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New England Swimming
Harvard-Pilgrim Center - Wellesley, Massachusetts
January 7, 2014 - Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Board Members:

Present: Sarah Bartholomae (SAC), Joe Bernal (BGSC), Christie Batchelor (ABF), Chuck Batchelor (ABF), Jamie Bloom (WYST), Carl Cederquist (CRIM), Matt Craven (SAC), Priscilla Davis (UN-NE), Chris Downing (WYST), Joe Frazier (UN), Ray Grant (SSA), Nadine Johnson-Jesioneck (UN), Ali Lie (EVO), Judi Lombardi (NSSC), Laura Matusak (GMA), Paul Memont (UN), Bob Menck (UN), Rick Osterberg (UN-NE), Chris Sheppard (CRA),

Absent: Arthur Athanas (YNS), Tori Weinstock (PSC),

Guests:

Ken Galica (UN), Carol Healey (NES-Office), Mary Riddell (UN-NE), Lisa Black Sholudko (AAC), Mary Ellen Tynan (PSC), Dan Warner (NSSC)

7:00 pm – Quorum (14/21) Established - BOD Meeting Called to Order by Ray Grant, General Chair

1. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes for the September 17, 2013 meeting reviewed. Motion to approve Secretary's report for 9/17/2013 made by Matt Craven and seconded by Chris Sheppard. *Motion Passes 14-0.* Minutes for the July 9, 2013 meeting reviewed. Motion to approve Secretary's report for 7/9/13 with typographical corrections made by Matt Craven and seconded by Rick Osterberg. *Motion Passes 14-0*
2. **Treasurer's Report, Joe Frazier:** Joe presented a spreadsheet of the 2012-2013 NES Profit and Losses estimate. All current treasury reports as of 1/7/2014 are on file at the New England Swimming Office and available upon request. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Matt Craven, seconded by Laura Matuszak. *Motion Passes 14-0.*
3. **Office Report, Carol Healy:**
Carol reported that we currently have over 7500 athletes registered, 513 coaches and 418 officials to date. Most of which occurred over the last couple of weeks. As a review of the past year, Carol reported that the top 3 complaints NES received were:
 1. Running out of awards at 12 and Under Championships.
 2. The formation of Single Age Cuts.
 3. The lateness of posting of Time StandardsThe top 3 compliments received were:
 1. Running of the Top 6 Banquet.
 2. The Swim Clinic with both Amanda Beard & Jason Lezak
 3. Bringing back Long Course Senior Meet.
4. **General Chair Report, Ray Grant:** Ray reported that he and Rick Osterberg have been reviewing all the policy and procedures for our LSC to make sure all protocols are being followed. A few updates will be enforced to ensure that we are compliant with our bylaws.
 - a Every team is required to fill out a form every January designating their delegate for the HOD meeting in May. Forms will be mailed to NES Office in care of the Secretary. NES will keep a record of all voting delegates. Teams will have an opportunity to change their delegates up until just before the meeting date.
 - b Twenty percent of the House of Delegates is supposed to be athlete representatives. In the past, we have not met that quota. It is our recommendation that we elect each teams official team athlete representative as voting members of the HOD. Rick and I will discuss this later but it is our position that it is better to have more representation that is fairly distributed across all teams than not enough.Lastly, a coaches' survey was distributed by some coaches upset over the top end cuts. It is definitely within their prerogative to do so but some handled it better than others. Steve VanDerBekan and Brian Grant were instrumental in this survey and handled it in a very respectful and professional manner. I met with them at Seniors to discuss the reasons why such as, pool time and meet length. Since then, they notified me that they are no longer looking for an emergency HOD meeting now that they understand the reasons behind the decisions made.

5. **USA Swimming Report - Peter Clark:**

Peter was supposed to be here for a week touring through New England. He had to cancel due to all the weather issues/cancellations happening in New England this week. He is expected to fly in sometime this weekend. He is planning on holding a Club Leadership Session on Wednesday, January 15, 2014. It is being held at the Crown Plaza in Warwick, RI at Noon. Information has been on the website and teams are invited to attend and should notify the NES office.

