

METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

PRESENT: Mary Fleckenstein, Barry Roffer, David Ellinghaus, Monique Grayson, Bob Vializ, Edgar Perez, George Rhein, and Erin Kiernan.

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Brian Brown, Larry Collins, Scott Bartleson, Mary Ann Senecal, Corinne Cody, Paul Simco, Bea Hartigan, Paul Furbeck and Chris Finnegan.

All votes were considered by voting members only

1: CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, and INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm at the YWCA in White Plains. Mary welcomed all members in attendance.

2: ACCEPTANCE/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:

A motion to accept the minutes of the BOD of June 26, 2007, was made by Barry Roffer, seconded by George Rhein, and approved by all. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

3: GENERAL CHAIR: Mary Fleckenstein

House cleaning items:

- a) Reminder: The only items that will be discussed by the Board at a BOD meeting will be the items on the agenda. All other reports (in MS Word format) will be included with the minutes. Those reports must be emailed to the General Chair and Secretary. The Board in attendance decided that reports should be submitted one week prior with confirmation of attending the meeting. If, at that time, we don't have a quorum, the meeting will be cancelled.
- b) Meet information on the website: Meet announcements and meet events files must be emailed to Barry Roffer. After approval of information, Barry will forward the announcement and meet events to the website. There will be no more changes to the info once it has been posted. Barry must also send regularly to Mary Ann and Monique an updated list of sanction numbers. Letters will be added to sanction numbers as follows: **T** (Time Trials); **O** (Observed) and **A** (Approved).
- c) Budget Items: Corinne Cody was unable to attend. There will be a Budget Committee meeting on Friday, November 16, 2007 at Nassau County Aquatic Center, at approximately 4pm, after of the prelims of the Girls HS State Championships (info corrected 10/18). This meeting is open to all those that are interested in the Metro Budget. Corinne will present the committee's recommendations to the Board. Then the Board will present it to the House of Delegates. The modified budget must be approved at the January House of Delegates.
- d) Discussion on stipends and on the NCSA Junior National meet which is the best attended meet for 18-under elite swimmers in the Country. Try to make Sectionals a better meet. Some recommendations for the budget re: stipends: eliminate coaches stipends (most are already paid by their clubs), eliminate relay only swimmers stipends, eliminate NCSA meet stipend, give only ½ stipend for Speedo Series EZ Southeast. This year, the Speedo Series (Sectionals) are in Metro so we should give a reduced stipend (stipend can't exceed expenses). David Ellinghaus made a motion that in order to receive a stipend, and to protect the Amateur status of our athletes, coaches must submit receipts of expenses along with the application for stipend. This must be mailed to the Administrative Vice Chair. Verification of meet requirements will be made by Mary Ann Senecal and verification of expenses will be made by George Rhein. If the expenses do not equal or exceed the designated amount of stipend, then the stipend will be reduced to the amount of the recorded expenses. Edgar Perez seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. **Motion carries.**

David Ellinghaus made a motion that all money must be sent to the Metro Office (Barry) or the Administrative Vice Chair (George Rhein) to be received and recorded, before being deposited in

the bank by the Treasurer (Mary Ann Senecal). Checks should not be sent directly to the Treasurer. Bob Vializ seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. **Motion carries.**

- e) Reminder about Convention reports: must be submitted before October 14th in MS Word format (email them to Mary and Monique). Note: our athletes behaved extremely well at Convention!
- f) We will have a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 6:30pm at the Flushing YMCA, to talk about the Budget.

4: TREASURER'S REPORT: MaryAnn Senecal

Mary Ann was unable to attend the meeting. Report: 09/01/07 - 10/07/07

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Athl reg	\$405.00	Conf -2	\$500.00
Non	\$159.00	Conv.food	\$1,610.00
Sanct	\$1,525.00	Z-Unif	\$37,125.00
JO ent	\$3,417.00	USA-athl	\$215.00
adm fine	\$225.00	USA-non	\$172.00
Surch	\$8,860.20	Website	\$300.00
redep cks	\$800.00	budget exp	\$48.36
Zone fees	\$430.00	phone	\$146.13
bnk cge \$25.00		Secy	\$1,115.89
Zone room	\$208.00	Amer.xpress	\$1,420.66
rebate USMS	\$200.00	Zone dues	\$125.00
TOTALS	\$16,254.20		\$42,278.04

5: OLD BUSINESS:

- a) LC Zones: Two coaches did not receive their uniform Bob will check on this. There were many problems with the logos on uniforms. Problems with the quality and delivery timing. Erin Kiernan submitted a report re: Zones (which is attached to the minutes). Problems with bus delayed and no one in charge at the site. Too many swimmers at the meet (cuts will be made faster for 2008).

6: NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Convention: Erin Kiernan would like to write a dress code and code of conduct for athletes attending the convention. Also, have a "uniform" for all Metro members when attending the EZ meeting and the HOD. Also review code of conduct for all members of Metro attending the Convention.
- b) Erin would like to start a "Make a Splash" program in Metro to get more athletes involved in Charity work.

