

# METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

---

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday, February 23, 2013

**PRESENT:** John McIlhargy, Brian Hansbury, Bruce Brooks, Mary Fleckenstein, Corinne Cody, Monique Grayson, Don Wagner, Edgar Perez, John Yearwood, David Ellinghaus, Rich Finkelstein, Amine Boubis, Dave Ferris and Elliot Plastnik.

**EXCUSED PRIOR TO MEETING:** Denise Byrne, Colleen Driscoll, Julian Mackrel and Nicole Papsco

**ABSENT:** George Rhein and Rob Ripp.

1. **WELCOME:** John “Mac” McIlhargy welcomed everyone at the meeting which was called to order at 1:30pm, between prelims and finals of Winter Senior Mets, at Lehman College APEX.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the BOD of January 9, 2013 was made (Bruce Brooks), seconded (David Ellinghaus) and accepted by all members in attendance. The minutes were approved as published.

3. **GENERAL CHAIR:** John McIlhargy

a) Welcome and Roll Call.

b) **Mac introduced Elliot Plastnik** – Metro’s new Diversity Chair – who will be replacing Ray Willie. Elliot has been working with Diversity projects for a long time. He will be helped by John Yearwood.

c) **Email Voting** – reminder – If John sends an email to the board, he expect everyone to read it and participate in the discussion. When the vote is called, each member of the Board must email his/her answer **only** to John “Mac” **and** to the Administrative Vice Chair (Denise Byrne) – and not to the whole Board!

d) **Discussion on the January House of Delegates Meeting** – it has become just a Bid Meeting and very few other delegates attend the meeting. No real governance can go on in January as too few members are in attendance. John is proposing to eliminate the January HOD Meeting and accept the bids for Summer Meets by mail. Discussion followed – suggestion to make both the September and May meetings Mandatory Meetings (especially that the May meeting is an Election Meeting) – Mary explained the way sanctioning of meets work. Question: do we actually request for proof that pools are available on the dates that teams bid to host a meet? It is in the Bid Procedures: **contract or verbal agreement must be in place** when submitting the bid. Question: date of the May Meeting – Mary explained that the May meeting must take place after the Eastern Zone May meeting and that the September meeting must take place after the USA Swimming Convention.

The May meeting really needs to be a Mandatory meeting, with meetings for all Committees and the presence of athletes. Members of the Association need to get more involved and participate in discussions and vote on the Election of the Board and other important subjects.

- 1) A motion was made to bring up the deletion of the January Meeting for a vote at the May House of Delegates. The motion was seconded and accepted by all. **Motion carries.**
- 2) A motion was made to bring up holding the summer meets Bids by mail for a vote at the May House of Delegates. The motion was seconded and accepted by all. **Motion carries.**
- e) Governance Changes for USA-S Convention: some changes will be discussed – reduction of delegates attending the Convention (limiting each LSC to about 4); have the Convention every other year instead of each year; proportion of At-Large based on the size of the LSC; others may be appointed by the President of USA Swimming; change from Wednesday-Saturday format to Sunday-Wednesday format; delegates appointed from high performing teams (this may be a hot topic at Convention).
- f) An issue came up at senior Mets about NYAC swimmer - Kim Vandenberg – and her eligibility to swim in this championship meet. Right from the start, and before the meet entries deadline, the NYAC coach followed the rules as per the meet information. Over the last 12 months, Kim has represented Metro, as a NYAC swimmer, at the Olympic Trials, The US Open, and the AT&T Nationals.

