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New England Swimming
Harvard-Pilgrim Center - Wellesley, Massachusetts
September 17, 2013 - Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Board Members:

Present: Joe Bernal (BGSC), Christie Batchelor (ABF), Chuck Batchelor (ABF), Jamie Bloom (WYST), Carl Cederquist (CRIM), Matt Craven (SAC), Joe Frazier (UN), Ray Grant (SSA), Nadine Johnson-Jesionek (UN), Ali Lie (EVO), Judi Lombardi (NSSC), Laura Matusak (GMA), Paul Memont (UN), Bob Menck (UN), Rick Osterberg (UN-NE), Tori Weinstock (PSC)

Absent: Arthur Athanas (YNS), Sarah Bartholomae (SAC), Priscilla Davis (UN-NE), Chris Downing (WYST), Chris Sheppard (CRA),

Guests:

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

7:01 pm – Quorum (16/21) Established - BOD Meeting Called to Order by Ray Grant, General Chair

1. **Secretary's Report:** Approval of Minutes for July 9th meeting was postponed due to Mariella Allard's absence from this meeting who took the minutes for the July meeting.
2. **Treasurer's Report, Joe Frazier:** All treasury reports as of 9/18/2013 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 unanimously.*
3. **USA Swimming Convention Report, Ray Grant:**
Ray reported the following:
 - a. Athletes - NES was the best Athlete group representation in his opinion. The athletes participated in community service swimming lessons, bagged meals for underprivileged families and even garnered an extra vote at the HOD meeting.
 - b. Controversial Legislation – A lengthy discussion followed the proposal that one LSC may sanction meets 25 miles into another LSC's territory. It ultimately failed but was discussed extensively.
 - c. Sectional Swimming – The senior committee put forth legislation as to when meets are to be held. National now mandates that Zones have to be held 8-22 days before Junior Nationals. In addition, they placed a requirement that the qualification times cannot be faster than 5% off the Junior National cuts. So, our times need to get slower in the super sectionals. Their reasoning is that kids are getting demotivated and the tiers are being blurred. Lastly, the meet has to be conducted in 4 days, not 4 ½.
 - d. Eastern Zone - Our zone will now be comprised of 3 sectional meets. 2 will be SCY held in Ithaca, NY and Christianberg, VA. The third will be held the following weekend as a LCM in Buffalo, NY. All sectional standards will be the same for the entire zone, which was decided to be the halfway point between the current North and South qualifying times.
 - e. Administrative Official – It is finalized and here to stay due to an overload of inaccurate swim times in the swims database over the course of the years. Admin Officials will also dress like an official. Currently, there is no restriction on the Meet Director serving as the Admin Official, even though it is strongly recommended that that not be the case. In addition, it is strongly recommended, although not restricted, that the person running the Hytek system not be the Admin Official. The person running the Timing system is restricted from being the Admin Official.
 - f. Other Legislation Passed – All Safe Sports legislation passed and a new rule that states that an Adult coach can not be in a relationship with an adult swimmer, even though both are adults.
 - g. Board of Review – Effective 1/2015, USA swimming will eliminate the local Board of Reviews. Two people will be nominated from each LSC to serve on the Zone Board of Review, 24 in our zone, to ensure more fairness. They will establish an administrative BOR that can work between 2 opposing groups on small items and act as arbitrators within an LSC.
 - h. Dues – Effective 2015, our dues will increase \$2 a year for the following 10 years. In other words, our USA dues are currently \$50. In 2015, they will be \$52 and then \$54 in 2016 and so on.
 - i. General Chairs Meeting – We are reviewing Senior Zone Championships, sectionals and alternating hosts for zones. All our info is strictly in the discussion stages at this time.

4. **Awards Banquet / Swim Clinic, Carol Healey:** We are filled to capacity (550 people) as Jason Lezak was a huge draw for both the banquet and the clinic. Forecast looks promising.

5. **Calendar Committee, Matt Craven:**

a LCM – The season went well with the Senior Meet being a huge success as well as 13-19's. There were lots of broken records at the 12 & unders.

b SCY- All Regional Meet locations are secured. We have set the Senior Meet at WPI. 12 & Unders and 13-18's are close to being finalized as we are hammering out the details right now.

6. **Senior Committee Report, Joe Bernal:** We did a walk through at WPI and are very excited. We have plenty of deck space and an auxiliary area behind for swimmers to rest. Warm ups will be unlimited and continuous as well as no fee to park. Cuts have been posted on NES. The Senior Elite Meet is set at YNS and will be SCY in the AM, followed by LCM for finals and distance events. We are inviting teams from NY and NJ to the meet as well. We are planning on adding in awards presentations to senior meets, honoring the Top 3 teams and individuals. Medals will be on demand.

