

West Texas Swimming General Meeting, July 30, 2011

Meeting called to order at 12:19.

Attending: Darren Hudson, Trey Hayes, Eric DeMar, Ken Bray (in place of Helferich), Susan Whitehouse, April Hayes, Andrew Wright (acting as secretary), Andy Korda

Approval of Spring 2011 Minutes

- The minutes from the previous meeting were found to be incorrect. The time standards for the summer championship meet were stated as a B standard for all events while the lsc agreed upon a B standard for races 100 meters and shorter and a BB standard for races 200 meters and longer.
 - Motion to amend the minutes to reflect the correct times standards was made by Eric DeMar. Motion passed with no objections.

Treasurer's Report

- No official report was presented to the lsc; however, according to Andy Korda West Texas Swimming has approximately \$17,000 in funds at this time.
- Darren Hudson has asked Andy along with Brad Swendig and one non-coach member to perform a financial audit for the lsc. This is in order to meet the requirements for LEAP certification.

Official's Chair Report

- Mark Helferich was not in attendance. Ken Bray reported on his behalf. See the attached report for more information.
- There was no discussion of the report at this time.
- Motion to accept the official's report as given was made by Eric DeMar. Motion passed with no objection.

TAGS Report

- Report was presented to the committee by Trey Hayes. See the attached report for more information.
- Eric DeMar asked whether time conversions would be accepted for the TAGS meet since the short course meter standard is being removed. This would be an issue in our lsc since West Texas has two short course meter pools potentially joining in the next year. Trey did not have an answer to this question, but will find out at the TSA meeting in October.
- Motion to accept the official's report as given was made by Eric DeMar. Motion passed with no objection.

All-Star Report

- No report was made at this time. The TSA All-Star committee is meeting via conference calls to develop a proposal to create a Texas Select camp. The proposal is to be presented at the annual TSA meeting in October. The general feeling is that two male and two female swimmers from each Texas lsc in each single age group for 11, 12, 13, & 14 year olds will be invited to a camp

formatted like the national and zone select camps. Full details will be known after the TSA meeting.

Safety Chair Report

- Eric DeMar had nothing to report. No safety issues have been reported and no complaints have been made.

LEAP Update

- Darren Hudson has been working with various members of the lsc in order to comply with new standards established by USA Swimming.
 - Eric DeMar has been placing these documents on the West Texas swimming website under the LEAP tab as they become available.
 - We currently need a policy and procedures document separate from the bylaws.
- Our objective is to have all the necessary documents ready to be submitted to USA Swimming by September or October so that there is sufficient time to undergo the review process by December 31. Non-compliance after December 31 will result in a \$100 a day fine and loss of the ability to sanction swim meets after 30 days.
- Once we have achieved LEAP level one we will need to pursue LEAP level two. Compliance with level two will result in West Texas receiving money from USA Swimming for our athletes.
- At this time Darren also mentioned two areas of the bylaws where he has proposed changes and one area where we are not in compliance.
 - First, he suggests decreasing the number of members needed at the House of Delegates meeting to form a quorum.
 - Second, he would like to amend the bylaws to allow electronic voting
 - Darren also pointed out that we do not have the required number of student athletes as members of the House of Delegates.
 - It was suggested that we let the kids vote for the student representatives. It was pointed out that one problem with this method would be that some athletes who could be voted in do not always attend the meets where we hold meetings. For instance, some athletes were at sectionals during West Texas champs.
 - The method for electing student representatives will be decided at our annual House of Delegates meeting in October.

New Business

- Appointment of an officials committee to prepare an official's handbook, per Mark Helferich's recommendation (see official's report).
 - Mark's recommendation was to include one representative each from Abilene and Amarillo and two representatives each from Midland and Lubbock. It was discussed that a smaller committee with only one representative from each club and a coach representative would be a better option. Eric DeMar volunteered to be the coach representative.

