

Chicago District Swim Committee Minutes

May 14th, 2008

Leaning Tower YMCA

The Chicago District YMCA Committee held a regular business meeting at the Leaning Tower YMCA on May 14th, 2008, with a quorum present for the conduct of business, Craig Strong, District Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM. Introductions were done and attendance was taken. The following people were in attendance.

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|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Darby Brtva | Buehler- Secretary/Treasurer |
| Dave Lulis | Foglia |
| Anthony Kriz | Foglia |
| Cassidy Kuhlmann | Hastings Lake |
| Amy Goodwin | High Ridge |
| Mike Hewitt | Lake County |
| Mike Howard | Lake County |
| Nicole Smokowicz | Lattof |
| Mary Beth McGinnis | Leaning Tower |
| Kathy Zipperer | Leaning Tower |
| Barb Zitkus | Leaning Tower |
| Craig Strong | McGaw- Chairman |
| Lori Siegel | McGaw- Staff Designate |
| Wendy Mohrenweiser | McGaw |
| Jason Smid | Pav |
| Larry Saint Germain | State Committee |
| Francois LaSalle | State Committee |

A motion to approve the January 9th, 2008 minutes was made by Nicole Smokowicz. Mike Howard made a second motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Lake County presented their summary of the Chicago District Classic Meet. They had 285 Swimmers attend. They made \$1400 on Admissions and heat sheets. They brought in \$756.00 on Concessions. T-Shirts made \$275. Action accents contributions \$270-300. Awards cost \$755.00. Net entries fees \$2223. They made about \$4000 on the meet. In all, the meet ran well. No major issues. Lori Siegel asked how the time frame was? The meet actually ran faster than the timeline. By moving the meet back an hour actually helped all swimmers. Craig Strong brought up that at all meets; we need to watch how we handle the kids and coaches on the pool deck.

Leaning Tower presented their summary of the Chicago District Girls' District Meet. They had 241 swimmers attend with 1674 individual entries. They had \$7579 in total sales. Awards cost \$681. Their total expense was \$2777. With \$4851.04 total meet profit.

During the discussion of the girls' meet, Mary Beth McGinnis commented that she would like to add relays back to prelims. Mike Howard commented that the awards should go back to being presented behind the blocks. Larry Saint German commented on presenting the awards behind the block will still slow the meet. Larry Saint Germain also discussed how the breaks build in helped keep the timeline. Mike Howard noted many of the parents couldn't even see the kids get their award. Larry Saint Germain suggested a separate Awards Marshall. Nicole Smokowicz suggested allowing one parent from each team act as a photographer. Mary Beth McGinnis actually did have one parent as the photographer for the meet. His pictures were posted on the Leaning Tower web page and his photos were available for purchase. Craig Strong suggested tabling this discussion for New Business. Francois LaSalle commented on the awards and photos being depended on the where the meet is hosted. Craig Strong then suggested having a walk through of

the host site for district. Lori Siegel asked that should only be done when a new facility is introduced.

McGaw presented their summary of the Chicago District Boys' District Meet. Before the meet even started they received \$3900 dollars in donations. They made \$1500 on meet Fees. They had 196 swimmers attend. Their gross income was \$11000. They spent \$388 for trophies (for both the boys' and girls' meets). They also had to get extra medals-they were short. They made \$840 on t-shirt. They had \$3375 in expenses. They made a net of \$8290. Lori Siegel (Meet Director) commented that they tried to keep the 10 minutes interval. They worked through kinks as they came up. They tried to slow down when the coaches asked. The boys' timeline was pretty quick. They did delay an hour because of the time change. Food concession profit was better because of the girls' track meet at Niles West. There was also a dance and baseball games going on. They did not take any food home and they actually had to buy food from Leaning Tower.

During discussion of boys' district, Mary Beth McGinnis brought up adding the relays back to prelims would help with swimmers with the 200 free and 200 IM. It would give these swimmers a more realistic break. Lynda Raymont had one swimmer not make finals and then had to stay the whole day for the finals for a relay. Craig Strong commented that there was a different energy from last year. It seemed more like a prelim/final meet. He felt the change did have an impact. Mary Beth McGinnis added that adding relays back to prelims would not add 3 hours back to the meet. François LaSalle commented that we would be adding an hour and a half back to the meet. Other districts are not running everything the same as us. Craig Strong suggested again starting a committee to look at how Districts are being run. It was suggested to be tabled for New Business. Mike Hewitt asked to have ideas and suggestions due in September. Craig Strong asked all teams go back and get input from parents and discuss it then. Francois also added if we move relays only to prelims, the number of people would go down for finals. Craig suggested that all teams prove the times you entered. You cannot make up a time for final relays. Mike Hewitt added that you could have a relay where you have to sub out a swimmer and the time can get 4 seconds slower. Lori Siegel and Nicole Smokowicz suggested Aggregate times should be used.