7: REPORTS:

Reports attached to the minutes: Senior Chair, Age Group, Athlete, National Times Verification Officer. Swim-A-Thon (Richie told us that there were no reports at this time).

8: ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Vializ at 9pm; Edgar Perez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- * **Friday, November 16, 2007 – Budget Committee Meeting at Eisenhower Park: After prelims of the Girls High School State Championships (@ approximately 4pm) – (corrected 10/18).**
- * **Tuesday, December 4, 2007 @ 6:30pm at the Flushing YMCA – Board meeting: BUDGET**
- * **Wednesday, January 9, 2008 @ 7pm – HOD at White Plains YWCA - Bid Meeting for LC Season 2008**

*** Wednesday, May 14, 2008 @ 7pm – HOD at White Plains YWCA –
Elections and Bid Meeting for SC Season 2008-09**

Submitted by Monique G. Grayson
October 17, 2007

SENIOR CHAIR REPORT – Brian Brown

At the USAS convention the Scholastic All-America committee was challenged to come up with a more equitable standard that the Sectional times (which are very different nationwide) for consideration for this honor. The committee was asked to use either an average of the Sectional time standards or the old Junior National standard (as the NCSA uses). They were also petitioned by those at the meeting to only have time standards and not make participation in certain meets compulsory to qualify for the honor (the case when an athlete establishes a qualifying and then is unable to compete due to injury was cited).

Senior Mets—I will recommend that we return the SCY meet to the traditional format of 3 heats of 8 swimmers.

Stipends—At this time I have no fully-formed ideas to suggest for amending the stipend process which is in place and recommend that we continue discussing it.

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Age Group Report – Bob Vializ

- USA Swimming has been working on the capability to pull statistical data from the swims database that will allow us to determine percent of improvement for athletes. They expect it to be ready in the “very near” future. Once available, this will allow us to commence with our Age group Recognition program. The program will recognize athletes who have achieved large percentage of improvements from performances before 12/1 and between 12/1 and end of age group championships.
- We have concerns regarding the impact a potential increase in the Metro portion of USA Registration fees and the addition of Metro swimmer surcharge for non championship meets, will have on our ability to continue to build “the base” of age group swimming, and our ability to promote excellence in age group swimming, as well as promote their preparation for successful transition to the senior level. Recently, a highly regarded senior coach in our LSC remarked on the excellent success enjoyed by the age group level athletes in Metro. Besides the improved policies and programs adopted by Age Group over the last decade or so, this success can also be attributed to an increase in the number of age group swimmers and their opportunities to compete. An increase in the aforementioned fees can have a chilling effect. The approximately 7700 athletes in our LSC already shoulder a considerable financial burden.

1. USA Registration fees - \$415,000 of which Metro gets \$77,000. These fees are already going up as USA Swimming has been increasing them \$1 per year for 10 years.
2. Meet Entry Fees - \$520,000 of which 80% go to Host teams, 20% to Metro.
3. Team Tuition – Which can cost as high as \$2500+ per year
4. Equipment and uniforms necessary to compete

The vast majority of all Funds that go to both teams and Metro already come directly from the 7700 athletes, a majority who are age group level athletes. Before any consideration of increasing the burden on this group, we should re-examine the effectiveness of our programs and the amount of resources we allocate to obtain the results we get on all levels. It is of critical importance that we continue to improve age group swimming so that we may provide more viable stock to senior level swimming. Any action we take to inhibit our growth and discourage participation at the age group level will manifest itself negatively at higher levels.

Athlete Report on the Eastern Zone Championship Meet (August 2007)

Junior/Senior Athlete Representative: Erin McGowan Kiernan

How can we, as an LSC, improve the Technical Planning aspects of the Eastern Zone Championship Meet?

- I. Transportation
 - A. There should be a third location added for pick-up and drop off in Rockland County because:
 - a. It is on the way to Buffalo.
 - b. There are a substantial number of swimmers from that area.
 - c. Those parents are not forced to drive down to New York over the Tappan Zee Bridge during am rush hour traffic.
 - B. There should be designated transportation “leaders” at all stops. Those “leaders” should have:
 1. A list of ALL the swimmers going to Buffalo by club including their club coach’s cell phone number and a parent “contact” number.
 2. A list that states which children are suppose to be on the Yonkers bus, Huntington bus or Newburgh (Suggested site for Rockland County) bus.
 3. The phone number of the bus company who is paid to transport the athletes. This year, Paradise Bus company, in case the bus does not show up.
 4. A list with the coaches and chaperones for each bus, their club name and their personal cell phone numbers. Everybody should be able to contact everybody else the morning of departure to ease the stress of unforeseen complications. (This year, in Yonkers there were no coaches, chaperones or Metro personnel, with any list of the kids who were suppose to be on the bus. The bus scheduled for Yonkers (Stew Leonards parking lot) arrived at 8:30 am for a 9:30 am scheduled departure. The bus left Yonkers at approximately 11:00 am.