- A motion was made to form the committee with the people specified in Mark's representation and Eric DeMar as a coach representative was made by Eric DeMar. The motion passed with no objection.
- Setting aside \$500 to bring in a national level official during a two or three day meet to hold an official's clinic per Mark Helferich's recommendation (see official's report).
 - Motion to accept Mark Helferich's recommendation made by Eric DeMar. Motion passed with no objections.
- Discussion of the use of funds for zones during the years we do not attend.
 - In the past the lsc agreed to spend this money on the swimmers. This has been done in recent years.
 - Susan Whitehouse pointed out that at least some of the money has gone to reduce the cost of the All-Star meet for our swimmers. Last year athletes only paid \$30 dollars to be a part of the team.
 - We have discussed ideas such as taking a group to the Olympic Training Center.
 - No proposal was made on this point.
- Discussion of attending the Southern Zone Championship next year in Rockwall, TX.
 - Trey Hayes pointed out that for a West Texas team to be successful at the Zones meet it will take a commitment from every team in the lsc. He advised making Zones the focus meet for all of West Texas as opposed to TAGS or other end of season meets.
 - Trey also suggested that there be a head coach, two assistant coaches, and a manger. The manager would be responsible for putting together meals, hotel rooms, bags, caps, shirts, etc. The coaches would split the age groups among themselves.
 - Darren Hudson suggested doing a mini Zones camp the weekend prior to the meet. Athletes on the Zones team would come to Lubbock the Friday prior to leaving for Rockwall to participate in practice sessions and other team activities.
 - It was stressed that any decision we make about Zones needs to be made soon so that we can begin planning, and hotel space in Rockwall is very limited.
 - No proposals about zones were made at this time.
- Development of a host team checklist to help with LEAP compliance issues and meet management.
 - This is already being worked on. No proposals were made on this item.
- Seasonal Memberships
 - Darren Hudson pointed out that West Texas has seen a sharp drop in the number of registered athletes in the past few years.
 - Marion Jelf pointed out that this loss is partly due to losing teams in some cities, e.g. Big Spring and Fort Stockton.
 - It was suggested that allowing a seasonal membership for athletes might help increase the lsc's numbers.
 - According to Marion we already have a seasonal membership option in place. The option allows for membership in USA Swimming from May 1st to August 31st, costs \$38 plus the lsc fee.
- Potential new team in Seminole
 - Seminole is trying to start a team, but has not completed the necessary steps. Once they do they will be a part of West Texas Swimming.

- Proposal to raise the splash fee from \$.50 to \$1.00.
 - According to Andy, we need to do this to keep the lsc's finances in the black.
 - Eric DeMar pointed out that West Texas meets have a set fee schedule. Increasing the splash fee would mean less money going to the host team unless the meet entry fee was also increased. This would impact teams that must pay rent for pool use.
 - There is a concern that increasing the meet entry fees would cause some families not to attend meets.
 - No motion was made at this time; the item was tabled until the House of Delegates meeting in October.
- Making all West Texas meets invitational only.
 - There has been a problem in the past year with swimmers coming to meets with no registered coach. These swimmers become the responsibility of the host team which could be a liability issue. Making meets invitational only is one way to prevent this issue from becoming a problem. Gulf swimming has gone to this format for this reason.
 - This is not something we want to do, but it may be necessary in the future. Establishing a LEAP checklist may help alleviate the problem.
 - No motion was made on this point, the consensus is that we need to take a wait and see approach.
- Proposal by Trey Hayes to create a traveling trophy for the West Texas championship meets.
 - Proposed name is the Swendig Cup in honor of his service to West Texas Swimming as a swimmer, coach, and administrator.
 - The name of the winning team at each championship meet would be engraved on the trophy. The Trophy would travel to the winning team's pool.
 - Motion to create the cup as proposed made by Trey Hayes. Motion passed with no objections.
- Development of an Officer's Handbook that provides a job description for each position along with all LEAP compliance documents.
 - This something that Darren is working on already.
 - Eric DeMar suggested that there be separate handbooks for each position that can be passed along as new members take over positions. The entire document can be posted on the website.
 - No motion was made on this item.
- Dates for fall 2011 swim meets.
 - Jenna Purkey has asked to host B/C Champs at McMurry. No decision was made at this time.
 - Tentative dates for meets
 - September 17- LSC Pentathlon
 - October 14-15- LSC Fall Invitational. This would also be the date of the House of Delegates meeting.
 - October 29- COM Halloween Meet
 - Dec. 16-18- COM Winter Champs
 - Motion to approve dates for the LSC Pentathlon and LSC Fall Invite made by Eric DeMar. Motion passed with no objection.

- Proposal to add a bonus swim structure to West Texas Champs.
 - There are many swimmers in West Texas who chose not to swim at this year's summer championship because they only had one or two cuts and couldn't swim anything else. Allowing for bonus swims is expected to help increase the number of swimmers in the meet and the number of events that swimmers can enter.
 - Time standards for summer and winter remain the same.
 - BB standard for all events at short course champs.
 - B standard for 50s and 100s, BB standard for 200s, 400s, and the 1500 at long course champs.
 - A swimmer would receive two bonus swims for achieving one cut; each additional cut would result in one bonus swim up to seven events.
 - Only events 200 yards (meters) or less qualify for bonus swims, even if the standard was achieved in a race longer than this.
 - Motion to approve the bonus structure as proposed made by Andy Korda. Motion passed with no objection.
- Proposal to change 15 & Over relays into Open relays.
 - Some teams cannot always put together relays in age groups due to numbers. Making the 15 & Over relays open events allows these teams to create relays.
 - Motion to accept proposal as given made by Jenna Purkey. Motion passed with no objections.
- Proposal to waive transfer fees for Caprock Swimming pending their release from New Mexico Swimming and transfer into West Texas Swimming.
 - Motion made by Darren Hudson. Motion passed with no objections.

Meeting adjourned at 2:19.