

**CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**April 20, 2021**  
**7:30 PM**

**Call to Order/Roll Call:** General Chair, Rick Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

**Board Members:** Rick Lewis, Jeff Sargent, Nick Cavataro, Lauren Lazar, Mad-die Haley, Mark Wollen, Finn Henry, Dave Pite, Kathleen and Davide Mendonca, Emily Fox, Rob Bouchey, Susan Lecza, Dave Modzelewski, Dennis Flores, Kristen Finnigan, Ronnie Vaughan, Thomas Dupont, David Heller, Greg Pinchbeck, Finn Henry, Jen Lyman, Claire Michalik, Ellen Johnston, John Scaldini

**Absent Board Members:** Kaeley Steinnagel, Duffy Muddy, Meghan Lynch

**General Chair Announcements, Rick Lewis**

- Zone workshops started today
- Governor is making some changes as of 5/1 or 5/19
- Leadership conference meeting for USA Swimming was last week. Discussed that they will be refunding some Olympic Trial tickets which will take a while. They have to downsize the number of spectators.
- Strongly advising that all athletes have the vaccine by time of trials but they won't require it. They are working on policies if an athlete is exposed to someone with COVID or they test positive.
- Announcement was made that they have a new program director for USA Swimming- Leeland Brown III
- Transgender position and recommended practices are posted on USA Swimming website. Recommend that everyone looks at the policy.
- No US Aquatics Sports Convention this year
- USA Swimming annual meeting will be held with the House of Delegates for USA Swimming September 23-25 in Colorado Springs, CO. It will be a hybrid model. In planning stages.
- 2021- Senior Development meeting discussed upcoming Futures and Speedo Summer Championships. The Speedo Summer Championships will be LCM and will be held August 3-7 in Irvine, CA and Greensboro, NC. The qualifying period is from July 1 of 2019- entry deadline.
- The Speedo Summer Championships qualifying times for 19 and over will be 2019 US National Standards and the 18 and under will be 2019 summer junior national time standards. All time standards are posted to USA Swimming.

- Futures- there will be four meets: Richmond, VA, Santa Clarita, CA, Fargo, NC and Huntsville, Alabama. Three of them will be held from July 28- July 31. The one held in VA will be held from July 29- August 1. Qualifying times are from July 1, 2019 until entry deadline. The meet will be capped at 800 athletes or less. It will run on OME and opens 5/24 and closes July 20.
- On the local front- governor said as of 5/19- outdoor events will have no restrictions. This is what the governor said but still waiting on the CT Dept. of Health. Governor will relax things as of 5/1 but then more on 5/19.
- LEAP assignments are up for renewal- they are good for 2 years. Need it done by June 1st.
- Need to start planning House of Delegates meeting- is it by zoom, hybrid or in person?- Thursday, May 18.

### **Approval of Agenda**

***MOTION made to add to the Agenda as distributed***

***Passed unanimously***

### **Adoption of Minutes from February 16 and March 16 2021 Board Meeting**

***MOTION made to approve the Minutes from February 16 amd March 16 2021 meetings, as distributed.***

### **OLD BUSINESS-**

- Scholar Athlete Meet Participation Requirement for 2020-2021- Deadline will be around 8/30/21. If get out of RTC the requirement will be 1 or 2 meets. This is tabled until we get out of RTC meets. Nick Cavataro mentioned that it was recommended to align the USA Swimming Scholar Athlete date with the CT Scholar athlete date. It should be the same date.
- Nominating Committee- 4 athletes who have interest. Looking for at large adult (non- board member). If you know of someone who is interested please send them Rick's way. He will then send a link explaining the responsibilities.
- LEAP assignments are up for renewal- they are good for 2 years. Need it done by June 1st.
- Need to start planning House of Delegates meeting- is it by zoom, hybrid or in person?- Date is Thursday, May 18, 2021.

### **NEW BUSINESS-**

Rob Bouchey- Athlete Travel Assistance- seeking to add this to document currently on CT Swim website. The website currently has a list. TYR Spring Cup is not on the list.

