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New England Swimming
Harvard-Pilgrim Center - Wellesley, Massachusetts
January 14, 2013 - Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Board Members:

Present: Mariella Allard (UN-NE), Arthur Athanas (YNS), Joe Bernal (BGSC), Chuck Batchelor (ABF), Jamie Bloom (WYST), Matt Craven (SAC), Ray Grant (SSA), Nadine Johnson-Jesionek (BEST), Judi Lombardi (NSSC), Bob Menck (UN-NE), Tim Murphy (MBM), Rick Osterberg (UN-NE), Chris Sheppard (CRA)

Absent: Sarah Bartholomae (SAC), Priscilla Davis (UN-NE), Chris Downing (CRA), Joe Frazier (BGSC), Olivia Jameson (NSSC), Laura Matusak (GMA), Tori Weinstock (PSC).

Guests:

Carl Cederquist (CRIM), Christie Close (ABF), Ken Galica (NWSC), Carol Healey (NES-Office), Dan Reilly (ANA), Kyle Schack (CRIM), Lisa Black Sholudko (AAC), Mary Ellen Tynan (PSC-NE), Dan Warner (NSSC)

7:03 pm – Quorum (11/21) Established - BOD Meeting Called to Order by Ray Grant, General Chair

1. **Secretary's Report, Judi Lombardi:** Minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting reviewed. Motion to approve Secretary's report with typographical corrections made by Ray Grant and seconded by Chris Sheppard. *Motion Passes 11-0.*
2. **Treasurer's Report, Arthur Athanas:** All treasury reports as of 1/14/2013 are on file at the New England Swimming Office and available upon request. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Mariella Allard, seconded by Bob Menck. *Motion Passes 11-0.*
3. **Reimbursement Appeal:**
Gabrielle Shishkoff filed an appeal for Olympic Trial reimbursement. She was initially denied secondary to 6-month requirement prior to OT. Motion to discuss made by Bob Menck, seconded by Mariella Allard. Joe Bernal believes that the spirit of this idea is for swimmers who have contributed to NES throughout the years and does not see this as fitting that ideal. Gabrielle's appeal is that she swam for ABF her final high school year before going off to Penn State. She returned one summer and competed prior to OT. Rick Osterberg read aloud our current policy which has an implied "or" and it is his interpretation that Gabrielle meets the requirements as NES policy is currently written. Ray Grant concurs. *Motion to award appeal in favor of Gabrielle Shishkoff passes 8-2 with 1 abstention*
4. **Short Course Calendar:**
 - a **Review of New England Seniors Meet, Joe Bernal:** Senior meet went off very well. He received some recommendations to make a few changes in hospitality but felt overall it was a great meet.
 - b **SCY Calendar, Matt Craven:** Short Course Regionals, 12 & under Age Groups and Senior Elites are all set and posted on the website. 13-18 Age Groups should be posted very soon.
5. **Proposed Long Course Calendar:** Bids are due February 1st according to our By Laws.
Current Schedule posted is as follows: Regionals – July 12-14, Seniors – July 18-21, 12 & unders – Aug 1-4 and 13/14, Opens – July 25th-28th.
6. **Budget Request Overview:** NES Office needs any committee's requesting budgeted monies for next year to complete their request ASAP so, we can engage in a discussion during February BOD meeting. We need more detailed info than less, so review what you sent last year.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Officials, Bob Menck:** Regarding Senior's meet, he fully agrees with Joe Bernal with exception of some minor air quality issues. Also, thanks to Ken Galica, Carol Healey, Maryella Allard, and others to help run such a smooth meet. Currently, he has lined up for championships the following Meet Referees and Directors: Senior Elite – Scott Doty and Mike Harrison, 12 & unders-Bill Bond and MaryAnne Lustgraaf and 13-18 Age Groups- Ken Galica, Bill McElhiney and Bob Menck. In addition, he wants to remind everyone that starting soon, USA Swimming will be requiring us to have an Administrative Official at Every meet. That person will need to be certified, registered and be in addition to the Administrative

