Gulf Swimming Board Meeting
Marriott Westchase, Houston TX
October 8th, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by General Chair Paige Sikkema. Jennie Shamburger took the roll call. Attending the meeting were BOD members and LSC office staff and Coordinators:

Paige Sikkema	Clayton Cagle	Julie Bachman (LSC)
Travis Sandifer	Ben Pulskamp	Tom Hasz (LSC)
Jennie Shamburger	Brandon Trittipo	Loren Fischbach (LSC)
Henry Clark	Courtney Scott	Natalie Melenric (LSC)
MaryAnne Svoboda		Fred Bogar (Officials)
Jarrod Murphy		Herb Schwab (Governance)
John Burke		Davis Peden (TPC)

MISSION MOMENT: Paige read the Gulf Mission Statement: *Gulf Swimming provides opportunities to learn, grow, and strive for excellence, developing leaders through competitive swimming.*

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Motion was made and seconded to approve the BOD minutes from April 16th, 2025. No discussion. *Motion to approve minutes passed.*

CONSENT AGENDA: Reports from Executive Director, Officials, Athletes, TPC, Finance and Safe Sport were pulled from the meet packet. **Motion to approve remaining reports by consent agenda was made and seconded. *Motion to approve reports from Officials and Governance passed.***

COMMITEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Julie thanked everyone who attended the ABM in Denver.

Staffing update: Natalie Melenric is now Officials Coordinator / Dir of Ops. This position is having a positive impact with onboarding new officials. Team runners are encouraged to reach out to Natalie and have her help to recruit new volunteers. Her role as Director of Operations will include more involvement with Gulf Select Team athletes. We will continue to provide great opportunities for our swimmers and families.

Julie thanked Allison Beebe on behalf of the Gulf for her work as High Performance Director.

Gulf is hosting Southern Zone Open Water Championships. At January BOD meeting , a call to volunteer for event will happen.

Gulf Coach Clinic will be the 27-29th of March in Galveston. BOD member track will be added to 2026 Clinic.

2026 Duel in the Pool will be held in Illinois the third week of May. Indiana wants to take advantage of Trials in 2028 and have Gulf host in 2027. Do we host in Houston or choose a neutral site? Discussion needed with Sr Chair, AG Chair and Coaches Chair.

LEAD Summit coming to Houston in Fall of 2026. More info to follow.

Glenn Mills from GOSwim has started to do performance tracking based on video analysis. He is looking for LSC's to partner with. Hoping to host him during our Champs meets in December.

Strategic plan review - any feedback or edits please get to Julie or BOD members. Paige said outline was clear and easy to read.

Splash fees are set to go up .25 cents on Jan 1 2026. Tom/Henry/Julie working on budget. May not need that increase. Teams planning meets need this info and a final decision.

Equipment update: It continues to be difficult to maintain meet trailers. Discussion about selling trailers or hiring someone to take care of trailers. Tom spoke to issue of housing trailers. Paige will create a task force to look at issue and come to BOD in January with options. Paige emailed Charlie and Ross with information about how much the trailers are used so there is data to go on. Paige asked for volunteers to be on task force: MaryAnne Svoboda, Tom Hasz, Brendan Trittipo, Jim Svoboda were selected. Paige will chair task force. Henry asked about policy to allow teams to continue to rent out trailers and asked that this be figured into the recommendations.

OFFICIALS: Natalie discussed bringing a customer service experience to the Officials certification process. She is working closely with Fred Bogar and Officials committee to put new ideas into action. She is happy to help teams with recruiting officials. Fred said she's doing a great job. New official volunteers are no longer getting lost in the process.

ATHLETES: Brendan Trittipo presented report. 22 athlete reps are returning and 22 new reps have joined the committee. Plan to continue to do presentations and tables at Champs meets to educate. Currently 29 teams are represented. Committee projects include looking at stroke and turn clinic for outreach athletes in coordination with DEI and Safe Sport. Social events and charitable organization participation (Food Bank, Jr Athlete initiative, etc) is also being planned. An athlete committee camp is an idea brought back from the Summit. Brendan and Courtney both shared their Summit experience and all the ideas they got from talking with other athletes.

TPC: Davis Peden presented TPC recommendations for Spring Champs Series. This was reviewed at open TPC meeting last week. Davis presented the calendar in the meet packet.

Six sites for 12 Under Champs end of Feb and three sites for 13 over Champs Feb/March are needed. Recommendations from the TPC for 12 & Under Champs: DADS/MAC/FCST(2 pools)/SHRK/KATY.

