

CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC.
Board of Director Meeting
Minutes
January 19, 2021
7:30 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call: General Chair, Rick Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Board Members: Rick Lewis, Jeff Sargent, Nick Cavaturo, Kaeley Steinnagel, Lauren Lazar, Maddie Haley, David Heller, Mark Wollen, Duffy Mudry, Dave Pite, Kathleen and Davide Mendonca, Emily Fox, Rob Bouchey, Greg Pinchbeck, Finn Henry, Jen Lyman, Dave Modzelewski, Claire Michalik, Ellen Johnston, Kristen Finnegan, Dennis Flores, John Scaldini, Ronnie Vaughan

Absent Board Members: Sue Lecza

Other Present: Nan Cooper

Announcements

A moment of silence was held for Coach Garry Harrigan who passed away in mid-December.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION made to adopt the Agenda as distributed

Passed unanimously

Adoption of Minutes from October 15 and November 20, 2020 Board Meeting

MOTION made to adopt the Minutes from October 15 and December 10, 2020 meetings, as distributed.

An amendment was made to the December 10 minutes. The Registration/Membership report comment was deleted.

General Chair Announcements, Rick Lewis, Jeff Sargent

USA Swimming Updates

- Eastern Zone Technical meetings have been informative. Particularly to hear what other LSCs are doing. Wide range, some are back to normal and some are not able to swim.
- USA Swimming meeting was 90 minutes long and focused on COVID and what we can do to help the swimmers.
- US OPEN was a success- 1100 athletes, 400 coaches/volunteers. There were only 2 positive tests. No transmission at the meet.
- National membership running at 62% of what it was last year.
- There are still thousands of athletes that don't have access to a pool and around 400 clubs that are not up and running yet.
- CT is one of the states that is in this category of being closed.
- USA Swimming has now shifted its focus on getting competition going rather than getting everyone in the water.
- USA Swimming will focus on science and evidence-based research. Up to this point, there has been no proof that there has been a transmission in chlorinated pools.
- How LSC and General Chairs should deal with teams violating local health department laws? Should confirm that the situation that the team is violating the local ordinances endangering not only their program but others in their state as well.
- This puts liability by USA Swimming in jeopardy. Teams need to recognize that there is a big picture.
- There should be 1:1 contact for violations, there are team services available. Shana Ferguson and Joel Shino-field can help.
- Every LSC should focus on three things: governance, programs and communication
- Zone workshops are vital for 2021.
- LSC should start planning meets now that most athletes are back in the water, so the athletes have something to look forward to. This is subject to change.

CT Swim Updates

- January 18, 2021 at midnight the “pause to sports” ended.
- New ruling is 4 swimmers per lane- can have coaches.
- Lap swim remains the same- 1 swimmer per lane.
- Kaeley says thank you to Nick, Ellen and Rick for helping the state and LSC.
- Girls High School went smoothly and had different guidelines than the boys.
- Swimming is the only sport that has cohorts, limitations of how many people can do it a at one time in one place.
- The state (Governor) would like to see scientific evidence that there has been no transfer of the virus while swimming.
- Governors of many states don’t seem to understand competitive swimming and how it relates to COVID. USA Swimming trying to help us educate the governors and states that don’t understand.
- Concern was expressed that CIAC is a hindrance to our swimming. Many different options available for CT swimming and our club teams.
- CT goal is to get to where we were before 11/23.
- Rob- had a question if it would be better to have the task force be the one voice for CT. To reach out to different representatives is ok. The more the governor hears the better.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES-

- In May- set for 5/18/21.

OLD BUSINESS-

Scholar Athlete Meet Participation Requirement for 2020-2021- tabled for future meeting

Governance committee appointments not complete yet.

Senior Athlete Travel Assistance Policy- Rob Bouchey-Deadline is August 29, 2021. COVID had financial impact to LSCs. No more than 15% budgeted for athlete allowance

MOTION made to adopt the added provision for hardship application for those that had problems due to the pandemic.

Passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS-

- Motivational Times Bag Tags- Rick Lewis. There has been a positive response to spend money to do this. Total cost will be around \$3100 excluding shipping charges.

MOTION made to approve the production of motivational time bag tags for all swimmers. Passed unanimously

DISCUSSION:

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion- Dennis Flores

There should be:

- DE&I Liaison for each club
- DE &I budget suggestions
- DE&I Informational speakers
- Online discussion with diverse group of college swimmers
- Ways to increase social media communication and awareness
- DE&I Award for a graduating senior

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS:

General Chair Report- Rick Lewis

Administrative Vice Chair- Jeff Sargent

Treasurer- Susan Lecza

Finance Vice-Chair- vacant. Ed Becker gave notice that he would officially like to step down as chair.

Age Group Committee Chair- Dave Modzelewski

Senior Committee Chair- Rob Bouchey

Technical Planning Committee Chair- Kaeley Steinnagel

Program Development Vice- Chair- Mark Wollen- Would like to have a return to competition plan A, B and C. Suggested hiring a lobbyist or lawyer to help CT move forward for competition and help athletes get back in the pool. Need three weeks to put request in for a meet. Third week in February is a good goal

Officials Committee Chair- Dave Pite.

Operational Risk Coordinator- Duffy Mudry

Coach Representatives- Kristen Finnegan/Ronnie Vaughan

Athlete Representatives- Claire Michalik/ Emily Fox- thought that the earlier the better to return to competition.

Safe Sport Coordinator- Greg Pinchbeck - Now include 20% of total LSC in CT.

Coach-at-Large- Nick Cavaturo- continuing to work with the task force.

Registration/Membership Coordinator- Kathleen/Davide Mendonca

Zone Team Coordinator- John Scaldini

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion- Dennis Flores

The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Lazar

Secretary