

# METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

**PRESENT:** John McIlhargy, Mary Fleckenstein, Monique Grayson, John Yearwood, Edgar Perez, David Ellinghaus, John Collins, Corinne Cody, Denise Byrne, Michael Zuppone

**EXCUSED PRIOR TO MEETING:** Brian Hansbury, Frances Warren, Amine Boubsis

**ABSENT:** Bob Fitzsimmons, Dave Ferris

1. **WELCOME:** John “Mac” McIlhargy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:33pm at Lehman College APEX.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the minutes of April 1, 2015, was made, seconded and accepted by all members in attendance. The minutes were approved as posted.
3. **GENERAL CHAIR:** John McIlhargy
  - a. **NYSA and PAC bidding on same weekend at same pool for 2015-16** – NYSA has historically held a meet on that particular weekend for many years. Long discussion followed on the problems of meet assignments at Felix Festa between Condors, New York Sharks and Phoenix. Mac will follow up with Chris Serra about pool time at Felix Festa.
  - b. **Results of Email Vote** – Mac sent an email to the Board on April 10, 2015 with the following motions which were seconded at the April 1<sup>st</sup> BOD meeting. Discussion copying the entire Board was then open for 72 hours. After 72 hours, end of discussion and Chairperson called the vote. Each member then emailed their vote to the Chairperson AND the Administrative Vice Chair only, not to the rest of the Board.

**Motion 1:** to split 8 & Under meet into 2 sites. The meet has become too large for one site to handle – 8 YES; 2 NOs; 1 undecided – **Motion carries**. Also discussion on whether or not the 8&U Meet should be a “championship meet” and have HP awards or just Team Spirit Awards.

**Motion 2:** to purchase 10 (ten) Colorado (or equivalent) backstroke starting platforms to be used at our championship meets, be available for rent for club events and to make available for training purposes to clubs on a limited basis. The estimated cost would be around \$3,500-\$4,000 but will negotiate – 11 YES – **Motion carries unanimously**.

**Motion 3 A:** Proposed by senior committee – to make our 2016 Senior Mets Championships (2016 is an Olympic Year) a LCM Prelims and LCM Finals meet (instead of SCY Prelims and LCM Finals) – 4 YES – 7 NOs – **Motion fails**

**Motion 3 B:** proposed by the senior committee – format of Senior Mets to change from Thursday-Sunday to Wednesday-Saturday – senior committee pulled the motion - **Motion fails**

**Motion 3 C:** proposed by the senior committee – to change scoring at Senior Mets to 3 heats scoring, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> heat (Bonus) still for 18&Under only – 11 YES - **Motion carries unanimously**
  - c. **Other issues will be discussed on New Business**

4. **AGE GROUP CHAIRS:** John Yearwood and Edgar Perez
  - a. **Edgar Perez** – Very happy that Zones was such a successful meet to end their tenure as Age Group Chairs. Took 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Edgar thanked Mac and Mary for attending.
  - b. **John Yearwood** - made a motion to prepare and set up **any Metro Scored Championship Meets** (JO's and Senior Mets) **on USA Swimming OME** (Online Meet Entry System) **starting with the short course season of 2015-16**. The OME process is already in place for Senior Mets (and Zone Qualifier). This would make the eligibility process (USAS registrations and times) much more accurate and entries from all teams would be more honest. Discussion followed on this – this process is used more and more by all LSCs for their championship meets. The motion was seconded. Vote took place after Michael Zuppone joined the meeting. All were in favor. **Motion carries**.
  - c. **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Eastern Zone Diversity Summit** - will take place June 25-28, 2015 at the University of Maryland, College Park. This camp is held every two years. Applications were due to John Yearwood. **John received 4 applications for 2 available spots for our LSC**. John made a motion to send all 4 swimmers to the Summit (if additional spots are available) at an extra cost of \$300 for the 2 additional swimmers (total of \$600). David Ellinghaus seconded the motion which was accepted by all – **Motion carries**.
5. **FINANCE CHAIR/TREASURER REPORT:** Bob Fitzsimmons/Corinne Cody
  - a. At this time, there is no actual budget line on diversity. John Yearwood mentioned that it should be in the budget as the camp runs every two years.
  - b. Most of the expenses for Zones are in. We came in \$10,000 under budget at this time. Overall we are on target at this time. The Budget vs. Actuals (09/01/2014 – 04/27/2015) was available at the meeting. We are ahead of budget at this time but we still need to finalize all travel reimbursements from the spring meets.
  - c. Mac thanked Corinne for a wonderful job as this is her last BOD meeting before elections (Corinne is not running again).
  - d. Mac also announced that as of today, Bob Fitzsimmons is no longer on the Board of Directors – Bob is stepping down from both positions as Finance and Officials Chairs due to personal reasons. We all appreciate all he has done and we understand his desire to resign.
6. **SENIOR CHAIRS:** Dave Ferris and John Collins
  - a. Senior Mets – John Collins said that next Winter Senior Mets will be held at Nassau County Aquatic Center and will follow the SCY Prelims – LCM Finals format as voted on by the majority of the board.
  - b. Mac needs a \$3,000.00 deposit for the purchase of backstroke starting platforms.
7. **TECHNICAL PLANNING:** David Ellinghaus
  - a. We will have a TP Meeting next August to review all time standards for Short Course and Long Course seasons, and to review the Metro Regions Alignment. We are open to any requests at this time.
  - b. Recommendation to hold the 8-under meet in March at 2 sites instead of one. That meet will be totally non-scoring, and high point awards will no longer be given. This will be a Team Spirit meet only.

