

NTSi BOD Conference Call Minutes
Wednesday, August 19, 2020

BOD Roll Call: Laura Ring, Suzanne Dangelmaier, Barbara Roselli, Chuck Chinnis, Cody Huckabay, Traci Johnson, Carson Brockett, Rodrigo Pereira, Kenneth Chung, Jibran Himsieh

Non-BOD Roll Call: Lisa Stults, Gloria Schuldt, Robin Magan, Brian Dangelmaier, Karen Rourke, Roy Grannell (NTN), Sherry Gentry, Sherrod Edwards (DM parent), Maggie Shook

Call to order 7:01pm

Agenda:

1. LSC Communication - information to all members
 2. LSC new logo in the works
 3. Athlete Committee - Jibran and Carson
 4. Convention Registration - virtual
 5. Highlights of teams who hosted meets in August
 6. September meet sanctioning
-
1. LSC Communication - Barbara reports:
 2. LSC Logo - Chuck reports: USA Swimming will give free help for LSC's looking for changes. Would like to update a new look and logo, fresh start. Will ask our athlete reps (with guidance) for help. Survey parents, athletes and officials for input on what NTSi means to them so we can get a sense of what our new brand can look like.
 3. Athlete Committee - Carson reports: get BOD to approve an athlete committee for NTSi.
 1. Suzanne: That is already in our bylaws to have that. Suggests to Carson to reach out to each team to have an athlete rep for each team.
 2. Carson - Jibran, Carson and Hadley are reps so far.
 3. Chuck - unofficially get an athlete committee because right now we don't have an official committee, just athlete reps on the BOD. They want to get the number to a manageable athlete committee.
 4. Cody - get an official proposal to BOD so it shows that we are doing things the right way. Have clearly defined processes for everything we're doing.
 5. Carson - he will be chair of committee.
 6. Gloria - coming from rules and regs... athletes committee is required for each LSC. You don't need to vote upon it. Makeup is determined how you wrote it. The way we wrote it is how the rules and regs committee passed and approved our bylaws. We can help the athlete committee come up with a manageable number.
 7. Suzanne - then we can update the bylaws and then it will need to be approved by USA Swimming's rules and regs. (The whole point is so that the athlete committee isn't too unwieldy.) Carson will work with Chuck and Cody on that.

8. Carson - has seen more interest brewing amongst athletes. He made a google form to help figure out who is interested for participation.
9. Suzanne - suggests to Carson to see how athletes can be involved in convention. What's allowable, etc.
4. Convention Registration (virtual) - Suzanne reports:
 - Traci - registration came out. Mainly being handled by a committee.
 - Barbara - will there be recordings for watching later vs. live?
 - Traci - we'll have to wait and see. Information is always posted after each meeting, but recordings, unsure.
 - Suzanne - Zone meeting will be conducted after convention, not during.
5. Highlights of teams who hosted meets in August - Kenneth reports:

3 meets were held up to this point. Overall feedback from athletes and coaches has been positive. Meets were very well planned. Meet directors worked the flow well and how to maintain correct social distancing. Played music between heats to loosen up the environment. Took a lot of effort for social distancing. Older kids had a tougher time than younger kids. Flow was devised and number of athletes on deck at a time. All swimmers and coaches had face shields. Temps were checked at arrival and questions about health. They had a ziplock bag with name on it for their face mask while they were competing. They put their ziplock bag on a designated chair. They were allowed to warm down in their lane after they raced. Then got out and took their ziplock and left the pool deck before the next heat came on deck. No locker rooms were used for changing. Marshalls were outside bathrooms to make sure occupancy wasn't passed and swimmers weren't congregating in that area. Extra masks were provided in case swimmers didn't bring their own. Plenty of hand sanitizer stations around pool. Single set of timers per session. Asked to stay seated at all times except for pressing the plunger. Since the meet is running slow, they had plenty of time to record times. After the session, the watches, clipboards, blocks were disinfected between sessions. Radios/headsets were used for officials, not DQ slips. DQ log would be printed out at end. Coach would be informed by an official ASAP. Used Facebook live to broadcast. Updated MeetMobile so parents could track results. Possibly use Zoom to broadcast next time. Meet was pre-seeded. Meet program with a timeline was published ahead of time for parents. So parents at home can track Facebook live along with the meet program timeline to track things more efficiently.