- Referee. Officials train to become an Administrative Referee but a non-official can get certified to become an Administrative Official. As of right now, we are not aware of the process, the date this becomes effective or any other details other than it is coming. Lastly, in response to deck changing issues, Bob is requesting to look into some type of penalty since discussion is not going to stop it even though it is against the rules.
- b. **Coaches Rep, Chris Sheppard:** Tim Thompson will be serving out the term vacated by Greg Gillette.
 - c. **Inclusion, Nadine J. Jesionek:** Reported that at the last committee meeting on November 19th, they voted to adopt a mission statement that is directly aligned to the new mission statement of USA Swimming. The plan to accomplish by rewriting their 2013 purpose. Elizabeth Kim from MWAC, a new member, will take on the NE Swim website tab for Inclusion. Other discussions in process are NE Outreach Swimmers Meet Fee Assistance, National Black Heritage Championship Swim Meet and Zone Diversity Select Camp. All are currently in progress securing locations, travel plans and communication to the swimming community. Details are outlined in Inclusion Committee Report.
 - d. **Athletes:** All 4 student athlete reps were absent. General Chair, Ray Grant, took this opportunity to discuss his concerns with the lack of attendance that affects the board's ability to form a quorum amongst other issues. Chuck Batchelor and Rick Osterberg both asked if we know what other LSC's were doing. Ray reported that he discussed it with a few others and was told that we are the only ones having this issue. A discussion ensued over school requirements, responsibilities and direction. Ray informed Matt Craven that the Administrative Vice Chair is responsible for the Athlete Reps direction. Unaware, Matt immediately informed the board that he would take this time to educate the Rep's and provide direction to benefit the NES Community. Chris Sheppard offered to assist Matt with organizing the reps.
8. **Office, Carol Healey:** Membership is at 7,462 athletes, 498 coaches, 361 officials and 63 others. She also reminded the board that every club needs an anti-bullying policy in place on file by January 15th or they will be defaulted to USA Swimming's Safe Sport Policy.
9. **Annual Meeting and HOD Meeting:** Scheduled for Saturday, May 4th, 2013. Positions that are up are Treasurer, Age Group Chair, Technical and Coaches' Rep are up for election. Ray Grant took this time to ask if the current role/process of nominating is the model that we want as an LSC. Do we need to reach out more to the Swim Community? Jamie Bloom, Nominating Committee, said that they accept all applications and nominate those who best fit job; however, people can be put up at the HOD meeting. Tim asked what is the timeline for submitting nominations to which Jamie replied 30 days prior to the election.
10. **New Business:**
- a. **AAU Swimming:** Ray reported that many teams and even the NES office have been receiving emails regarding the re-emergence of AAU Swimming, especially in Southern New Hampshire and Central Mass.
 - b. **Philosophy of selection of meet dates:** Ray asked if we as a Board, need to establish a progression of meets that the Calendar committee needs to follow such as, 12 & unders needs to precede 13 & up to ensure some swimmers do not get locked out of a championship meet due to a birth date. Tim Murphy asked if this summer is set in stone now. Ray Grant stated that it is due to the fact that it has been posted and published. Tim reported that from a facility standpoint, we need dates and he asked 3 months ago and still no answer. Ray reiterated that the history is that as a board, we have an open, transparent process with set deadlines. The deadline is February 1st for bids. Tim stressed that LCM should be considered different given the lack of meter pool selections in New England. Chris Sheppard agreed that only two facilities could handle our LCM championships. Dan Warner suggested a bid process that is exclusive of the final deadline of regular bids to accommodate championship needs. Ray suggested that we start with this bid process and maybe we should have championship bid deadline due this Friday, January 18th for 12 & unders, 13-18 Meet and Senior Elite Meet. Matt Craven asked what facilities. Ray reported that he is not sure but that he intends on putting a bid in for the Senior LC Meet at Brown this year. Tim reported that he plans on putting one in for this summer but is unsure what a 13-14/Open Meet entails and doesn't understand the dates. Dan Warner asked if the set up is what he is looking for. Matt Craven suggested they flip flop the dates. Ray reviewed the current calendar and format and whether we need to keep these streamlined. Jamie reminded everyone that the meet does need to end on Sunday because Zones entries are due on Monday. Christie Close asked if we even need a bid process for championships. Ray said it was time to decide this. Matt Craven made a motion to set a progression of meets and flip flop the dates on the current calendar. Bob Menck seconded that motion. Motion to change 12 & Under Age Groups to July 25-