The two buses arrived from the Long Island location at 10:45am and only those 2 buses had coaches or lists aboard. (For an hour and a half over 50 children and parents were left in the Yonkers parking lot with no list, no phone numbers and no information of any kind.)

5. The number of seats on each bus should be matched up to the number of athletes scheduled to travel. This year there were not enough seats on the bus assigned to the Yonkers location to have the kids wait inside the bus for the hour and a half it took for the second bus to arrive. It was a very hot morning in Yonkers regardless of the 90 degree weather.

6. The Yonkers, Stew Leonards disaster presents more than administrative nightmares, it also raises legal questions of liability. Who is responsible for these 50 children for the hour and a half that they are in the parking lot waiting for a second bus to arrive? Should the children be allowed to “board” the bus at 9:30 am as scheduled? Should you make all the “drop-off” parents wait in the parking lot till 11:00 am when the second bus arrives? Is the bus driver responsible for all 50 children? Who decides which child should be allowed on the bus and which gets to go into Stew Leonards to use the bathroom or get a cold drink? Who is legally responsible for the child who goes into Stew Leonards and gets hit by a car on his way back while waiting for the second bus to arrive? What are the chaperones responsibilities and at what point in the journey are they liable for the 50 children?

II. Post more information on the Metropolitan web site, two weeks before the meet is scheduled. Meet Information Included should contain:

1. List the name and the link to the Eastern Zone organizers whether it be “Star Swimming” or others.
2. Have the list and phone number of the team hotel available in case of emergencies.
3. Give parents a “guideline” as to what a sample day may include for their child. Include whether they will be walking to the pool or traveling together as a group.
4. List an emergency contact in Buffalo who is available at the meet through the course of the meet.

III. Less children involved in summer meet

1. Metro does not have the manpower to chaperone and monitor the activities of 150 un-parented teenagers in one hotel. (Chaperones were getting calls all night long to “quite” certain rooms.)

IV. Distribution of Metro Team Apparel

1. Swim Suits, Shorts, Jackets should be pre-labeled and bagged days before the meet so the distribution can be timely and orderly. (This year in Buffalo some participants never received suits, jackets and shorts)

National Times Verification Report: Monique Grayson

1. **NCAA Project:** There is a new NCAA Database for Division 1 schools within SWIMS and there is information posted on the web link (NCAA on the left column under Times/Time Standards). Check <http://www.usaswimming.org/ncaa>
 - a. The D1 schools send meet results to this email address within 48 hours of any competition where a D1 school is competing (ncaa@usaswimming.org).

- b. The database will provide the list for invitations to the D1 Championships and POP forms will not be utilized.
- c. OME will be used by the schools to enter their swimmers.

2. **Top 16 and National Times Verification**

- a. The Times and Recognition Committee has a plan to implement a new recognition system which will receive final review this month and be publicized as soon as it is finalized. The plan is to recognize the top ten swimmers in a single age group for individual events (10)-11-12-13-14-15-16- (17-18). With a single age group of top ten times 180 of each age group would be recognized. The committee feels that this will provide inclusion and motivation for the younger age and make recognition more competitive at the top age while providing more recognition overall for our athletes. Note that relays will continue to be recognized in the current manner. NAG Records and age group motivational times (B, A, AA, etc.) would not be affected and the motivational times will continue to be published and updated every four years. The term NRT will disappear (all times are now reportable) and a Top Ten Time will be implemented to continue the motivational factor.
- b. High School Times Data Entry: **All high school times for the 2007-08 year will be loaded into SWIMS as LSC UN.** The Club Development group has decided that, at this time, this is the fairest way to load high school times as not all states allow athletes to be attached to their club when they swim high school. Therefore, the high school times will not count for Virtual Club Championship or club recognition programs this year. This may change after May 2008 (we need 75% agreement from high school associations).
- c. Top 16 & National Age Group Records: A task force looking at USA Swimming Records applications is developing an interactive application form that can be accessed on the USA-S web site. Look for this to be in place by January 1st. Special note: The Rules and Regulations Committee has specified that any NAG Record set in a pool with a moveable bulkhead in place will require a measurement for the record to be accepted. This has not been the practice in the past. Since many NAG Records are set in LSC pools, you should urge your LSC and your teams to have a plan in place for this measurement should a record be set. Options might include going to a local engineering firm and asking them to donate a measurement should a record be set or working with a local college or university to have this measurement be done by students overseen by qualified staff. Laser measurement is permissible ("other acceptable measuring device"). Please review 104.2 C, specifically 104.2 C (4) (c) in the Rules and Regulations for guidance. The new record applications will reflect this additional requirement for NAG Records.

3. **Rules and Regulations: Article 202.3 Conditions of Sanction** - Removal of the requirement that marshals be members of USA Swimming effective immediately. "All meet directors, referees, starters, ~~marshals~~, and stroke and turn judges, serving in an official capacity in a sanctioned event, must be members of USA Swimming, and all persons acting in any coaching capacity in a sanctioned event must be coach members of USA Swimming."