Carson: Went to DM meet and thought it went very well. Half swimmers upstairs and half downstairs. Before each heat was a ready room on the side of the pool, marked off so they could stand in designated spots. Masks in bag at chair by block. Swimmers were relaxed. For him one of the best meets he's had in a year.

Kenneth: Recommendations for upcoming meets - 3 meets coming up in August. (COPS, LAC, ATAC) Maybe look at enforcing more or less restrictions in October to get some time/experience under our belt. His suggestion from officials chair... continue to do what we've allowed in August with the added suggestion of: no more than 80 swimmers per session, unless there is a larger pool (16 lanes) then up number to 100 swimmers per session.

Suzanne: would like comments from the BOD.

Barbara: likes the suggestion of adding up to 100 if there are 16 lanes available.

Chuck: was the scheduled 60 second time between heats adequate?

Kenneth: yes.

Chuck: what's the rationale for increasing to 100 swimmers if 16 lane pools?

Kenneth: just that bigger facilities will have more space on deck to manage social distancing.

Cody: definitely thinks we need to differentiate between facilities. Doesn't feel like we would be any less safe if we have the pool deck capacity. Would like to have the flexibility to do that.

Carson: thinks the more swimmers we can have the better. Adds to a positive environment.

Jibran: agrees with Cody. Base number size on location. Brought up point that it could be hard financially for a team to host with limited number size. Especially for smaller teams.

Rodrigo: hasn't hosted a meet yet and was looking forward to hosting one to see how it goes. Their meet will have no more than 50 swimmers per session. Running 4 sessions (total number is 130). He's good with 100 as top number for bigger pools.

Traci: thinks we can safely increase numbers with a few meets behind us. Agrees with Jibran's thoughts on cost effectiveness. Thinks maybe if a team wants to have more than the set number, to have the team submit their number/plan to the BOD for approval.

Kenneth: only 48 swimmers at the Greenhill pool for the meet.

Non-BOD member thoughts:

Brian: He likes the thoughts so far. His only concern would be the limitations to dual or inter squad meets. As long as the max number is there, does it make a difference how many teams participate?

Kenneth: more coaches on deck, more effort in communication on how the meet will be run, etc.

Brian: if we wait until October to re-evaluate, we've taken another month to give athletes a chance to participate and start getting qualifications.

Cody: build up as we go. Maybe allow some more changes in September and then more for October.

Maggie: would like BOD to consider allowing 2-4 teams to compete at a time to allow more competition for the swimmers. Financially not possible for one team to float those expenses.

Kenneth would like to make a motion:

Proposal: Providing the sanctioning authority given by USA Swimming is not more restrictive, for the month of September 2020, North Texas Swimming Inc. will sanction intrasquad, dual meets, meets with no more than 4 teams and multi-location virtual meets, with no more than 80 swimmers per session, except for a facility that has 16 or more 25 yd lanes, the maximum number of swimmers per session is increased to 120. Exceptions can be considered by the NTSi Board of Directors.

Barbara seconds

Discussion:

Chuck: was going to ask about USA Swimming's position, but they haven't come out with one yet.

Cody: likes it and thinks he's covered all the bases.

Gloria: got an email an hour ago from USA Swimming... there is still a requirement that no teams outside LSC can compete, but nothing new.

Chuck: doesn't know about limiting to just 4 teams. We could limit number of coaches on deck to match capacity. Maybe increase to 6-8 teams.

Kenneth: trying to accommodate coaches opinions and other BOD members, but doesn't know if we're ready to make it more open like an invitational. Trying to minimize disruption.

Cody: would like if we upped it to 6 teams. Also thinks limiting number of team personnel on deck is good. Question for Kenneth: trying to understand the equation.

Kenneth: doesn't want to go backwards. Continue to provide platform for athletes to compete. If we open up too quickly, it could jeopardize our original goal of providing that competition platform.

Barbara: contact tracing is hard and takes time and effort.

Chuck: Can Barbara elaborate on her statement of contact tracing?

Barbara: for every one person exposed, there is a branch of people from each of those individuals. Based upon distance and amount of time exposed. This would take a huge amount of time and effort. Different counties require different procedures.