**8. ADMINISTRATIVE VICE CHAIR:** Denise Byrne

- a. The Officials Committee had a meeting with Bob Fitzsimmons. Mark Amodio and Steven Kessler have worked on and prepared the following proposals:
- b. By the start of the 2017-18 short course season, Metro teams wishing to host meets must have a minimum of 4 certified officials affiliated with their teams: a meet referee, a starter, and two or more stroke & turns judges. Teams that do not meet this minimum number of officials will not be granted sanctions. This is a first and very necessary step, to ensure that all sessions are adequately staffed. Staffing meets adequately has been a long-standing and widespread problem in Metro.
- c. No meet referee can be affiliated with more than two teams. Meet referees must be present at the meets they agree to run. If teams wish to offer the meet referee an honorarium, they may offer \$100 *per meet*. No other official on deck may be compensated. (This would need to go hand-in-hand with the removal of the “per session” stipend that is currently in the Metro Handbook).
- d. Commencing with the 2015-16 short course season, Metropolitan SC Zone Qualifier Meet shall qualify as an Officials Qualifying Meet, so that Metro officials can be encouraged to pursue National Certification, because the skills they acquire in doing so will only help strengthen and improve the quality of officiating at the local level as well.
- e. All Metro Area Chairs must promote their officials and encourage them to move up in ranks.
- f. Mary and Denise worked on updating the Policy & Procedures Manual (Monique was unable to attend). They made lots of progress on updating the P&P Manual.
- g. Meet Directors and Administrative Officials – Clinics and tests are required every three years. An AO must work 4 sessions per year to stay in good standing.
- h. Edgar Perez announced that Metropolitan Swimming, in collaboration with Sachem, Middies and New York Sharks, would like to host the 2016 LCM Eastern Zone Meet at NCAC. We already have secured the pool and we will bid on it at the EZ meeting.

**9. ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVES:** Michael Zuppone / Frances Warren

- a. Senior Mets was extremely crowded and Michael is very happy that it will now move to NCAC which will be a great help for both swimmers and spectators.
- b. Question on maximum occupancy rules. Spectators can't block the exits!
- c. Deck Changing issues – Michael did not see much of it personally at Senior Mets.
- d. Other big issue of concern – coaches that massage kids on deck – do they know the rules? We must remind the coaches of this and educate swimmers - Article 305 – (305.1 and 305.2) page 103 of the 2015 USA Swimming Rulebook. We must remind coaches that they can't do this on deck. Contact the Meet Referee or Brian Hansbury if he is in attendance at a meet, to report any instances or problems. Recommendation that Brian Hansbury write some reminders about this, that would be emailed to all coaches!
- e. We need a much higher participation from Metro swimmers in Open Water Championships – it is actually becoming more popular – we will have 3 OW meets in the next few months.
- f. The new Junior Rep., Emily Sullivan, will start in May.

**10. OFFICE MANAGER:** Mary Fleckenstein

- a. As of April 29, 2015, we have 10,683 athletes, 83 Clubs, 265 officials, 602 coaches, and 161 “others”. Total of 11,668 registered members compared with 10,861 as of HOD May 2014.
- b. Athletes' registrations are still coming in (almost 200 in April).

- c. Coaches are still waiting too long to get their certifications in – they must have approved course for certifications. Coaches can print their cards from deck pass – it is live – no excuses for not having certifications at a meet!!!
- d. We are working on getting the SWIMS holding tanks cleared (Times tank was cleared after this meeting).
- e. Eastern Zone meeting for May 8-10, 2015 is set. We have 8 attending. Most arrangements have been made.
- f. Website has had no major issues. Peter has done a great job getting things posted in a timely manner.
- g. Meet bids for SC are coming in – may have issues with 2 clubs bidding same location/same weekend. This Meet Bid method seems to be working. Mary only caught 1 double up on referees and this has been resolved. Tentative calendar will be emailed to listed meet directors on May 5<sup>th</sup>. They will have until May 12 to make changes/corrections. Final schedule will be available by the May 20th HOD Meeting.
- h. The Metro Office will be closed May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup> as Mary will be attending her son Johnny's wedding in Taiwan! This has been posted on the Metro Web site since April 20<sup>th</sup> and was emailed to all clubs. All registrations and recons are requested well before that date to ensure processing.