7. **Age Group Chair Report, Jamie Bloom:** We have tentatively set Age Groups for March 13-16th at Boston University as we finalized a few more details. GMSC has bid to host the event. If a swimmer is 19 and in high school, then they can apply for a waiver to swim and will get it. It allows us to control the influx of 19 year-old true Age Group Swimmers. Christie Batchelor is concerned with a meet bid she submitted for the Roger Williams Meet the same weekend.

Secondly, 15-18 Age Group swimmers will have a qualifying time (cut-on) as well as a cut off time. We are also going to use the 5% rule off sectionals times to keep the tier clear so, senior level swimmers will have a place as well as Age group level swimmers without oversubscribing meets.(950 least year) If a 15-18 year-old has a sectional or senior level qualifying time, then they will not be allowed to swim that event at Age Groups. Matt Craven is concerned that if our goal is to make the LSC faster, then why are we punishing the faster swimmers. Chuck Batchelor is also concerned with this new approach and doesn't feel it is right to eliminate swimmers. Ray Grant explains that the faster senior level swimmers have two other championships meets and we are not doing a good job developing the middle group of swimmers. In addition, our meets are becoming monstrous and USA swimming is looking to reduce meet times. Christie Batchelor, a committee member, reported that we need to define our goals and define the purpose of the championship meet. Age Group Championships are supposed to be for true Age Group swimmers. By setting this meet that way, then we are helping to get more swimmers up to a level that ultimately raises our level of competition in the LSC as a whole. Ray reported as an example that during last year's 50 free event, there were 72 swimmers with Jr. National cuts. This not only increases our timeline, but also decreases the amount of good swimmers we can let in the meet to help make them faster. Tori Weinstock said she understands the philosophy but if we are moving swimmers to the faster meets, then why are the Senior Elites having finals as LCM during SCY Season if this is to be "our championship"? Plus it is hard to make the next level by December and if you do at Age Groups then you have to wait until December to swim it. If this is finalized, Joe Bernal said he would discuss these concerns with the Senior Committee. Ali Lie stated that she is one of those "swimmers" who is in the middle but has potential. She gets so excited to make Age Groups and when she gets there, she realizes that her swims don't matter, as everyone is so fast that she doesn't have a shot to make finals.

8. **Technical Committee Report, Laura Matuszak:** No report at this time.

9. **Athletes Report:** Tori Weinstock reported that the suggestion box was placed at Summer Championships again. Some suggestions were: No Outside LSC Teams, Longer Warm Ups and Ribbons for Open Meets. They reported that they plan on getting the team reps more involved as they are in other LSC's

10. **Officials Report, Paul Memont:** New Rule changes are in the Breast and Butterfly area. They will have to touch with both hands visible. There can be no hand-on-hand touch, as Europe does not like this allowance. In addition, national is looking at retention rates for swimmers. Currently, there is a 60% retention rate for 12 & under and a 90% retention rate for 13 & up. This is primarily due to the fact that parents are suffering from long meets. So, we are looking at how we interpret our 4-hour rule (not including warm-ups). Lastly, Ken Galica is doing the Administrative Official classes and is looking at maybe adding more.

11. Coaches Report: No report at this time

12. Inclusion Report, Nadine J. Jesionek: We currently have 9 active members and two new student athletes, Josie Cuoco (CCSC) and Irina Rojas (BGSC). We have postponed our website for the moment. The Boston Center for Youth and Families have asked our committee to assist with providing coaches training to their lifeguards who have been asked to coach their new inner-city recreation league. We are looking for coaches to volunteer. At the USA Convention, new legislation relating to discrimination was proposed by the Inclusion Committee to expand the code of conduct. It was passed at the convention. Lastly, Our Diversity Workshop speaker, Jeff Commings, did a great job. He reported that we all need to be more cognizant of the conversations on deck to not offend others. Looking forward to another year of collective participation from NES.

13. Office Report, Carol Healy: A swimmer from NES won the National Poster Contest. Congratulations to Mara Tynan. Peter Clark has rescheduled for October 7th for the Club Management Leadership School from the cancelled one in June. We are looking at the end of April to offer a Swimposium.

- a. Boston Public Schools now offer free lunch to everyone so; we need a new set of parameters for the Outreach swimmers in the Boston School System. Tax returns should be fine for those swimmers and the non-Boston swimmers can continue to use the free lunch approval as a parameter in the outreach program.

