

METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

PRESENT: John McIlhargy, Brian Hansbury, Mary Fleckenstein, Monique Grayson, Dave Ferris, John Yearwood, Denise Byrne, Edgar Perez, John Collins

EXCUSED PRIOR TO MEETING: Corinne Cody, Frances Warren, Michael Zuppone, Amine Boubsis and David Ellinghaus

ABSENT: Bob Fitzsimmons

1. **WELCOME:** John “Mac” McIlhargy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm at Lehman College APEX. Mac mentioned that we would not be able to vote on anything at this meeting because none of the athletes’ reps. were in attendance.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
Denise Byrne requested a clarification of #3a of the minutes of January 22, 2015 – The committee never met – However, information, findings and emails were sent to committee members. A motion to approve the corrected minutes was made, seconded and accepted by all members in attendance. The minutes were approved as corrected.

3. **GENERAL CHAIR:** John McIlhargy
 - a. **Hall of Fame** – Update: we still need many good pictures of athletes or club members that are in the HOF to add to the display. This is the only thing holding us up. Please email those to Mac.
 - b. **4-Hour Rule Enforcement** – Many complaints – many meets are overbooked. This is a USA Swimming Rule. Meet Directors must wait to receive the OTS report before sending their post meet reports to Denise. The referee has one week to send his/her report to the Meet Director.
 - c. **Eastern Zone Team Recap and Personal Thoughts** – awesome job at Zones – Many thanks to our Age Group Co-Chairs, John and Edgar, for the wonderful job they did at Zones with the Metro Team.
 - d. **Backstroke Start Platforms Inquiries** – Colorado Timing System sent some samples - \$458 per platform. Long discussion followed. Dave Ferris made a motion to purchase 12 backstroke devices as such a price that can be negotiated by the General Chair. Motion was seconded – An email vote will be requested from the whole board as there were no athletes present at this meeting.
 - e. **ASCA Inquiry to do a Clinic in May** – May is a tough month at this time as meets are scheduled on all weekends. We may be interested in a fall ASCA clinic or in April 2016.
 - f. **Overview of Championship Meets** – Mac went to all championships – they were very well run for the most part. Discussion also re: the pre-sale of admission tickets (this worked very well). John Yearwood is investigating ways to reduce the congestion on deck at JO’s. Recommendation is to try option 1 for a year before making major changes.

Option 1 - Some suggestions are to limit the relay only swimmers (there were over 230 at JO's) and probably have time standards for the relays and/or to add a rule that at least 2 or 3 members of a relay must be entered in individual events at the meet. We could also clear up the deck space by bringing in more bleachers (try to get the County to buy them or have metro rent them for the weekend). 4 or 5 additional bleachers would be wonderful to have.

Option 2 – Move the 10-unders to the middle session (even though it was the 10&U coaches who asked for them to be swimming in the AM) and move the 15-18 meet to another weekend.

8&Under Championships – Should we split the meet into two sites and also whether we should continue with high point awards or just have Team Spirit Award as the major award. Brian Hansbury made a motion to remove scoring and individual high point awards at the 8-Under Championships and only keep the Team Spirit Award – Edgar Perez seconded the motion – the board will vote on this through email. The 8&Under Championship could be renamed “8&Under Team Spirit Meet”. Another solution would be to split the meet into 2 or 3 sites (like Silver and Bronze). Brian will write something about this.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE VICE CHAIR: Denise Byrne

- a. Club Achievement is completed. Five teams submitted – LIAC, MAKO, COND, WEST and LGAC – Total Award is \$9,700.00 – Suggestion that the Club Achievement Information should be emailed to all Metro Clubs. It would also be better to submit it in the fall, after the USA Swimming Top 10 List is final.
- b. All SCY Meet Surcharges have been billed as of April 1, 2015
- c. Fines – many clubs neglect to send their paperwork with their checks. Many clubs have gone over the 4-hours session rule and will be fined. Need to add a line on the reports for credit card information for clubs to pay their surcharges. Maybe prepare an Adobe form available online.
- d. The Officials Committee met to discuss some of the issues and some solutions especially where MD, AO's and REF's are being listed in meet information packets for meets on the same weekends and did not show up and meets ran without a Referee. Officials Chairs and Area Chairs must get together and talk about problems at meets.
- e. Amanda Lister (AGUA) will be an assistant to the NY City Area Chair.
- f. ZQ 2016 will be a N2 observed meet which Steven Kessler is authorized to perform. Both Senior Mets meets will continue being observed. This will offer our officials more opportunities to be certified at these levels.
- g. Denise, Mary and Monique will work on the P&P Manual to try to bring it up-to-date ASAP.
- h. Meet Safety with reference to Safe Sport – Officials, Meet Marshals, MD's and AO's are better educated and are more willing to file a report online.
- i. Personnel Committee Recommendations – terms of employment, office hours, vacations, sick time, benefits, develop an employee handbook.
- j. Disability: Devin Marrero, of Silver Streaks, traveled to Toronto and swam in the CAN-AM Para-Swimming Championships this past March. He is now certified internationally and has already participated in several events. Gay Silverman thanked Denise for helping in this process.

5. FINANCE CHAIR/TREASURER REPORT: Bob Fitzsimmons/Corinne Cody

- a. Neither Bob nor Corinne was present at the meeting.

