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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

September 22, 2020

**Call to Order:** 7:07 pm by Jody Rash via Zoom Meeting.

## **Roll Call:** Present: April Walkley, Don Hougardy, Holly Howard, Jade Sobek, Jeff Sutton, Jody Rash, Laurel Skorina, Nicholas Walkley, Riana Scott, Sean Munchie,Todd Stafek, Deb Harnke-Morin, Jeff Walkley, Mike Hartley, Mark Sowa, Robert Broyles, Not present: Jennifer Tonkyn, Keith Lambert.

**Approval of August Minutes**-Distributed by Holly. Final minutes to be posted on website by Jody Rash.

**Old Business:**

**Staff Update:** Jody Rash reported that the revamped registration system is going well and that 17 clubs have begun the process. Still no communication with PSA, and Jody will reach out and ask.

Club Overview of the current swimming situation follows:

* Baker Swim Club: The pool is closed; board is working to reevaluate plans on registering swimmers if pool reopens. Some swimmers traveling to La Grande for practice
* Coeur D’Alene Area Swim Team*:* Swimmers are in the water and being reregistered.
* Cougar Aquatics:Swimmers are in the water
* Ellensburg Area Swim Team: Swimmers are in the water, A new head coach McKenzie McKay started working with the team. Unfortunately, EAST not yet able to hold a meet in pool.
* La Grande Swim Club: Swimmers are in the water reregistering athletes/swimmers, can’t host a meet yet.
* Lewiston Swim Association: Swimmers in water, sharing pool time with high school.
* Moses Lake Manta Rays*:* Swimmers are in the water. The club had a sanctioned meet only for their club. They have been submitting non- athlete registrations
* Pendleton Swim Association: No news has been heard from the club
* Sandpoint: The high school has been practicing at the Y, and not sure where the club swimmers are swimming.
* Spokane Area Swimming: Covered later in meeting
* Spokane Waves Athletic Team: swimmers in the pool, registering non athlete members and swimmers, In August they held a meet for their own team.
* Sturgeon Swimming: Newly starting up team in Pullman.
* Tri Cities Channel Cats: Swimmers in a pool and ALL Registrations are in. Great work Todd.
* Vandals Aquatics: Swimmers in the pool.
* Velocity Swimming: Swimmers in a small 3 lane pool, Non-athlete Registrations are being submitted.
* Walla Walla Swim Club: Limited swimming at the YMCA pool, not sure will be able to host a meet. Non athlete registrations are being submitted.
* YAC: Swimmers not in the pool, not reregistering.

**Website:**  Jody stated that the website upgrade is primarily completed. She will send an email out announcing people to review and make comments.

**Western Zones AGZ/Sr. Zones:** Jody stated that Keith Moore is the new lead coach. There was a change in the policy and procedures for Age Group Zones for a swimmer who misses an event so that they only miss the event and may continue for the meet, and the LSC is charged. There is still uncertainty about the status of a Zones meet happening next summer. An Open Water bids are being explored.

**Safe Sport:** April relayed that Safe Sport was moving along. The next round of meetings October 21, parents, October 22nd Athletes, October 23rd daytime Coaches. There was a request to book these meetings farther ahead on the calendar and April will certainly communicate when the additional meetings are set. Currently there are 7 clubs SSRP recognized and the remaining clubs are in process.

**Administrative Vice Chair**: The position had been vacated when Keith Lambert stepped up into the Administrative Chair position. A motion was made and voted upon to appoint Jeff Sutton to complete Lambert’s term. Congratulations Jeff, you will be great in your new role.

Finance Chair: No report made by Don Hougardy

**New Business:**

Virtual Meet Proposal: Robert Broyles. Robert presented an initial proposal for hosting virtual events to both allow swimmers to compete while still remaining safe. This would be an IES team challenge and would be flexible as the situation changes. There is no guarantee that swimmers or teams will compete.

Don Hougardy spoke on some basic scenarios that factor in costs of putting on the meets and costs for swimmers. While the need for income to come to IES, the higher goal is to keep swimmers involved. There was discussion about how different facilities were working with teams in a positive way. Todd Stafek expressed his support and mentioned the need for pool availability which was different in the different states.

This proposal would have safe protocols in place and certainly communication with parents (who might not be allowed in the facility) to address all their concerns.

The budget for IES is largely funded by the flow of funds from swim meets with swimmers participating. Major expenses for IES may be reduced by lower travel costs to national events. However, the talk focused on how do we support IES swimmers who are able to compete at higher level meets and also be supportive of teams and younger swimmers.

A motion was made and voted upon to have the proposal move forward for further clarification by the Technical Planning and Officials Committee. Below is the timeline proposal that Robert Broyles provided:

1. IE BoD 9/2020 - Approval to move forward

2. 9/2020 - Charge Technical Planning Committee with the following items, to be presented & confirmed with IE coaches at Oct HoD meeting:

* Preliminary site / pool locations and dates
* Secure location leads (meet directors) for each site / pool
* Secure Meet Director
* Rough draft of format for each of the 6 meets in the 12 week series

3. 9/2020 - Charge IE Officials Chair with the following items - to be completed ASAP & in communication with TPC:

* Selection of Meet Referees and AOs for each site / pool
* Advice on minimum and required number of officials at each event

4. 9/2020 – Create task force to develop fee and funding recommendations - suggest Hougardy, Stafek, Rash

5. 10/2020 – Present to Coaches & HoD for approval / confidence to proceed with development and implementation of series.

**Fall House of Delegates** meeting was postponed to Sunday October 11th on Zoom. From 11:00 am to 1 pm. The Officials and Coaches meetings usually held just before the HOD meeting, may be scheduled to meet any time beforehand via Zoom. Reports for the meeting need to be submitted to Holly Howard by October 1st and will be posted by October 5th for review.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** Jody Reported that Russell Whiteker stepped down as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion chair. A new person for this position needs to be secured. If anyone has suggestions, please contact Keith Lambert.

Mark Sowa, Vandal Aquatic Club, brought forth to the board, the information that over the past several months that SAS and Vandal Aquatics have been in discussion/negotiation for the registration of SAS swimmers with a new Vandal Aquatics in Spokane team. It was mentioned that a majority of the SAS swimmers will be transferring to the Vandal team. It was unclear as to how the SAS board was moving forward. It was advised to get agreements signed in writing.

**Athlete Representatives:** Riana Scott and Nicholas Walkley relayed how IES was chosen to speak at the W. Zones HOD about athlete accomplishments and the issues clubs are having through the Pandemic. Riana was the facilitator of the meeting and many ideas were discussed. One area that IES, Alaska, Snake River especially need to deal with is the geographic diversity of their LSCs which makes for increased challenges. Riana and Nick relayed that it was interesting hearing from other swimmers/teams about what they are doing. Other LSC’s were not having such engaged athlete meetings. Grace Brown, the PNS athlete representative, is planning a series of calls, first with the LSC athlete reps, and then with the individual team reps.

Riana again brought forth her plan to have a virtual Leadership summit. There is already $1,000 budgeted for the event and the athlete representatives are working through the exact date and detailed schedule. It is hoped the summit will be a way to bring a majority of swimmers together before year end and have them become more involved in all aspects of the LSC.

Meeting adjourned 8:26 pm.

Next board meeting: HoD October 11th 11 am Zoom.

*Respectfully submitted by Holly T. Howard*