

**CONNECTICUT SWIMMING,
INC.
House of Delegates Meeting
Minutes
November 7, 2024
8:00 PM**

General Chair, Jeff Sargent called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

Resolution to convene the House of Delegates Meeting

MOTION made to convene the House of Delegates Meeting

Passed unanimously

Board Members present: Rick Lewis, Jeff Sargent, Susan Lecza, Ronnie Vaughan, Lauren Lazar, David Heller, Greg Pinchbeck, Joan Lynch, Adriana Schack, Davide and Kathleen Mendonca, Sean Farrell, Brandon Foster, Jeremy Virgil, Jason Paige, Margy Sargent, Jim Robison, James Doak, Robert Adams-Machaud, Steven Cusano, Sarah Avery, Kristen Finnegan,

Absent Board Members: Dylan Lee, Caroline Ward, Samantha Haley, Niall Easton, Sara Omar, Ava Ward, Penny Lazar, Lily Archibald

Roll Call

Attending teams: Aqua Jets Swim Club (AJSC), Amity Regional Aquatic Club (ARAC) Bristol Splash (BSPL), Bridgeport Stratford YMCA Torpedoes (BSY), Bulldog Swimming (BULL), Connecticut Aquatic Team (CAC), Cougar Aquatic Team (CAT), Cheshire Y Sea Dog Swim Club (CDOG), Chelsea Piers Aquatic Club (CPAC), Fairfield YMCA (FFLY), Meriden Silver Fins (FINS), Farmington Valley YMCA Tsunamis (FVYT), Glastonbury Swim Team (GLAS), GRIT Aquatics (GRIT), YMCA of Greenwich Marlins (GRYM), Greater Waterbury YMCA Barracudas (GWYB), Greenwich YWCA Dolphins Swim Team (GYWD), HALE YMCA Riptides, Hamden Hall Aquatic Club (HHAC), Indian Valley Family YMCA Breakers (IVY), Laurel East Hartford YMCA (LEHY), Litchfield Swim Team (LST), Middlesex Aquatics Club (MAC), Mandell Jewish Community Center Sharks (MJCC), MYST, Northeast Connecticut Aquatics (NCA), New Canaan YMCA Caimans (NCY), New Fairfield Aqua Flyers (NFAF), Newington Swim Club (NSC), Northwest CT YMCA Lasers (NWYL), Charter Oak Aquatic Club (OAK), Panther Aquatic Club (PAC), ORCAS (ORCA), Trumbull Pisces (PSC), Piranha Swimming @ Darien YMCA (PSDY), Ridgefield

Aquatic Club (RAC), Southington YMCA Rays (RAYS), Rapids Swim Team (RST), Regional YMCA of Western Connecticut Makos (RYWC), Storrs Aquatics (SAQ), Meriden, New Britain, Berlin YMCA Seals Swim Team (SEAL), Stamford Sailfish Aquatic Club (SSAC), Soundview YMCA Stingrays (SYS), Thame Aquatic Club (TAC), Valley Shore YMCA Marlins (VSYM), Woodbridge Aquatic Club (WAC), Weston Swimming Inc. (WEST), Wallingford Family YMCA Dolphins (WFYD), West Hartford Aquatic Team (WHAT), Wolfpack Swimming (WOLF), West Haven Swim Club (WHSC), Westport/Weston Family Y Water Rat Swim Team (WRAT), Wheeler Regional Y Tiger Sharks (WRTS), Windsor Water Rats Express (WWRX), Wilton Y Wahoos Swim Club (WYW), Zeus Swim Team (ZEUS)

Teams NOT in attendance: Oxford Otters Swim Team (OXO), Swimming Wallingford Aquatic Team (SWAT), Yankee Clipper Swim Team (YCST), Stamford JCC Stingrays (SJCC)

Approval of Agenda-

MOTION made to adopt the agenda as amended.

Passed unanimously

Adoption of the minutes from Fall 2023, House of Delegates meeting

MOTION made to adopt the minutes from Spring 2024 HOD meeting.

Passed unanimously

Welcome Announcements/General Chair's Report

State of LSC is good. There are some things we can do better. Growth and lack of growth since 2008. In 2018 we had 6525 athlete members. In 2024 we had 5463 athlete members which was a decrease of 1062 (16.28%) USA Swimming and other LSC have had decrease as well. Ours has had a bigger drop than others. 2024- we were flat- we lost 5 members. USA Swimming was up. Maybe limited to northeast? It is not- METRO was up. We need to come up with solutions. This will be an ongoing discussion at the board level. We did not catch and olympic spike like other LSC. We are underperforming USA Swimming and other LSCs.