- b. A tentative Quad Budget was available – it still needs some adjusting to present break even budgets – still lots of red ink after this fiscal year.
- c. Tax return and 8/31/2014 financial statement have been submitted to USA Swimming. Still need results audited.
- d. Budget to actual through March 31st was also available.
- e. The March championship meets travel requests are coming in – will work on those after Tax season - 4/15/2015

6. **SENIOR CHAIRS:** Dave Ferris and John Collins

- a. Senior Mets – suggestions:
 - 1. Secure a better facility (NCAC) – more spectator space is needed in the stands (not enough at Lehman) and better blocks (need bigger and not shaky)
 - 2. Run winter 2016 meet LCM/LCM (not SCY/LCM) as it is Olympic year.
 - 3. Dates – recommendation to start on Wednesday night and end the meet on Saturday instead of Sunday – like it is scheduled in many USA Swimming championships meets. – This may be a problem for kids that have school during President Week.
 - 4. Score 3 heats and leave the 3rd heat as 18-under only. No changes with the 4th heat for 50s and 100s.
 - 5. Possibility of running non Olympic events on the first day (1500 women and 800 men) and Olympic events on the 4th day of the meet (800 women and 1500 men) or vice versa. This would balance the meet a bit better. Also maybe start earlier on the first day.
- b. Dave Ferris will make a presentation about these proposals for the HOD.

7. **AGE GROUP CHAIRS:** John Yearwood and Edgar Perez

- a. Edgar & John - Zones – was a great meet – no accidents – everything went smoothly and could not have asked for a better job from the coaches. Nike tech suits were a big plus and equipment was great. **Many thanks to Hobie Swim which was awesome!**
- b. John – can a team mandate to have timers from other teams to work at a regular swim meet? If they need visiting parents to help time at a meet, shouldn't it be written in the meet announcement? What is the Metro rule in P&P Manual? If parents need to pay for admission, should they also have to time? Other LSC's request timers from each team attending their meets.
- c. We should not have to pay officials either for working at our meets! Some areas in Metro still pay their officials! We also need to have all the Metro Area Chairs to keep on promoting the other officials so that they can move up the ranks, from S&T to Starter to Referee. And we also need every team to train some of their parents to become officials! Officials need to volunteer to do training and help other officials move up the ranks! What can Metro do to promote getting the teams to train some of their parents to become officials? It's about a 5 years process which needs to start with the older swimmers' parents to pave the way to the younger swimmers parents!

8. **OFFICE MANAGER:** Mary Fleckenstein

- a. As of March 31, 2015, we have 10,418 athletes, 83 Clubs, 261 officials, 592 coaches, and 159 "others". Total of 11,389 registered members.

- b. Coaches still not getting their certifications in on time. They receive an email generated by USA Swimming reminding them they have 30 days. Many calls and emails the day/night before a meet.
- c. Officials/Meet Directors not checking credentials on deck. Coaches with expired certifications are too often allowed on deck. Referees and meet directors are not allowed to accept an updated certification if the coaches card is expired. The coach must submit to the office and certification must be entered in the database. DECK PASS is live – if it is not on deck pass, it has not been entered. Coaches can also print a temporary card from deck pass. There are no excuses for coaches not to have proof of membership and certification. This is a huge liability! Could we have credential passes or bracelets for registered coaches at meets? Or a picture on the registration card so coaches can't switch credentials?
- d. Reminder that Coaches Safety Training online certificate must be submitted with a current approved lifeguard certificate or a skills test sheet. Info is on the web site. Red Cross changed how to get to STSC – info has been posted on web site.
- e. Registration and hotel arrangements have been made for the Eastern Zone Meeting – a couple flights have been made – waiting on info from a few. Meeting in Virginia Beach is May 8-10, 2015
- f. Website has had no major issues. Peter has done a great job getting things posted in a timely manner.
- g. There are currently 24 long course meets, plus JO's and Senior Mets – there are 3 Open Water swims scheduled for this season.
- h. Please verify correct information on the BOD page so that we can update it after the May meeting at the latest.
- i. Apprentice officials – many calls on this – apprentice officials not clear on process – they sent in an apprentice application - which is not a registration – after 60 days they are supposed to fill out non-athlete registration form and register. Many have waited past the 60 days. They are not registered until this is done. We need to think of a way to recognize who is and is not an apprentice.
- j. Official's Cards – the USA Swimming registration committee is proposing to eliminate membership cards for officials – Mary reported this last September, but now it is coming through. Officials will need to print membership cards from the OTS.

9. **SAFE SPORT/SAFETY:** Brian Hansbury

- a. Deck Changing Rules – Swimmers are not allowed to “deck change” – they must do this in the locker rooms or designated areas. If a coach, or swimmer, sees an infraction to this rule, they must take it up to the referee and then to the LSC. This is a big problem.
- b. Need to go to the meet directors and/or meet referees to let them know of infractions. Female swimmers just can't change from a bikini top to their formal race suit while on deck! It has to be done in the locker room or designated area. This info needs to be sent to all meet directors!

10. **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 must be emailed to the Metro Office by May 1st 2015

11. NEXT MEETING:

- a. April 29, 2015. This is due to the fact that we have our HOD meeting on May 20th – other Meetings –June 10th; and in July during LCM Senior Mets
- b. Preponderance of Invitationals in Metro – more than any other LSC’s right now that even USA-Swimming is wondering why! We need to talk about that as soon as possible

A motion to adjourn the meeting, after 2 hours and 6 minutes, was made, seconded and approved by all. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm

Respectfully submitted
Monique Grayson

April 15, 2015