Craig Strong went over what was discussed at the May Area Committee meeting. The two points that Chicago coaches provided input on was

- All Coaches agreed that it is a bad idea not to allow swimmers 7 years old and under to compete at Districts and Area Meet.
- Fly over starts should be considered for the Area Meet.

Darby Brtva inform the committee that compete team roosters need to be in by November 30th. Craig Strong let the committee know that he caught a lot of flack last season for not having everything into the Area committee in a timely fashion. It reflects badly on our district when we cannot make our deadlines.

Craig Strong also let everyone know that coaching credentials need to be turned into Lori Siegel by November 30th. Again this needs to be turned in on time and complete. All teams need to stay on top of this.

Francois LaSalle presented the officials' report. Much better Officials turn out for districts. Both district meets ran well. It is really important that we get the parents involved. We need to have parents that can handle all the positions. At the State meet we had a lot of officials show up and have good experience doing this. Coaches need to help out getting the new officials out there at Championship meets. We need to convince them to come out and work at the district and the state level. Once they do it, they get confidence to do it again. In the long run it only helps the kids.

Francois LaSalle will be scheduling training in September. He will send out e-mail. He asked all teams to try and get as many new parents attending as possible.

There will be standardized officials' paperwork in both electronic and paper copies. All teams will be expected to use them at all meets. It will help not only the officials but the coaches as well. Everyone will see the same papers from the start of the season to the Area Meet. Everything should be written the same from the start of the season to the end at the Area Meet. Don't be afraid to challenge at a dual meet. Coaches can decide not to process the DQs at the beginning of the season, but the officials should still be doing their normal thing.

If you have a problem with an official at a dual meet, contact Francois LaSalle about it. He will talk to the official and handle the situation. He feels that some of the officials are intimidated by the coaches. This is when things get out of hand. Mary Beth McGinnis and Craig Strong both feel that it can also go the other way; the coach is also intimidated by certain officials. We need to make sure we have a flow of swimmers, which will help with the congestion, officiating, and coaching. It is all dependant of the pool.

The only training announced at this meeting is officials training Late September/Early October.

Craig Strong presented the dates for the 2009 Championship Meet.

- IHSA Boys' State will be February 27-28, 2009
- YMCA Area meet will be March 6-8, 2009 (Girls' on Sat/Boys' on Sun)
- Age Group Championships will be March 13-15, 2009
- Classic will be February 22, 2009
- Girls' District will be February 28, 2009
- Boys' District will be March 1, 2009

Darby Brtva presented the treasurer's report. We currently have \$150.00 in our account. McGaw will be setting up the Checking Account for the District. From now on all checks will be made payable to McGaw YMCA. McGaw is running the account, because Darby Brtva is part of Chicago Metro, and they have informed her that it would not be a good idea to have a separate checking account outside of Chicago Metro. Darby Brtva also presented information from another district on how much money they collect and what it is used for. The question was asked of the district, should we be collecting money and what should it be used for. Suggestions were

- Officials' Badges (\$125)
- ISI database (\$100 per district meet)
- Officials' Training Sanctioning fee (\$200)
- Coping for Officials training (\$100)
- Plaques and Trophies for classic and district meets

During the Discussion, it was brought up that the host team has always purchased plaques and trophies. The ISI fee should not be counted against the non-USA swim teams. It was suggested that USA swimmers be charged a surcharge or only the USA swim teams pay a team surcharge.

Barb Zitkus motioned to split the ISI fee by the 5 USA swim Teams. During further discussion, many coaches felt the host team should cover the ISI fee. Larry Saint Germain made the second. It was opposed.

Francois LaSalle motioned that the host team pays for the sancuntion fee. Mike Hewitt seconded. It was accepted.

Suggestions were made on how much each team should be paying as a district fee. The coaches suggested \$25. A suggestion of \$50 for the first year, and then see what we spend for the year, and then set an amount for the following year.

Mary Beth McGinnis suggested that more research be done on this topic. Darby Brtva is to talk to François LaSalle, Larry Saint Germain, and Lori Siegel to see what each spends on their training. This topic is tabled until September meeting.

We only had one old business item. The motion for changing the 30/60/90 day requirement. This comes from the state level and cannot be changed.

There were several new business topics.

