

# METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS CRISIS MEETING

Tuesday, April 2, 2020

ZOOM Board Meeting – 7:00pm

**Board Members:** Eric Fisher, Mary Fleckenstein, John Alaimo, Kate Hallex, Dom Boccio, Allen Wone, Stanley Wong, Robert Frawley, Dylan Cellamare, Mark Owens, David Ellinghaus, BJ Reynoso, Monique Grayson, John Yearwood.

**Absent:** Jim Wargo and John McIlhargy

**Agenda:** To discuss the Covid-19 Pandemic and its continued repercussions on swimmers and Metropolitan Swimming Clubs.

**Call to order:** The Zoom meeting came to order at 7:00pm. All above members were in attendance: 10 adults and 4 athletes.

**Motion:** A motion to accept the minutes of March 27, 2020 was made, seconded and approved by all. **Motion carries.**

**Discussions:** Eric mentioned that Mary Fleckenstein & Dom Boccio were on a call with USA Swimming earlier in the day, about ways to help teams during this difficult time. The 2020 Olympic Games have been officially postponed to July of 2021.

USAS is working with LSC's to help teams getting additional insurance. For example, one LSC gave additional monetary help to teams to purchase liability insurance for their dryland program in addition to their USAS insurance.

Dom is concerned about a comment made about opening-up sanctions again. USAS wants to make this decision as a playing field but New York may get the bad side of this. NY may be on the decline of COVID-19 by the end of May. USAS is trying to make it consistent nationally and not let the LSC's determine when to start giving sanctions again and this is a concern. Another issue is for LSC's to look not only at how to help clubs now, but at the same time continue planning for next season when we are fully up and running again.

Mary mentioned that USAS was adamant about the fact that LSC's must follow their State laws and guidelines. They suggested having a local attorney to check our by-laws. There are many Zoom meetings with coaches to keep communications going. Communication is the key. We are trying to stay a step ahead of everything as much as possible. We must keep in contact as a board (and with Clubs) every 10 days to 2 weeks.

Eric appreciates all the calls made and emails sent to reach the clubs. There were some challenges with club contacts information being obsolete, or messages left at clubs that are closed due to COVID-19. Clubs were happy about getting a stipend from Metro. Checks were mailed out last week. Everyone is thinking of survival; many clubs must furlough

coaches while some will continue paying them through this. Financial issues are the most important for all. Many clubs are offering Zoom dryland workout during the day for their swimmers. Other concerns are retaining or losing swimmers after all this is over. Big issue is whether parents will be able to afford it. What will USAS do about transfers, about sharing pool times with another team, etc. Most important is to stay civil with each other. When pools reopen, there may still be social distancing going on and clubs may not be able to run full practices for a while. We may all be out of the water through May! We also must keep in mind that NY State, towns, cities, will have guidelines regarding social distancing that we will have to follow as well.

Technical Planning – questions about the LCM season this year. Do we make a tentative plan for championship meets this summer? David Ellinghaus added that there is no point for us putting together anything now. We first need to have a chance to go back in the water and we must concentrate on the wellbeing of our families before putting out a schedule. Mary added that we must have some sort of plan, so we'll know what to do once pools are re-opening. For example, what would be our options if we can go back in the water June 1<sup>st</sup> (or June 15<sup>th</sup>, or July 1<sup>st</sup>). Maybe once teams get back in the water, they could get sanctions for small fun meets but not for championship meets.

A coaches meeting was held Monday night (April 1<sup>st</sup>) to talk about all possibilities. Mary will not give any sanctions even through the May meets, until we hear that sanctions can be given again. Committees should also have meeting every 10-15 days to review options.

Finance – Allen will review what needs to be done about payroll.

House of Delegates May Meeting – Mary spoke with Kevin Carolan at NYAC. We don't know yet if we will be allowed to host it at Travers Island. We must post information on the website in case the HOD would be held through Zoom. It also depends on what State Laws say about it. Allen is looking into the NYS laws about virtual meetings and voting.

Athletes Reps – what happens if the HOD gets canceled? Would Mark stay on as Senior Athletes Rep? New Junior Athlete's Rep is Thomas Cho (COND). Every board position stays on until after HOD and elections.

Kate Hallex inquired about using Metro account for ZOOM or a Webinar if needed. Yes! Mark added that as of today, there were about 469 answers for the athletes' survey posted on the Metro Website.

**Next BOD Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 7:00pm**

**A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried at 7:36pm**

Submitted by Monique Grayson  
April 7, 2020