6. **Short Course Calendar: Review of New England Seniors Meet, Joe Bernal:** WPI ran an excellent meet. All the teams were comfortable and performed well. The Facility was beautiful. Mary Ellen Tynan reported that there were 15 New England Records broken and 9 Residential records broken. She also reported that the consensus was that they liked having no bonus cuts because it allowed them to time trial and still had time to rest before returning at night for finals. They recommended a small improvement with the warm down lane. Joe reported that he is recommending that we continue with the relationship with WPI and commit to holding the meet there for the next three years. The area is conducive to having everyone stay nearby and parking is ample. Mariella Allard also added that Paul was very organized and anticipated every request. The staff was ready and willing to do anything we asked. (*Chuck and Christie Batchelor, BOD members arrived 7:20pm*)

7. **Long Course Calendar, Matt Craven:** Matt reports that all LCM bids are due February 1st .

8. **Quad Plan, Matt Craven:** Matt reported that he is working on a quad plan and working with Joe and the Senior Committee first. He reported that he fell behind but will have the plan ready for our November meet. He did add that they have added a new silver level championship at two locations using a 2 ½ day format and plan to keep the senior format the same structure all year. Details will be presented at the February meeting. (*Priscilla Davis, Paul Memont and Laura Matusak, BOD members, arrive @7:35pm*)

9. **Budget Request Overview, Arthur Athanas:** Ray reported that Arthur couldn't be here because he wasn't feeling well but that they will be sending out info asking for budget requests soon as they will be working on the budget for next meeting.

10. **Technical Committee Report, Laura Matuszak:** Laura presented four new motions for proposed legislation:

a. RELAY ENTRIES MOTION #1:

Relay entry limits shall be as follows:

200 yards/meters: 2 relays per team per event

400 yards/meters: 2 relays per team per event

800 yards/meters: 2 relay per team per event

All relays are eligible to score. Each relay entry must have achieved this qualifying time during the qualifying period. Aggregate entry times may be used. Teams may substitute relay swimmers at the meet with other swimmers entered into the meet. Coaches must supply proof of time for all relay entries, including aggregate times. Teams will be fined \$100 for each unproven relay entry, payable to New England Swimming. Subsequent unproven relay entries will be referred to the New England Board of Review. This policy will apply for the New England Age Group Championships, the New England Senior Circuit Meets, the New England Senior Championships, and the New England Open Championships. This policy will take effect on February 1, 2014.

Motion to discuss made by Laura, seconded by Rick. Chuck asked if we were ever going to allow 2 800 free relays if time allows. Bob M asked if this proposal takes away the meet hosts ability to change the number of relays. He also suggested a friendly amendment to change the 1 to a 2 for the 800 yard/meter relay. Chris S. asked if the main focus of the motion is the text below the relays. Laura stated that it is. Rick stated that if passed the way it is written, it does not take away the ability of the Meet Director to reduce the entries for time lines but it sets the expectations for coaches. Motion made by Bob to pass the legislation with a change from 1 to 2 relay's on the 800 yard/meter relay. Motion seconded by Laura M. *Motion passes 19-0*

b. SCRATCH DEADLINES MOTION #1:

The scratch deadline for the first day's events shall be determined by the meet director, but shall be no less than twelve (12) hours prior to the start of the following day's preliminary session. The scratch deadline for all subsequent days shall be thirty (30) minutes after the time established for the start of the previous day's finals session.

Coaches must check-in each relay prior to the scratch deadline. Relays that do not check-in will be scratched. Each coach shall pick up relay entry forms from the Clerk of Course on which *the coach* shall list the competing relay swimmers, their first and last names and order of swimming for each entered relay. Relay forms shall be returned to the Clerk of Course for tabulation approximately one (1) hour prior to the start of the relays. However, the *name and* relay order may be changed up to the time of the swim.