14. Reimbursement Waiver Request: A request was received on 9/4/13 for reimbursement for LC Nationals in June. It was officially supposed to be due on July 29th per our current guidelines. Rick reported that because guidelines are established and clearly written, then it has to be dismissed but the swimmer can file an appeal. Secondly, a request for outreach funds was also late according to policy however, this policy states “end of season” not from the last meet swam as is clearly written with the other policy. With this grey area, then the LCM funds can be approved out of the outreach accounts because they are 30 days from “end of season” however, the SCY requests is dismissed due to the fact that it is over 30 days from end of season but swimmer can file an appeal.

15. Zones Report, Jamie Bloom: It was a great meet and all the swimmers were well behaved. We finished in the middle of the pack this year. The 13-14 girls took fourth place but our 13-14 boys did not score a single point so, we may want to look at why. It was a fast meet as 30 zone records were broken. Originally, we stated that you needed 3 cuts to go, however we made a few exceptions towards the end and took down 122 swimmers. Also, Ray Grant injected that the zone voted overwhelming, 11-1 that there will be no exceptions that a swimmer with a Junior cut CANNOT swim at Zones at all, not just the event, the entire meet. Ray reports that he was the “1” vote against the change.

16. Reimbursement Request Policy 2013-2014: Treasurer reports that last year we budgeted \$34,000 for reimbursement and have currently spent \$36,700. Our next budgeted amount adjusts for this. However, given these numbers, we need to clarify the policy. Below are Proposed Changes and Clarifications to current policy:

- a Typo: Include 2014 LCM Arena Grand Prix Series Meets to be reimbursed from \$5,000 pot, Max \$100 per swimmer. Max 1 meet in Series per swimmer
- Jan 17-19 (Austin, TX)
 - Feb 13-15 (Orlando, FL)
 - April 24-26 (Mesa, AZ)
 - May 15-18 (Charlotte, NC)
 - June 19-22 (Santa Clara, CA)

A typo excluded the Minnesota Grand Prix Meet. Rick Osterberg motions to include the meet, Bob Menck seconds to add in Nov 14-16 (Minneapolis, MN). *Motion passes 15-0-1*

b. Meet Limit Change: *“Athletes are eligible for reimbursement for no more than two meets for the period of September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2014”*

Ray asks what the rationale is to limit to 2 meets. Laura Matuszak stated to ensure that we have enough money budgeted. Chuck Batchelor stated that we are in the ballpark this year without the restriction. Ray reminded everyone that we started charging a travel fee last year for more money and now we are limiting the swimmers as to how many they can attend. Chuck Batchelor motioned to strike the full sentence from the policy. Christie Batchelor seconded it. *Motion passes 12-0 with 4 Abstentions.*

c. Eligibility Clarification: *To be eligible for reimbursement, an athlete must have been registered in New England Swimming, and have a fully participated in a New England Swimming calendar meet within six months of the meet for which reimbursement has been requested.*

Post High School Eligibility: College athletes seeing reimbursement must also along with the above eligibility requirements, have been previously registered with New England Swimming for one year prior to graduation from High School.

Rick asked why we changed “prior” to “within” as this can be interpreted as after the meet which may defeat the reasons for the eligibility requirement. Carol agreed that “Prior” maybe a better word choice. Christie Batchelor doesn’t understand the requirement to swim in a meet that they are clearly not suited for just to get the required meet in. Matt Craven concurs, as this will also take away a spot from a senior swimmer just as with Age Group changes. Ray clarified that there are other ways to fulfill this requirement. In the past, some have held clinics or volunteered. We work with the swimmers, as the reason for the clarification is to make sure they can contribute somehow to NES in return for the reimbursement support. Chuck asked why we don’t add in NCSA. Jamie Bloom said if that is the case, then why not YMCA Nationals. Joe Frazier stressed that whatever meets you add in, then you need to take one out as the budget was made on those listed. Chuck motioned to revise the Eligibility clarification to “Non Post High School eligibility and to change the word within to “6 months prior to the meet...” , as well as the Post High School Eligibility striking the words “also, along with the above eligibility requirement”. Matt Craven seconded the motion. *Motion passed 14-0 with 2 abstentions.*

17. New Business: Bob Menck- Redskins will beat the Patriots

Rick Osterberg- Sorry for the delay in Technical and Governance.

Christie Batchelor- Stated that Chris Sheppard and herself had a very productive coaches meeting at the 12 & Under championships this summer.

Ray Grant – Our zone has Open Water Zone Championships this summer. Also, we wish former At Large Board Member, Tim Murphy good luck at Penn State and that we are opening his position if anyone is interested. Carol will post it on the NES website. Next meeting will be in November; we will send an email with the date.

Closing: Motion to adjourn made by Joe Frazier, seconded by Chuck Batchelor. Meeting Adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully, submitted,
Judi Lombardi, Secretary
New England Swimming