

CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC.
Board of Directors Emergency Meeting
Friday, November 20, 2020
12 PM, Zoom Meeting

Vision Statement: Connecticut Swimming...better life through swimming.

Mission Statement: Connecticut Swimming provides opportunities for swimmers to enrich their lives.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call: General Chair, Rick Lewis called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

Present Board Members: Ed Becker, Rob Bouchey, Nick Cavaturo, Dennis Flores, Kristen Finnegan, Emily Fox, David Heller, Ellen Johnston, Sue Lecza, Rick Lewis, Jen Lyman, Davide Mendonca, Kathleen Mendonca, David Modzelewski, Duffy Mudry, Greg Pinchbeck, Dave Pite, Jeff Sargent, John Scaldini, Kaeley Steinnagel, Ronald Vaughan, Mark Wollen

Absent Board Members: Thomas Dupont, Maddie Haley, Finn Henry, Lauren Lazar, Meghan Lynch, Claire Michalik

Also Present: Nan Cooper, Emmanuel Lanzo, Ginger McCurdy

Announcements

None

Agenda

Emergency meeting held in response to Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont's Team Sports on Pause.

Adoption of Minutes from October 15, 2020

Deferred to next regularly scheduled meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont's "Team Sports on Pause"

General Chair Rick Lewis convened this emergency meeting in response to Connecticut Governor Lamont's November 19, 2020 announcement that youth club and team sports will "pause" between November 23, 2020, and January 19, 2021. Rick would like to get thoughts from Board members about how to proceed and then meet again the second week in December (date TBD). He shared his understanding that the YMCAs across the state are in communication with each other regarding swimming as an individual low-risk activity for fitness, rather than a team sport. Rick concluded by asking Board members to discuss the proper channels to use when communicating with the State of Connecticut's Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) noting that pools and fitness centers are under the purview of the DECD.

Discussion fell under these categories.

Interpretation of Governor Lamont's directive: It is clear that club and team sports are paused and CSI clubs should cease operations until the Governor or DECD issues an exemption for Connecticut Swimming.

Meets and practices: Per Mark Wollen, Program Operations Chair, and Dave Pite, Officials Chair, meets scheduled before November 23 will be held as scheduled. Going forward no emergency

sanctions will be approved between November 20-22 and no sanction applications will be accepted until further notice.

Data: To support claims that CSI club swimming is safe, data is needed from all clubs. This will be collected via a survey. Nick Cavaturo will create the survey and the data will be reviewed by Nick Cavaturo, Rick Lewis, Ellen Johnston, Ed Becker, Jeff Sargent, and Greg Pinchbeck. In addition to data, there was discussion regarding the negative economic impact pausing CSI clubs will have not only on the club itself but also upon YMCAs, fitness centers, etc. (Fitness centers remain open at 25% capacity.) It was also suggested to include the negative impact the pause will have on youth mental health and fitness.

CSI Club Communication: A letter will be sent to clubs notifying them of the new restrictions issued by the state and that competitions and practices must cease beginning November 23. This letter will also include the club survey to collect data regarding athlete numbers and number of Covid-19 infections.

Timeline: A letter with supporting data will be delivered to Commissioner David Lehman or designate at the Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) on Monday, November 23. Rick Lewis will draft a letter for immediate release to all clubs and coaches.

Misc.: Contact USA Swimming to request an extension to the 18/U Winter Championships time submission window. Times are due into USA Swimming by December 13.

In summary it was felt that a data-driven approach was best, that an exemption be requested as soon as possible, and that DECD contacts established this past spring by Ellen Johnston and Nick Cavaturo be continued.

- A survey and letter outlining the Team Sports on Pause restrictions will be emailed to all clubs and coaches.
- Effective Monday November 23, all meets posted to the Upcoming Meets calendar are cancelled.
- No emergency meet sanctions applications will be taken.
- The Annual Awards ceremony scheduled for November 22 will proceed as planned.
- Recommendation to clubs is to follow the Governor's guidelines.
- A letter and data will be delivered to the Governor on Monday, November 23, requesting an exemption to Team Sports on Pause.

Reports of General Chair, Ad-Hoc, And Other Committees

None

Reports of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Coordinator

None

*Respectfully submitted,
Nan Cooper
Administrator*