Competitors in individual events 800 meters and longer must check-in to confirm their intention to compete prior to the scratch deadline. Competitors who do not check-in will be scratched.

This policy will apply for the New England Age Group Championships, the New England Senior Circuit Meets, the New England Senior Championships, and the New England Open Championships. This policy will take effect on February 1, 2014.

Motion to discuss presented by Laura and seconded by Rick O. Mariella Allard made a friendly motion to add in "names" with order in paragraph 2 (italicized above). Friendly motion accepted. Bob M offered up that if you don't positively check in at Juniors and Nationals, that it still allows you to be seeded after the last conforming swimmer. Jamie asked that if we have been working in all committees to align ourselves with the national level then shouldn't we consider doing what they do at Juniors and Nationals. Chuck stated that not checking in is different than being scratched. Bob concurred. Mariella stated that currently if you don't show up then she canvases the pool and if she can't find them, then she asks the Meet Director to scratch them. Matt C makes a proposal to follow the National policy allowing late swimmers to be seeded after the last conforming swimmer as well as changing she/he to "coach" and add in "name" with order to be changed. Laura seconded the motion. *Motion passes 19-0.*

c. HOSPITALITY MOTION #1:

It is the responsibility of the meet host to provide ample hospitality for coaches and officials for the duration of the meet. Host clubs who do not provide ample hospitality will not receive the designated meet stipend from New England Swimming, and future championship meet bids may be denied.

For level N2 or N3 Officials Qualifying Meets (OQM), New England Swimming will provide an additional \$500 hospitality stipend to cover the additional level of hospitality required.

This policy will apply for the New England Age Group Championships, the New England Senior Circuit Meets, the New England Senior Championships, and the New England Open Championships. This policy will take effect on February 1, 2014.

A motion to discuss was made by Laura and seconded by Joe B. Ray asked how "ample" is determined. Laura is unsure at this time and asked for feedback. Carl C asked what a N2 or N3 meet is. Paul M explained that it is a meet used to train officials who are trying to move onto a new level championship. This type of meet typically brings in quite a few more officials than the average championship. Chuck asked why shouldn't this standard be applied to all our meets. Ray said it does but NES does not give a stipend for hospitality at its regularly scheduled championships and his hospitality cost was about \$3,000 for running seniors. Kyle asked if \$500 doesn't give much to the host team, then should we consider maybe \$500/day. Bob M made a friendly motion to add in N2 meets as well. Laura asked how often they are run. Bob responded that typically once a year we have either a N2 or a N3 meet, so it would be once a year. Judi asked if we should focus on quantifying "ample" to eliminate the subjective nature of the motion. Laura asked for suggestions. Christie offered that a percentage of the surveys could be used to determine that such as 70%. Matt thinks that some survey responses are the result of jokesters and don't think we should rely on them. Ray makes a motion to pass as is. Laura seconded it. *Motion passes 19-0*

d. PHOTOGRAPHY MOTION #1

Due to confusion over wording, a motion was made by Chris S and seconded by Priscilla to table this motion sending it back to technical committee. *Motion to table passes 19-0*

e. **CALENDAR MEET ENTRIES MOTION #1**

For New England Calendar meet, the first date of entry acceptance shall be no earlier than six weeks (42 days) prior to the first day of competition in the meet. This policy date will take effect on April 1, 2014.