1) Mike Howard shared at the Classic Meet there was a shortage of 13-21 swimmers. They had one 15 and over girl, 17 boys 13-14, 24 13-14 girls. Should these kids be allowed to swim the district? Let them swim classic and get their individual medals, but no high point trophies. Should we be having a time range for these swimmers to attend districts?

Cassidy Kuhlmann agreed with Mike Howard. She had one swimmer fall into this. Larry Saint Germain added we would be watering down districts by letting these swimmers swim. Mary Beth McGinnis added why have cuts at all then. She also stated this problem effects the younger swimmers also. It was also mentioned that it is an honor to attend districts. Larry Saint Germain asked how many of these kids would go to Districts if they didn't go to Classic? Francois LaSalle stated that the 13 and over only have to make one district cut to attend districts, if we change the rules how would that effect the meets?

Mike Howard will go back and look at the past few classics to see what affect this as had and will present at the next meeting.

2) Cassidy Kuhlmann asked why do entries have to be in so early for the classic meet.
-According to the rules, entries are due 10 days before the meet is to occur.

3) Nicole Smokowicz asked if we can do something with the coaches' meeting at the district meets. Many coaches either miss the meeting or their teams warm-up based on how the meeting is scheduled. Many suggestions were made on how to handle this, pushing the meeting up, having a positive check in, or pushing the meeting back. Larry Saint Germain made the decision that the scratch/coaches' meeting will be pushed back until after warm-ups are complete.

4) Nicole Smokowicz offered to host the summer districts at Lattof. It was approved. Summer Districts will be Saturday July 26th, 2008. Warm-ups 1-2 PM. Meet from 2-6PM. Information packets will be e-mailed after the district meeting.

Craig Strong mentioned that he did not know that we did not do bids for Summer Districts.

Nicole Smokowicz motioned that at the January Meeting, Summer Districts bids due. Jason Smid seconded. All approved.

5) Lori Siegel motioned to raise relays fee to \$12.00. Mike Hewitt second.

Francois LaSalle made an amendment. The fee should be 4 times the individual fee

All approved.

6) Lori Siegel brought up the danger of teams getting pushed into the pool at the end of the district meet. It is not a safe practice. Can we find another way to celebrate? She added that if we are not allowing swimmers on the blocks to receive their awards, then pushing/jumping at the end is also wrong. We need to set the precedent now. Larry Saint Germain added that at both meets the lifeguards left after the last event was over.

Lori Siegel motioned no celebration of jumping in at the end of the meet. It will result in a DQ. Any team member that jumps in would be DQ and then become ineligible for state.

During discussion, Larry Saint Germain asked who writes the DQ and how do we enforce it? Lori Siegel suggested the referee has to stay on deck until the kids are off the deck. Francois LaSalle

stated everyone has to be on the same page about this. Mary Beth McGinnis suggested it should be a slow, gradually change. Mike Howard stated as coaches we set the rules. If we say no, then no!

Lori Siegel amendment- at the end of the event- no coach, no swimmer may enter the pool in the celebration.

Mike Howard made the second.

All Approved.

7) Darby Brtva presented new handbook. Asked all to look over and let her know what changes should be made. Craig Strong asked that all changes be to Darby Brtva in one month's time (June 14th).

Darby Brtva also brought up that we have no system in place to amend our bylaws. Currently we just vote and it is changed.

Darby Brtva motioned that we set up a system to amend our bylaws.

Nicole Smokowicz made the second.

All Approved.

Darby Brtva will present ideas for how to amend the bylaws at the September Meeting.

8) Lori Siegel motioned that meeting minutes will be done and e-mailed with in a week of the meeting.

Nicole Smokowicz made the second.

All approved.

9) Larry Saint Germain asked that if District bids are due in September that teams must present a pool contract within two weeks of their bid being accepted. Craig Strong agreed. Craig Strong stated that the pool contracts would be due to him within two weeks of the September meeting if a team's bid is accepted.

10) Lynda Raymont has stepped down from Foglia. Dave Lulis is now the new head coach.

11) Cassidy Kuhlmann would like to run the BBQ Meet on Sunday July 6th, 2008. She asked how many coaches could bring swimmers. She will get back and discuss with her swimmers and families to see if this is doable. She will e-mail more information later.

12) Cassidy Kuhlmann thanked everyone in the district for helping her during her first season.

May Elections. All positions were up for election.

Lori Siegel made the motion to keep the board as is. A second was made. All approved.

Dates for the Next Meetings: September 10th, 2008, January 14th, 2009, and May 13th, 2009

A motion for adjournment was made. A second was made. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Darby S. Brtva
Secretary/Treasurer