#### 11. NATIONAL TIMES VERIFICATION / TOP 10: Monique Grayson

- a. All meets' databases are much more accurate and there are very little problems most of the time. MDs and AOs are really doing a much better job! Many thanks to all!
- b. Reminder that Registration Recons are due at the Metro Office at least a week prior to the meets. Any additions to a meet must result in a new recon. Reminder – in our policy, we do have the info that a team that enters an unregistered swimmer in a meet is fined \$100 – the host team that takes that swimmers in the meet, and allows him/her to swim is also charged \$100. We had about 10 swimmers that swam in many events – unregistered – in the Holding Tank. Coaches received an email from Mary, with a 24 hours grace period to register their swimmers ... One team had 3 swimmers unregistered – team was also the host which would have resulted in \$600 fine ... The email worked wonders and all athletes were suddenly registered! All coaches can check who is or is not registered on their team in their Club Portal. It is available 24/7 -
- c. Another reminder is that teams take a big chance entering swimmers in a meet while not registered (and/or not transferred). This is a liability issue as insurance is void if there is an incident at the meet. Mary does send registration info to all the teams having problems in any recon. Meet Directors must scratch all non-registered swimmers!!!! There should not be any "Grace Period" for registrations!!! Housekeeping on spelling of names, missing initials and/or birthdates are also done after the meets.
- d. Records and Metro Top 25 are updated as soon as possible. Please email Monique with errors and omissions.

#### 12. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Elections are up at the May HOD meeting** – we need volunteers for the following positions: Age Group; Treasurer; Safety Chair; Technical Planning Chair; Nominations were supposed to have been emailed to the Metro Office by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015
- b. **Dues and Fees** – we have not increased our fees (Clubs registrations and Metro athletes'

registrations) in a very long time (more than 10-15 years)!

With the 2016 Registration Period ahead of us, the BOD of Metropolitan Swimming must consider our current fee structure moving forward. Current dues:

- (a) USA Swimming Athlete and Non-Athlete Dues going up again another \$2.00 every year for the next 5 years for their portion – to \$54.00 for 2016 (\$56 in 2017; \$58 in 2018; etc..)
- (b) Metropolitan Swimming added Registration fee of \$10.00 has never been increased, or if it was, it happened a long time ago.
- (c) Metro Club Membership Dues are \$150.00 per club, with a \$70.00 per club portion going to USA Swimming; \$25.00 going to Stetz Scholarship Fund; and \$55.00 going to metropolitan Swimming.

To fully fund our services and new programs which include Equipment, Diversity, Club Excellence, Coach Education, National Qualifiers and OT Qualifiers, we should consider the following (as an example only):

- (a) Athletes Registration - \$54 USAS + \$12 Metro – Total \$66.00 (2015 was \$62.00)
- (b) Non-Athletes registration - \$54 USAS + \$12 Metro – Total \$66.00 (2015 was \$62.00)
- (c) Clubs Registration is something requiring some more thoughts and debates – maybe a scaled Club fee based on the size of the club the previous year – example (as a potential basis):

1-50	Athletes	\$175.00
51-100	Athletes	\$200.00
101-150	Athletes	\$225.00
151-200	Athletes	\$250.00
201-250	Athletes	\$275.00
251-300	Athletes	\$300.00
301-350	Athletes	\$325.00
351-400	Athletes	\$350.00
Over 400	Athletes	\$375.00

Mac & Mary reviewed all USAS LSC's fees for the 2015 Registration Fees and based their findings on the above fees – in Metro, we have teams with less than 10 athletes and more than 700 athletes, and they all pay the same Club fee!!!

In Metro, we have 19 clubs that have 1-50 swimmers; 23 clubs that have 51-100 swimmers; 78 clubs that have 101-150 swimmers; 8 clubs that have 151 to 200 swimmers; 9 clubs that have 201-300 swimmers; 7 clubs that have between 301 and 713 swimmers. They all pay the same Club Fee... The graduation fees make sense and would be based on the previous year's memberships. We do have more expenditure, some new programs, etc... We do a pretty good job with the budget but we do need to increase both the Individual registration fees and Club fees.