Laura explained that this policy is for consistency and fairness in the meet entry process for teams hosting meets on the same weekends. *Motion passes 19-0*

11. Committee Reports:

- a. Officials: Paul Memont reported that they are working on a process to get deck referees qualified faster. By giving more experience, it will allow us to certify more meet referees. Right now we are having a difficult time finding qualified meet referees for all our needs.
- b. Coaches: Christie Batchelor and Chris Sheppard presented an outline for a Coaches Reimbursement /Incentive Policy. It is a rough draft at what they are looking at but are looking for input. Ray asked if they put together numbers as to how much it is going to cost the LSC. Christie reported that they don't have access to that kind of data. Joe Frazier offered to put together some numbers and see what the cost would have been the last couple of years. Chris reported that they are going to have coaches meetings at 12 & under and 13 & up championships between sessions this year. Dan Warner suggested that they put that information in the meet documents so all coaches attending are aware of it.
- c. Athletes: Chris Downing reported that they took away a lot of great ideas from the national convention as well as a few suggestions at the senior meet. They were excited to learn how involved the athletes were at other LSC's. For now, they are currently pulling together some stuff and will present them at the next meeting.
- d. Inclusion: Nadine Jesionek presented an outline of the Inclusion Committee work. They held two meetings in December and January. They reviewed their success over the last year and set goals for the current year. They are looking for additional active Committee Members and are in the planning stages for the National Black Heritage Meet and International Water Safety Day, scheduled for May 15th. Lastly, the Inclusion Student Athlete reps are asking to work with the NES Athlete Reps on the equipment drive this year.
- e. Safety: Priscilla Davis announced that Mara Tynan won the National Safety Poster Contest. In addition, she received a great DVD to be uploaded to the NES website and is looking for help on how to do that.
- f. Safe Sport: Mariella Allard informed the board that there is a new Athlete Protection Quiz available for parents now. It allows you to see how many parents from each team take the quiz. She thinks this is something we should consider doing as an incentive to get as many parents informed as possible.

12. **Election of Athletes to the HOD**: Ray raised the issue of electing the Athlete Team Reps to the HOD to increase the chances of fulfilling the 20% needed for the HOD meeting. Chris asked if these reps are aware that they will be elected because he notes that some team reps are now in college. Ray states that this list comes directly from the team current team registrations. Jamie is concerned that the date may need to be adjusted due to the fact that it is typically held on SAT day for student athletes. Laura asked if this needs to be taken care of now. Ray said that we need to do it now so that if elected an email will go out to them informing them. Chris Downing is concerned that the change in the Athlete Team Rep job description may prompt teams to change their representative. Rick stated that we could email teams and give them a chance to submit a different name before the next meeting. Ray said that this is the proposal on the table tonight. Matt stated that he thinks it is a jumping off point and thinks that our young reps are frustrated and need more direction because communication is lacking. Motion to vote the Team Athlete Reps to the HOD made by Jamie and seconded by Chris S. *Motion passes 12 – 3 with 4 abstentions*

13. New Business:

Paul Memont: Just wanted to announce that the Deaf Swimming Championships are being held this weekend in Rochester.

Kyle Schack: Just wanted to ask if the info for the NE All-Stars is on the website and if USA registered Foreign Athletes are allowed to join the Inclusion Committee. Nadine responded yes to both.

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Priscilla Davis: Just wanted to thank Rick for taking care of putting the round thing (aka, DVD) on the website.

Dan Warner: Asked if the committees could please announce all their meetings in advance since some coaches were unaware of the meeting that was held at seniors in December. This will give coaches the opportunity to drive out if they were not in attendance that day.

Mariella Allard: Thank you to NES for sponsoring her lifetime membership to USA Swimming.

Mary Ellen Tynan: Please note that we are now posting college commitments on the NES website so please have coaches email their seniors names and commitments as they come in.

Carol Healy: A representative from Dana Farber contacted NES asking for us to host several swim-a-thons. I told her that we decide by a board of directors but usually that type of event is hosted by a team and not by the LSC board. Lastly, congratulations to Joe Frazier who is receiving the USA Swimming Outstanding Service Award. He has missed only one board meeting since 2005. In addition to his service as a BOD member, he dedicates countless hours with zones help as well. Thank you for all you do.

Closing: Motion to adjourn made by Ray Grant, seconded by Matt Craven. Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully, submitted,
Judi Lombardi, Secretary
New England Swimming