**The meet information's wording for eligibility (page 3) is:** *In addition, to be eligible to swim in this meet, swimmers must have competed in individual events in a minimum of three Metropolitan Swimming Inc. sanctioned meets (or Regional or Nationals while registered with Metropolitan Swimming, Inc.) since February 27, 2012. Attendance at a meet as a relay only swimmer will not count as one of the 3 Metro Meets requirement.*

**The Policy & Procedures manual's wording for eligibility (page 9 – line 154 – 202.2):** *To participate in the Senior Metropolitan Championships a swimmer shall have competed in an individual event in three Metro sanctioned meets within the previous year. Swimmers who have historically competed in Metro shall have this provision waived only during years that they are residing at school.*

A formal protest about Kim's eligibility was made to the Senior Chair. A Meet Jury decided at the meet that Kim could swim in the meet but could not score points for her team, NYAC.

A formal protest was then made by the coach of the NYAC to reverse that rule and allow Kim to score points.

A lengthy discussion followed. Bruce Brooks made a motion that the decision of the meet jury be overruled and that the results and points of Friday's Finals be corrected to include Kim's swims. Mary Fleckenstein seconded the motion. Vote resulted in one opposed and the rest of the Board in favor. Motion carries. After further discussion, Bruce Brooks moved to revoke the last vote on eligibility, because, based on the meet information that was published, and the meets in which she participated during the year, Kim is therefore eligible to swim in Senior Mets. David Ellinghaus seconded the motion to revoke the last vote. All were in favor. We will be sending this to the Senior's Committee to resolve the loopholes in the meet information.

#### 4. **TREASURER REPORT / FINANCIAL CHAIR:** Corinne Cody / George Rhein

- a) Corinne presented the Budget vs Actuals from September 2012 to February 2013.
- b) George Rhein was not in attendance. Mac mentioned that George was going to transfer the money out of an account that was expiring.

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

Denise was unable to attend this meeting due to her son's College Championships.

6. **SENIOR CHAIR:** Don Wagner

April training trip to Deerfield Beach, Florida with the Metro All Stars April 17-21, 2013

- a) An updated list will be posted on the Metro web site, with the top 30 girls and boys, after Senior Mets.
- b) On Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Invitations will be extended to the Top 10 boys and girls, and they must accept within two (2) days or the "next in line" will be invited. Swimmers will need to confirm whether they will or will not attend.

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

John McIlhargy praised the Age Group Chairs for a great Zone Qualifier meet.

- a) There are still a couple of issues from swimmers that decide they do not want to go to Zones. The information in the meet packet needs to be reviewed and include a fine (which could be equaled to or greater than the actual fee to go to Zones) and other sanctions (banned from Zones for 2 years).
- b) Swimmers should really not be allowed to scratch from finals unless they have too many events to swim at finals that day and want to concentrate on one or the other. The whole point on swimming in the meet is to make finals and try to qualify for the Zone Team! There are still too many coaches that enter swimmers in the ZQ meet "just to get a better time" – those swimmers should not be allowed to swim.
- c) Suggestion to have a waiver signed by the parents and the swimmer – all rules and penalties would be included in the waiver. Discussion followed. Age group Committee will review the meet information and make all the necessary changes before next year.

8. **COACHES REPRESENTATIVE:** Amine Boubsis

- a) Amine announced that the senior and Age group Coach of the Year applications are posted on the web site. Information on the applications was updated.
- b) All applications are due no later than April 20<sup>th</sup>.

9. **ATHLETES' REPRESENTATIVES:** Julian Mackrel and Nicole Papsco

Mac let Julian and Nicole go rest because they both had to swim at finals.

10. **TECHNICAL PLANNING:** David Ellinghaus

There is nothing new at this time. But Dave received emails re: Championship meets and kids that age up between championships: too fast to go to Silvers but too slow to go to JO's after they age up. This will be brought up later in New Business.

11. **OFFICIALS CHAIR:** Bruce Brooks

- a) Bruce made a motion to make changes to Article 418 of the Policy & Procedures Manual in order to clarify and update some of the information. Bruce gave copies of the changes. Mary Fleckenstein seconded the motion which was then accepted by all. **Motion carries.**
- b) All tracking of officials and officials' certifications are kept through the OTS (Officials Tracking

System) program of USA Swimming. Meet referee must complete report of each meet within 14 days of the meet.