**Recommendations from the Board** is an increased of \$2.00 Metro surcharge for athletes and non-athletes' yearly registrations, from \$10 to \$12, which is about a 20% increase, and a scaled increase for the Club's Yearly Registration which is really a fair increased (\$25 increased per 50 athletes – like 50 cents per athlete!!!). This may be increased as well in future years.

- c. As many LSC's do, we should be charging a sanction fee for **Approved and Observed** meets [other than high school meets] – There is much more work involved with those meets compared to the regular sanctioned meets.

- d. We should not allow any club to hold **Time Trials or any other meets** on any weekend of Metro Championships meets (except if part of the championships) – this would include Silvers, JO’s, Senior Mets, Bronze. In addition, on the weekend of the 8&Under meet, teams could host another meet for 9 & Over. This will all be written in the Policy & Procedures Manual. Zone Qualifier is a qualifying meet, not a championship meet, so this rule does not apply. It does not affect many weekends. David Ellinghaus made a motion that on the weekend of Championship Meets, teams may not apply for an “outside of Championship meet” Time Trials or Dual Meet Sanction. Motion was seconded. This motion was amended as follows “with an exception for an age group that is not represented to compete in the above meets (like 8- Under can’t compete at Bronze, and 9- Over can’t compete at 8 & Under meet) – vote resulted in 1 against and the rest in favor – **motion carries as amended.**
- e. Discussion on the **Metro Silvers and Bronze Championships**. Should those be called “Championships” as they are not scored and are held in more than one sites on a set weekend? John Yearwood made a motion to change the meet names of Silvers and Bronze - from “Championship” to “Meet” – they could still be called Metro Silvers and Metro Bronze - we would still need a “regional – not championship” contract for those meets - **suggestion was that this issue be tabled.**
- f. **Invitationals vs. Open Meets** – this is a big issue as more and more meets are now being sanctioned as Invitationals instead of Open Meets. Teams want to choose who may or may not attend their meets. Should we increase the sanction fee for Invitationals???
- There is also a big problem with the 20% surcharge to Metro which should include the host team entries for Invitationals as well as entries from visiting teams. We must uphold this policy which is still in our P&P Manual but needs to be clarified again, to start with the 2015-2016 season. This loss of 20% surcharge from host teams is having a huge effect on our budget. As per USA Swimming, our 20% surcharge policy for Invitationals, as written in the P&P Manual, is acceptable and should be upheld and enforced moving forward.
- Invitationals may not invite “all Metro Teams” but must actually list each team that will be invited to attend. We may need to start blocking some weekends when Invitationals would NOT be allowed – only Open Meets.
- Reminder: sessions for 13-Over only swimmers, during the LCM season, may go up to 5 hours – this does not apply to the SCY season (USA Swimming rule is 4 hours for 12-under sessions). Discussion on this followed.
- Another problem with Invitationals vs. Open Meet is for athletes that need 5 Metro Meets, one of which must be Senior Mets, in order to get a travel reimbursement stipend from Metro (Metro meets do not include Invitationals, Dual Meets, Time Trials, Approved meets, Observed Meets, etc.) This may become a problem for swimmers if their teams do not attend Open Metro Meets.
- g. Clubs and Meet Directors/Administrative Officials and/or Meet Entries Chair, may not accept entries before the meet information and events file are actually posted on the Metro Website!!! Teams may not email meet announcements and events files to other teams before the meet is actually sanctioned and posted. This seems to be a big problem! Long discussion again on this issue. Clubs must let everyone know whether they are in or not in any meet. Also, they should email the entries list accepted for the visiting team with a date on the file.
- David Ellinghaus made a motion that when teams send entries to a meet, they must receive a notification from the meet host within 48 hours, whether the team entries are accepted or

not, and if accepted, a dated entries file must be included as a proof of entries. This motion was seconded and approved by all. **Motion carries.**

- h. **Eventual splash Increase** - This would impact how teams set their fees for the year especially if they do not use an escrow account and send monthly invoices. All increases should be set in May. We are much cheaper than many LSC's. Denise will try to see approximately how many splashes and fees are spent for the year. **Tabled at this time.**

**13. NEXT MEETING:**

- a. Eastern Zone Meeting in Virginia Beach – May 8-10, 2015
- b. House of Delegates' May Mandatory Meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup> – Most probably a representative of USA Swimming will be in attendance.
- c. Other Meetings coming up – June 10<sup>th</sup>; and Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> in between sessions at LCM Senior Mets
- d. **September 2015 Mandatory HOD Meeting will be on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** – which is before the 2015 USA Swimming Convention that will be held late this year, September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup> in Kansas City, Missouri

A motion to adjourn the meeting, after 2 hours and 22 minutes, was made, seconded and approved by all. **Motion carries.** Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Monique Grayson

May 6, 2015