General Chair Report- Jeff Sargent

1. Marketing task force that we have put together-Found 3 former CT Swimmers in marketing. To work on a pitch book that Jeff can take out to try to get corporate sponsors. We need more sponsors. Maybe for open water or regionals. This would help reduce the surcharge.
2. We lost a club 2 weeks ago because a parent posted something on Facebook. That jeopardized 50 athletes. We will start doing club reach out talking to them about overall health of their club. Want to make sure the athletes are protected and have water. Need to

work with the athletes. We are looking for ways to increase opportunities for all of our athletes. Overall increase athlete experience, maybe make meets shorter.

Administrative Vice Chair- Greg Pinchbeck - two updates-

1. Board re-assessment survey- looking at board composition with roles etc. want to take the voting members down from 21 to 13 (USA Swimming standards)- will be easier to make decisions, easier to get a quorum. We are too big to make quick decisions. Governance committee working on this and will come back to board soon with possible changes.
2. Motion to approve by-law changes that have to be done by December 1st. Two changes- changing FINA to World Aquatics, making language more gender inclusive so took out his/hers and made it theirs

Finance Vice-Chair- James Doak- working on the budget and working on investment policy- three big things- guidance on cash policy, investment policy and how we keep board apprised of our finances. Looking to revise these policies.

Program Development Vice-Chair- Jason Paige- Setting dates for the rest of the year. Finalized dates for SC and LC- looking at July 10-13 for Seniors, July 18-20- Regionals, Age Groups- July 24-27- over the summer will discuss SC 2026- LC 2028. Want to get on schedule as soon as possible.

Program Operations Vice-Chair— Jim Robison- Not much going on

Athlete Representatives- Samantha Haley, Caroline Ward- not present

Treasurer-Sue Lecza- Fiscal year ended August 31, 2024- net income of 90K which is over our budget. Very successful year financially. Sitting with over a million dollars between our reserves and our cash. Not running a second Senior Championship helped. Zone Team was also down.

Safe Sport- Jeremy Virgil- We have 19% of teams that have safe sport recognition. If you want to hold a meet you need to be Safe Sport recognized. Some policies have been updated online.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion- Dennis Flores, Emmanuel Lanzo- Want to host a DEI camp using same requirements as USA Swimming.

Senior Committee Chair- Adriana Schack- We have a strong committee, want to get information out to coaches earlier so they can plan for meets in advance. Have revised cuts for SC Championships. Hopefully will see the times getting faster. Now will be revising travel policy and athlete of the year. Only have men on the committee, we need some women on the committee.

Age Group Committee Chair- Ronnie Vaughan- We have met three times and working on revising AG cuts and has been posted. Putting out the 10/U meet. Meet announcement is in progress. Time trials are back. Regional meet is not changing.

Coach Representatives- Sarah Basile, Steven Cusano, Robert Adams- Michaud- nothing to report

Coach-at-Large- Kristen Finnegan- Putting together a task force that looks at the role and presence of women in the sport. Only 11% of coaches at Olympic Trials were women. Half of coaches at USA Swimming are women. Lack of women involvement in higher end meets an governance.

Officials Chair- Dylan Lee/ Margy Sargent- Ended last season with 295 officials included certified and apprenticed. We have 318 as of today. Peak was 380. New program- Two officials will be club liaisons.

Open Water Coordinator- Vacant- Seen some changes to the website. Qualification standards will be posted.

Adapted Swimming - Vacant

Operational Risk Coordinator- Brandon Foster- nothing to report

Registration/Membership- Kathleen and Davide Mendonca- If you elected bulk registrations- need to enable any memberships from team portal.

Zone Team- Seana Bedard- not on- have hotels for coaches and athletes. Will get a second hotel block shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Pinchbeck

Motion made to approve two mandatory changes by USA swimming to CT Swim bylaws- changing FINA to World Aquatics, making language more gender inclusive so took out his/ hers and made it theirs in many areas throughout.

Passed unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT

Henk- Have been getting High School results- need to have name and birthday match properly. We are working on SWIMS and reports on officials. For all officials or parents that want to become a coach. They don't need another log-in. One log in and you just add to the account.

Davide Mendonca- If you have a household with two people you need two log ins.

Emmanuel- encourage participation with ASCA and USA Swimming. Valuable opportunity from ASCA. Providing good resources and cover a range of topics to continuously improve our skills. Not many participate. It would be useful if more people took advantage of these programs.

Ronnie- Opening up meetings on USA Swimming level to coaches and reps that want to join are welcome.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Lazar, Secretary*