Suzanne: The host team should assume that responsibility. If the host team doesn't want to deal with that larger amount of people, they should limit their teams and numbers.

Gloria: hold harmless won't help us if someone wants to sue us. How much assistance is the LSC going to give each team to be able to handle contact tracing if exposure happens.

Cody: worries about the financial aspects of teams trying to rent facilities when teams have already been sucked dry from COVID circumstances. Not want to put stress on teams financially. Who's going to be able to afford to run a meet if numbers/teams are too limited?

Suzanne: at this point, are we going to update this motion? Add an amendment?

Kenneth: not comfortable opening up to over 4 teams.

Cody proposes an amendment from 4 teams to 6 teams.

Chuck: seconds amendment

All those in favor of amendment: Laura, Jibrán, Carson, Cody, Chuck, Traci

All those opposed to amendment: Kenneth, Barbara, Rodrigo,

Amendment passes.

Discussion:

Chuck: clarification on last sentence "exceptions can be considered by the NTSi BOD."

Kenneth: that last sentence gives us some room to make changes or offer help.

All those in favor of amendment as proposed on our screen.

In favor: Cody, Traci, Chuck, Laura, Carson, Jibrán

Opposed to motion as presented on the screen: Barbara, Rodrigo, Kenneth

Motion carries.

Formal proposal and motion passed:

Provided the sanctioning authority given by USA Swimming is not more restrictive, for the month of September 2020, North Texas Swimming Inc. will sanction Intrasquad, Dual meets, meets with no more than 6 teams and multi-location virtual meets, with no more than 80 swimmers per session, except for a facility that has 16 or more 25 yd lanes, the maximum number of swimmers per session is increased to 120. Exceptions can be considered by the NTSi Board of Directors.

6. September Meet Sanctioning - Gloria reports:

7 sanctions so far. 14 day sanction for the month of August. Feels there will be more sanctions. Errors are happening. Move 14 day sanction deadline to 30 day sanction deadline for the future. Thinks 30 days allows teams to have more time to plan a COVID responsible meet. Rushing it and mistakes are being made. Would like to move to 30 days effective September 19, 2020. Doesn't want teams to turn in last minute meets and 14 days doesn't give teams enough times to prepare. Would like clarification on fines in the bylaws.

Kenneth: understood that when we moved sanctions to 14 day deadline it would help support teams during these COVID times.

Kenneth would like to make a motion:

Proposal: Any sanction application for any meets taking place Oct 15, 2020 or after, complete and correct sanction application and meet announcement must be submitted no less than 30 days prior to the first day of the meet. The current fines & fees for missing the deadline and re-sanctioning as stipulated in the NTSi Policy and Procedures will remain in place.

Chuck seconds

Discussion:

Chuck: Sanctioning fee was waived because of what was happening with COVID at the beginning.

Suzanne: will clarify that fines and fees are still applicable.

All those in favor: Cody, Rodrigo, Traci, Carson, Jibrán, Laura, Barbara, Chuck, Kenneth

All those opposed:

Motion carries.

Gloria: she thanks us for our help. Meets that she's receiving, people have forgotten what to do and how to do it. Maybe send a reminder email to LSC to help them and ask them to reach out to Gloria, etc. They are happy to help teams get back on track.

Suzanne: anything else from the BOD?

New business?

Anything else from non-BOD?

Conference call for non-BOD members ended at 8:46pm

Conference call continues for BOD members at 8:46pm

Chuck: Traci also knows how to set up meets. Is she ok with her name being put out there to help out teams?

Chuck: would like to pick Kenneth's brain on how those meets went. Will give him a call.

Cody: thanks to all the behind the scenes people. The information is very valuable.

Traci: Jason just got named as the new FINA starter!

Discussion on opening up from 4 to 6 teams and the pros and cons. Worried about how diligent coaches will be in keeping a safe environment.

Suzanne will make a note that this decision was not made lightly and we ask that teams take serious measures for safety.

Discussion on our responsibility for safely proceeding with competition, etc. We have the ability to escort people out of the building. We need to make sure we're ready to enforce our policies.

Suzanne: would Cody be willing to host a Zoom call for the NTSi coaches to discuss our perspective on our policy and how we need to put our athletes first regardless of our beliefs of what we think about masks, etc.

Call ended at 8:59pm