets.

Katherine O'Shea offered that there are apps out there that allow people to post items anonymously.

Carol Healey – To end the meeting on a positive note, she announced she is going to be a grandma.

**Closing:** Motion to adjourn made by Ray Grant, seconded by Priscilla Davis. Meeting Adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully, submitted,  
Judi Lombardi, Secretary  
New England Swimming