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***Mission: Developing, Improving, and Supporting Competitive Swimming in the Inland Empire***

**Vision: Provide a safe and positive atmosphere for all swimmers of all abilities to achieve and sustain lifelong success**

Inland Empire Board of Directors Meeting

November 16, 2020

**Call to Order:** 8:02 pm by Keith Lambert via Zoom Meeting

**Roll Call:** Present- April Walkley, Don Walkley, Holly Howard, Jade Sobek, Jeff Sutton, Jody Rash, Keith Lambert, Laurel Skorina, Nicholas Walkley, Riana Scott, Sean Muncie, Todd Stafek, Steve Hudlet, Not Present: Jennifer Tonkyn

**Minutes:** Approval of October 19, 2020 minutes as presented: Motion made and passed

Keith Lambert noted that there was no formal agenda as the main topic of concern is the changing Covid-19 situation and the swim meet changes. Keith noted that everyone is dealing with more and different stress and that people are responding differently. He prompted us to remember that there should be enough grace to go around.

**Old Business:** Don Hougardy brought to light the good news in that the Colorado System 5 timing panels were successfully donated to the high school programs in the Tri Cities area. Chance Younkin will be contacted for a further report.

**New Business:**

* **Athlete Report:** Riana Scott reported that the Athlete Leadership Summit was held on November 14th spearheaded by Riana Scott, Laurel Skorina and Nicholas Walkley. There were 47 swimmers on the 3.5 hour zoom meeting. The summit covered Leadership skills and styles, Governance of IES, and Mental Health resources. Riana noted that the larger clubs in our LSC were not as heavily represented as the smaller clubs, even though all clubs and swimmers were encouraged to attend. Both Laurel and Nicholas commented that they thought the summit went well even though it had to be done over zoom and that in person would have been preferred. Laurel was working to purchase gift cards for the winners and then have the LSC reimburse Holly Howard for those costs. Riana forwarded a copy of the grant to the board to better understand the funding dynamics as part of the funds were from USAS as well as $1,000 from IES.

Keith directly thanked Jody and the University of Idaho pool facility management for all the work that she had put into working to host the 18U Winter Champs in early December, that was cancelled. With the increase in Covid-19 cases, especially in Idaho, the Idaho pools were scaling back the swimming opportunities.

There remains frustration at all level and that teams are doing the best they can, as every team and pool is a different scenario. Swimmers at higher level meets are just happy to be swimming and all swimmers are eager to be back more in the water and competing.

The next looming question is what should IES do for meets scheduled in February and March.

* How should the SC Champ meets be handled?
* Don Hougardy posed a question to coaches about will the swimmers have had enough time in the pool to warrant a champs meet.
* Todd Stafek commented that TCCC has been practicing since August, with no competition and that they are looking into time trials. Todd also commented that the situation is getting worse and that U of I is closing down numbers for swimming, Moses Lake pool is closed and so the ability to find a facility that can handle Short Course Champs is harder.
* Sean Muncie suggested delaying Champs meet until Spring break/April. This would be beneficial in that it would still give swimmers something to aim towards and hopefully Covid-19 will be better contained by spring. It was mentioned to run meets on a limited basis as soon as things opened up.

Jody informed the board that in January there will be a decision made concerning the March Sectionals meet in Federal Way WA.

The potential of running virtual meets was discussed. It would certainly be challenging and coaches would need to be the guide to how that can happen. It was highlighted that both facilities and officials would need to be marshalled for the virtual meets to take place.

It was decided to wait until January to make further decisions about meets and to stay connected with coaches regarding how any type of meet can move forward.

Jeff Sutton inquired as to the needed time to move forward on the JO’s - either virtually or in person. University of Idaho continues to be extremely positive to work with regarding this fluid situation.

Jennifer Tonkyn, coach’s representative, will continue meeting with coaches on a regular basis to monitor the timing and decisions about holding meets.

Other Committees:

**Safe Sport:** April Walkley continues to work with teams about completing the safe sport requirements. April stated that national USAS is considering making safe sport certification a requirement before hosting a meet. (Teams take note and get certified- it is the right thing to do).

IES is in a unique situation as it encompasses parts of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho and each state is at different levels of the virus spread and compliance. Sean Muncie shared that Pacific Northwest Swimming (PNS) hired a legal consultant to communicate with the Governor and state officials on how pools are considered a safer environment and swimming should be permitted at a higher rate. Keith pondered if IES should make a donation to support these professional services.

*The board agreed with guest speaker Dory, “Just Keep Swimming”*

**Registrations:** Jody has not heard from Pendleton, Baker teams. Yakima registered only a coach, and Sandpoint is looking to hire a coach. Stay tuned and register athletes before year end.

**Officials Chair:** Steve Hudlet spoke that the official number of officials was declining. Steve talked about holding a virtual Officials training session, so all teams could have new officials gain some training time.

Meeting Adjourned 9:14pm by Keith Lambert-

Please remember to share courteous goodwill - aka grace

Next meeting to be held on Monday Dec. 21st - Happy Solstice- here comes the sun.

*Respectfully submitted by Holly T. Howard*