- c) There will be an LSC Officials Chair National Meeting in May in Orlando, Florida
- d) We need help recruiting more parents to become officials, including from teams that do not run meets. We need to make it an equitable number of officials between non-meet teams and meet teams. Bruce will write up a proposal to increase the number of officials based on the percentage of swimmers in each team. Discussion also regarding subsidizing officials.

**12. REGISTRATION CHAIR:** Mary Fleckenstein

Reminder to all coaches that they must display their USA-S Registration Card in a visible manner, on their person, at all times at meets! Every Coach has a different expiration date for background check, APT, CPR, etc... and coaches' certifications may expire in the middle of a meet! It is the coach's responsibility to check his/her card often and update his/her certifications on time – don't wait for the last minute to renew your certifications as the office is not open 24/7 and coaches may not get their new card on time to attend a meet. Officials are reminded to check the cards of all coaches at meets.

Deck Pass on I phone are not sufficient!

**13. NATIONAL TIMES VERIFICATION / TOP 16:** Monique Grayson

Coaches that need the official results of High School meets should get in touch with Monique to get the file from SWIMS to import in their team manager.

**14. SAFETY / SAFE SPORT COORDINATOR:** Brian Hansbury

- a) Brian attended a workshop on Safe Sport in Colorado in January (with Mary and Mac) – loads of information about being proactive from top to bottom.
- b) New report of Occurrence for incidents – online reporting.
- c) Online form where parents/swimmers/coaches can report any instance of abuse (physical, verbal or bullying).
- d) June 14-15-16: Safety classes on Safety Education – Brian is thinking of doing something in Metro about Safety for Coaches, parents and athletes.
- e) Educate your coaches as they can't be Facebook friends with their swimmers; there are email rules; there are texting rules. Teams must monitor their coaches to make sure that those guidelines are treated as rules! Follow the guidelines re: travel with athletes, how to supervise the rooms, etc...
- f) Question about "on deck" photographers. They must show credentials that include a background check. No Cameras behind the blocks or in locker rooms.
- g) This is all done to protect the swimmers, coaches, swim teams, and the board. It starts from the top down.
- h) No Deck Changing allowed – it is inappropriate and we must enforce it – we are responsible for policing this – talk to the coaches. It is in writing of all meet information.

**15. HALL OF FAME:** Mary Fleckenstein and Monique Grayson

- a) HOF Dinner will be on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Riccardo's by the Bridge in Astoria, Queens. More information will be posted on the website. Applications for nominations are posted.
- b) There is money in the budget to redo a physical site of the Hall of Fame with plaques etc...

The HOF will be at Lehman College in the APEX building in the main stairway going down towards the pool. Mary Fleckenstein made a motion to make a yearly donation of \$5,000 to Lehman College APEX – \$1,000 of this would go towards maintenance and upgrades of the equipment used during the meets and as an appreciation of all Dr. Martin Zwiren and Lehman College do to help Metropolitan Swimming (including giving us a place to hold our BOD and HOD meetings). Motion was seconded and accepted by all. **Motion carries.** A check for \$5,000 was then given to Dr. Martin Zwiren. This will go to the Budget Committee to be added in the Budget.

- c) HOF Dinner: Who are the “invited” guests and who is “expected to pay” for their dinner?
- (a) Female and Male winners of the Joe Stetz Memorial Scholarship and their parents are invited but their siblings and extended family must pay.
  - (b) The Age Group and Senior Coach of the Year are invited guests. Their spouses, parents, children, partners must pay.
  - (c) The new class of HOF inductees and their spouse or partner are invited guest but the rest of the family attending must pay.
  - (d) If there is a new National Age Group Record holder, the swimmer and the parents are invited.
  - (e) Coaches, Officials and Chair of the Joe Stetz Scholarship must all pay. All members of the Board also pays. The coaches of the scholarship winners or NAG record holder, must pay.
  - (f) Metropolitan Swimming 2012 Olympians are invited as well as a guest TBD.