Question from Paige as NOCH head coach asking for clarification since NOCH has been hosting meet for many years and would be south location. Facility / deck space / etc compared to SHRK was discussed. With this decision being made in October - teams counting on this meet that don't get it, can't schedule another meet at this time. Date of this decision affects ability to put another meet on schedule to make up revenue. She asked about deciding these locations in spring/summer. Davis said other teams can't procure pools that early. There is an option to revisit TPC recommendations and make any changes.

Herb counseled that motion from the floor can be made at HOD to revisit TPC recommendation for meet sites. Paige as General Chair would need to temporarily step down from that position to make any motion pertaining to this subject.

13 Over Champs TPC recommendations with requirement for 2 pools for prelims: PEAK / AGS / TEST. Breaks were inserted across sites last year - not needed with these recommended sites. Comment was made that one of the teams that bid for this meet did not have facility listed in their bid procured.

Motion to approve spring championship series with TPC recommendations for hosts. Motion seconded. Discussion. Paige stepped away from General Chair position and Travis Sandifer took over meeting. She made an **amendment to motion regarding recommendation for 12 & Under Champs meet sites to allow NOCH to**

be a meet host and it was seconded. Paige spoke to spectator space and facility space and new scoreboard installed in July. Athletes spoke to air quality, locker room space discussions vs location. ***Amendment to motion passed.*** **Back to original motion approving TPC report with approved amendment. Motion made and seconded.** ***Motion approved.***

Next steps - revised recommendations will be posted and sent to HOD for vote on 10/22. Summer 2026 Series Meet bids redo. Bid window will close end of October. TPC will review and present recommendations to BOD Jan. 1 and HOD Jan. 21. Paige resumed General Chair duties.

FINANCE: Henry Clark presented. He recommended raising individual entry fees again. The last raise in entry fees was 2022. Escalation over last three years with facility rental and hospitality costs has gone up with a combined 10% increase in costs. All meet hosts would benefit from entry fee adjustment for Gulf Championship Meets. Proposal is to leave athlete surcharge at $12 and go up to $17 for athlete ind entry. Henry is asking permission to work up an increase of about 10% for prelims/finals and timed finals champs meets to present at HOD. Motion wasn't needed to give Henry permission to present Gulf Champs entry fee raise at HOD.

Julie asked about looking into investments and finding a way for Gulf Swimming to help subsidize costs. The question is who should pay - the families or the LSC. Our retention is down and LSC isn't growing at this time. Solutions may not come from putting this cost onto families. MaryAnne spoke to clubs already raising dues and families now impacted by having to curtail entries for their swimmers. Henry said if fees aren't raised then fewer teams will bid on these quality meets. Travis offered to help Henry with this topic.

Henry got transfer information about Financial Status of LSC a week ago. He highlighted expenses and income in his report. Every year, Gulf wants to break even with budget. He presented P& L sheet from meet packet. Under YTD budget at this time. Income and investments have put LSC in good position. He had the idea to cut splash fees in half for Gulf hosted Champs meets.

Reimbursements - every year we pass the budget and GSA amounts change each October. Tom has created new numbers for GSA rates for USA Open and Winter Jrs in Austin. Officials reimbursments also have figures for travel to Indianapolis. Henry will review and get amounts posted on Gulf website.

SAFE SPORT REPORT: Travis presented report from Tanja. Fourteen clubs have gone through the Safe Sport Recognition Program. certification. Gulf is ranked 22nd. South Texas and North Texas are both in the top 10.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Travis had a report but asked to table it based on other info presented at meeting. He wanted to ask for funding to make Champs Meets into better meets or bigger events - DJs, comps for Officials parking, venue enhancements, etc to help meets run smoothly. He and Henry may find ways to define these reimbursements. Bringing these excitements can help with swimmer retention and growth and participation in meets.

Henry discussed benefits to LSC of having the A&M facility for hosting meets. When AGS hosted Southern Zones - he got the Gulf to waive the splash fees. TAGS being hosted at A&M is also beneficial for LSC and the meet. AGS enjoys doing LC TAGS and discussed with three facilities (A&M, CISD and UH) why Gulf could host more TAGS meets in the summer. Henry asked BOD to waive splash fees for TAGS and ask that this become standard for any Gulf teams who host TAGS. USA Swimming contributes money for Sectionals, Jrs , Futures etc. Sanction fees paid to USA Swimming vs LSC. **Henry made motion to waive Gulf Splash fees for TAGS this summer at A&M. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.**

Motion to adjourn meeting was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.