**MOTION** regarding Athlete Travel Assistance: Given the fluid nature of competition planning during the COVID-19 Pandemic, CSI members should forward questions about meet eligibility to Rob Bouchey, Senior Committee Chair. Upon receipt of said question regarding meet eligibility for these assistance funds, the chair shall evaluate the meet criteria, assign assistance levels based on comparable, traditional offerings, and bring new meets to the Board of Directors for assistance approval. Motion passes.

Rob would like to assign a value of \$400 assistance for the TYR Spring Cup similar to the assistance for Winter Junior Nationals and Futures.

**MOTION** to add the USA Swimming 18&Under Spring Cup (2021) to the Athlete Travel Assistance program at \$400. Motion passes.

Jen Lyman- Proposed calendar for CSI- see below:

- June 26- Open Water Championships- Quassy Amusement Park
- July 8-11- Senior Championships- Cheshire Community Pool
- July 16-18- Regional Championships- TBA
- July 22-25- CSI Age Group Championships- Cheshire Community Pool
- Might have a problem with the age groups dates at Cheshire

All summer championships will be LCM with the exception of maybe Regionals or 10/U.

Need to set the dates first for the championships then will set up qualifying meets.

Senior Championship- July 8-11- CDOG will host the senior meet. CT Swim would supply the officials and awards. We are not bidding this meet out, Cheshire is hosting it. There was some interest for other clubs to host this meet, but Cheshire is willing to host and take the financial responsibility of the meet and possibly lose money. This will be a one time decision due to COVID.

Proposing to eliminate black out dates. If they don't have senior cuts, the athlete will have another meet to go to.

**MOTION** made for the CSI 2021 LC Championships to start on June 26, 2021 EZ/CT Open Water Championship at Quassy Amusement Park; then July 8-11, 2021 Senior Championships at Cheshire Community Pool; then July 16-18, 2021

Regional Championships at TBA; and ending on July 22-25, 2021 Age Group Championships at Cheshire Community Pool. Motion passes.

**MOTION** to remove meet blackout dates for the 2021 LC Season. Motion passes.

Eliminating host club surcharge for LC season.  
RTC meets have no host surcharge.

Sue- CT Swim needs to make a little revenue. We have zero revenue from all meets. RTC meets have no surcharge.  
RTC meets we have had up to this point- have charged swimmers to participate. A lot more added costs to host a meet now for cleaning, etc. Same teams running the meets over and over again. Not necessarily supporting all of CT. If you are inviting a bunch of teams like things used to be, we should charge a surcharge.

**MOTION (AMENDED)** to eliminate host surcharge for meets consisting of CSI clubs only during the 2021 LC Season: Tabled.

Safe Sport- Greg Pinchbeck- USA Swimming has an incentive program going on now. Incentive to each threshold reached that will benefit the athletes. We are still sitting at about 19% of the total LSC. We have another 12 clubs in process. How can we get other teams to become recognized programs. COVID put halt on reaching these goals. Logo redesign update- we are revisiting the CT Swim logo. Still on schedule to be able to view their ideas and proposals in around 4 weeks from now.

Susan Lecza- CSI Financials- Typically at end of SC season- as expected show a loss of 12K. At the end of February we were even. The loss will continue to grow over the next couple of months. Anticipate that by the end of the year we will be at a loss fo 100-125K.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS:**

General Chair Report- Rick Lewis

RTC season- when do we want to end it? Should end it 5/15 or 5/22 and start LC season after that.

RTC vs. traditional meet bid process- discussion

Championship meets can qualify by SC or LC times.

Would like to set up a task force to discuss the transition from RTC to some other season. Help set up parameters to get all registered teams into meets.

Eastern Zone Age group meet- Richmond, VA. It will be held August 4-8- we need to make a decision of whether we are sending a team. Facility can only hold 240 people per session. Talking about a timed finals meet with three sessions: 10/U, 11/12 and 13/14 year olds and no relays. If all 12 LSCs attend then each LSC would be entitled to 20 swimmers/session. All 12 LSCs usually don't attend. We just need to decide if CT plans on attending Zone Meet?