16. **DISABILITIES COORDINATOR:** Denise Byrne

Denise was not in attendance at the meeting

17. **SWIM-A-THON:** Richard Finkelstein

Nothing new at this time

18. **OPEN WATER COORDINATORS:** Rob Ripp and Colleen Driscoll

Rob and Colleen were not present at the meeting

19. **DIVERSITY:** Elliot Plastnik

Clinic on April 28, 2013 – at Asphalt Green in cooperation with the Parks & Recreation and guest Anthony Ervin. There will be a Make-a-Splash event in May.

20. **UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:**

None at this time

21. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **Proposed Change to Article 202.3** - Submitted by Ginny Nussbaum/ Dave Ferris from Long Island Aquatic Club.

*Add Article: In the event that a swimmer with JO cut times for one or more events during the 1st day of the Silver Championships changes age groups between Silvers and JO's and no longer qualifies in those events at JO's: The swimmer shall be allowed to swim as a non-award (exhibition) swimmer in the Silver Championship in the proper age group. If the JO time*

*standard is not met at or after Silvers the swimmer shall be allowed to swim that event as a non-award (exhibition) swimmer in the Metro Age Group Championships.*

Reasoning: *Currently the JO level swimmer how ages up after Silvers does not get an opportunity to swim primary events again. This swimmer has demonstrated competency by being a JO level swimmer. We should be fostering this swimmers development by amending rules that penalize the level the swimmer previously achieved.*

A motion was made that: starting with Silvers in 2014, if a swimmer ages-up to a new age group between the first day of Silvers and the first day of JO's, and that swimmer has a JO qualifying time in the age group they are during Silvers (making that swimmer ineligible to swim at Silvers), but that swimmer does not have a JO qualifying time in that same event in the new age group by the meet extension deadline of JOs, that swimmer would be able to swim that event as exhibition/non award at Silvers – example: *Jane Doe is 10-year-old as of March 1st on the first day of Silvers; her time in the 50 free is 31.00 (which is a JO time) so she can't swim that event at Silvers. Jane ages up on March 5<sup>th</sup> so now her 31.00 in the 50 free is too slow for JOs in the 11-12 age group. So now under this new proposal, Jane would be allowed to swim the 50 free at Silvers.* Mary Fleckenstein seconded the motion which was accepted unanimously.

**Motion carries** and will start in 2014.

Bronze Championships: the same should apply to the Bronze Championships. Amendment to the above motion: to allow a swimmer that is ineligible to swim at Silvers because he/she is too fast in an event, and that swimmer ages up before JOs which makes the swimmer ineligible to swim that event at JOs because he/she is now too slow in the new age group, to be allowed to swim that event as exhibition at this year's Bronze Championships - Example – *a swimmer who is too fast for Silvers 2013 as a 10-year-old but too slow for JO's 2013 as a 11-year-old [because that swimmer has a birthday between Silvers and JO's], that swimmer would be able to swim that event as exhibition at this year's Bronze Championships.* – **This exception will be for this year's Bronze only, since the Silvers entry deadline had passed, but beginning in 2013-2014, the exception is only for Silvers and not Bronze:** Bruce Brooks seconded the amendment to the original motion which was accepted by all.

- b) Richie Finkelstein mentioned that the Silvers Meet info was posted on the Web site on February 10<sup>th</sup> and the entry deadline was February 17<sup>th</sup>. Work with the Meet Director. Meet info for the championship meets should be available earlier.
- c) Reminder – Email votes must be sent to Mac and Denise only, and not to the whole board.

## 22. NEXT MEETING:

The next BOD meeting will take place at Lehman College on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 6:00pm sharp.

The next HOD meeting (Elections and Bids Meetings) will take place at Lehman College on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 7:00 p m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved by all. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted  
Monique Grayson  
March 22, 2013