- 28 and 13-14/Open to August 1-4. *Motion passes 11-0-1 abstention*
- c. 13-14/Open vs. Age Group: Discussion continued as to why the changes in format to this type of meet. Chris Sheppard said that is would restrict the faster 13-14's from competition. Tim not sure if he could handle this type of meet. Bob Menck made a motion to change the August 1-4th meet from the 13-14/Open to an Age Group Meet. Chris Sheppard seconds that motion. *Motion passes 11-0-1 abstention*.
 - d. Definition of Age Group Swimmer: Joe Bernal asked why we couldn't have any 19 year olds? Jamie Bloom reports that USA swimming defines an age group swimmer up to the age of 18 years old. Carol Healey concurred with Jamie. Dan Warner said that we have a handful of swimmers that we are excluding from swimming as some kids are turning 19 in the summer before they even go off to college. Jamie said the meet is only 3.5 days and we would have too many kids coming home from college at that meet. Chuck Batchelor said that only a portion returning from their freshmen would possibly be eligible. Bob Menck made a motion to change the meet restrictions to include 19 year olds. Judi Lombardi seconded. *Motion passes 10-1-1 abstention*.
 - e. LCM Championship Locations: Tim Murphy requested an answer to the facility question regarding championships now that the dates are set and meet type is defined. He reported that he needs to know now because his camps go live tomorrow. Dan Warner reiterated that MIT is out of the bids for the 12 & under meet. Matt Craven suggested we vote now to give the 12 & under Championship meet to Harvard for July 25th-28th to avoid the risk of having no pool to accommodate the LCM Championship Meet. Ray made a motion to award the meet to Harvard tonight. Matt Craven seconded the motion. *Motion passed 12-0*. Tim asked if he checks the facility and is able to accommodate the dates, could he also have the 13-19 meet? Matt Craven reiterated that other venues may still be in play and that we should see if Dan is able to do that meet. Dan reported that he can go to MIT but he won't have an answer by tomorrow and MIT restricts the number of meets he is able to hold there. Therefore, he suggested that the Board maybe better off with a guarantee from Harvard this time.
 - f. Admissions/Heat Sheet fees: Ray is asking the board to revisit the subject of caps on Admissions and Heat Sheets. With the recent additional NES fees as well as the onslaught of new apps such as, Meet Mobile, teams are seeing a decline in revenue. If we hope that teams are going to continue to run meets, it may behoove us to untie their hands with things like Admissions/Heat Fees. He is asking for board members to think about it and bring suggestions on how to make it better to the next meeting.

11. **Other:**

- a. *Chuck Batchelor* asked if the board could revisit our penalty of missing a prelim event. He believes it is too stiff and it is not being done anywhere else, like Olympic Trials and Nationals for example. Ray Grant and Bob Menck agreed to put it on the next agenda.
- b. *Joe Bernal* informed the board that he heard from Ed Allard as to what sectionals the New England Teams were going to. Ray reported that he sent it to Ed the other day. Also, Joe asked for input into running the Senior Elite meet as a SCY in the am and a LCM in the pm. Ray informed him that he could do that as the Senior Chair. Lastly, Joe asked why we couldn't allow the SCY Championship meet to be 13-19 too. Carol Healy spoke against this change as the meets are posted and published as well as the fact that the Age Group Committee already established it. Ray Grant reported that we can't keep changing things and we need to be responsible for our decisions. Dan Warner said that if it is wrong then how can we not change it and leaving out 5-6 kids who are 19 because it is posted doesn't make sense. Joe Bernal made a motion to amend the 13-18 SCY Championship Meet to include 19 year olds. Chuck Batchelor seconded that motion. *Motion passes 10-1-1*
- c. *Jamie Bloom* asked if we had any resolution on Zones. Carol reported that it has been moved back to Richmond.

Motion to adjourn made by Rick Osterberg, seconded by Chuck Batchelor. Meeting Adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully, submitted,
Judi Lombardi, Secretary
New England Swimming

*Minutes approved 17-0 with typographical errors on March 26, 2913