Can we do team travel this year? The bus ride down there is a big part of trip and don't know how that will work with COVID. 55 seats per bus. Maybe this year parents provide their own travel and set up a hotel for CT swimmers and send CT Swim coaches. Might be limited to 75 kids total due to limitations. Would be difficult to social distance if run zones in the traditional way. Buses are a big challenge. All bus companies have different capacity limits. Qualifying time will be the same as 2019 times. Zones said they might accept SC times for qualifying purposes. If we have coaches that are willing to go down there we should consider it. See how many other LSCs are willing to go. If a bunch of the LSCs don't go then maybe we can take more kids. Discussion of whether to go to zones.

**MOTION** that for the 2021 Eastern Zone LC Age Group Championship Meet, CSI does not participate in the meet. Motion passes.

Administrative Vice Chair- Jeff Sargent- no report

Treasurer- Sue Lecza- no report

Age Group Committee Chair- Dave Modzelewski- Assuming we can have Age groups and that is approved will go over time standards. Same goes for region-als.

Senior Committee Chair- Rob Bouchey- no report

Technical Planning Committee Chair- Kaeley Steinnagel- Technical planning made a motion that did not get passed by PD. They made the motion for the fees for the 2021 Championship season to include Age Groups and Seniors should remain the same as 2019 LC proposed fees. It passed but didn't move forward in PD. Another thing discussed was to forgo any awards at Age groups or Seniors and instead give bag tags and custom ducks for all of the athletes to cut back on expenses. This was passed by technical development but didn't move forward with PD.

Program Development- Jen Lyman- no report

Program Operations Vice- Chair- Mark Wollen- RTC and LC dates discussion.

Would like to end taking RTC bids April 30th and open up bids May 1st for LC.

So that would mean end of RTC would be May 21 st and the beginning of LC season would be May 22nd. Would like to get out of RTC to get out of the restrictions, but it would still be a 3 week lead for meet notice.

**MOTION** to end the Return to Competition (RTC) acceptance of bids on April 30, 2021 and begin taking LC Season bids on May 1. RTC meets would end on May 21 and LC Season meets would begin on May 22. RTC bid meets held after May 21 would automatically be changed to LC Season meets. Motion passes.

Surcharge discussion- Are we going to charge a surcharge for LC season and how are we going to deal with out of state teams.

**MOTION (RETURNS TO FLOOR)** to eliminate club host surcharge for meets consisting of CT clubs only during the 2021 LC Season. Motion fails.

**MOTION** made to waive surcharge fees for meet hosts and have a per swimmer charge, per meet, of \$5 for out-of-state teams. Motion amended to waive surcharge fees for meet hosts and have a per swimmer charge of \$5 for out of state teams for the 2021 LC Season. Motion passes.

Officials Committee Chair- Dave Pite- The number of meets with 2 teams doing well. Tracking our numbers at 85 and going up and new people registering everyday. Started doing clinics again, did one in Shelton an Orange the other day. There is another one in Ridgefield coming up. There will also be a virtual one coming up. We will have more officials- we are doing well. Plan on doing some refresher clinics for those that have not been on deck in a year as well as new stroke and turn clinics. Hopefully people can shadowing will start mid-May.

Operational Risk Coordinator- Duffy Mudry

Coach Representatives- Kristen Finnegan/Ronnie Vaughan- nominations open and the response has been non existent. Please nominate someone to be junior coaches representative. If no nominations then could possibly extend the deadline.

Athlete Representatives- Claire Michalik/ Emily Fox- posted the elections for junior athlete on instagram and website and nominee forms are coming in.

Safe Sport Coordinator- Greg Pinchbeck- All day safe sport meeting today and will be available to the general public and posted on website.

Coach-at-Large- Nick Cavataro- If the scholar athlete process could match up with CT swimming would be great. A coach in CT asked if there was no championship meet available would CT swimming consider a significant allocation to rent a facility out of state.

Registration/Membership Coordinator- Kathleen/Davide Mendonca- Registration zoom meeting today. They are still on schedule for launching online registration portal for USA Swimming for 2022-2023. Planning is to be ready for that launch time. They haven't figured how to collect the LSC registration money.

Zone Team Coordinator- John Scaldini- no report

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion- Dennis Flores- no report

Jen Lyman- PD was sent to handle RTC with Mark. Can PD be relinquished from this with Mark? Yes

The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18th th at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:39 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lauren Lazar  
Secretary*