

## **Gulf Swimming House of Delegates Meeting**

***October 18th 2023 at the Marriott Westchase, Houston Tx***

**CALL TO ORDER:** Gulf LSC HOD Meeting called to order at 8pm by General Chair Charlie Fry.

**GULF MISSION STATEMENT:** Gulf Swimming provides opportunities to learn, grow, and strive for excellence, developing leaders through competitive swimming.

**ROLL CALL:** Roll call was done by Jennie Shamburger, Secretary. BOD members attending: Charlie Fry, Paige Sikkema, Jennie Shamburger, Travis Sandifer, Henry Clark, Maryanne Svoboda, Tanja Avant, Mark Martinez, John Burke, Makayla Noe, Jake Camp and Lisa Blok. Coordinators attending: Matt Sale, Davis Peden, Natalie Melenric. Gulf Staff attending: Julie Bachman, Tom Hasz, Loren Fischbach.

24 teams attending: AGS, AQUA, BATS, BLST, CFSC, DADS, ESCA, FCST, FRST, HTX, KATY, LSST, MAC, NOCH, PACE, PEAK, PACK, SSS, STA, SST, SSAN, TEST, TASC, TWST

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes from May 17th HOD meeting made and seconded. Clarification on last page and request to change the word "drawing" to "raffle" was noted. Minutes from 5/17/23 approved with this change.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Call for a vote on Consent Agenda. Reports pulled: TPC, Finance, Officials, Governance. All other reports including General Chair, Executive Director, Safe sport were included in the Consent Agenda. Motion to approve all reports not pulled made and seconded. Motion approved.

**TPC REPORT:** Davis Peden presented the overview of TPC recommendations for the Gulf Championship Meet series. A motion was made and seconded to approve the TPC recommendations as follows: Gulf Southern Sr Champs/TWST, Gulf Age Group Champs / AGS, Gulf Sr Champs / NOCH, LSST, CFSC, Gulf Fall Champs/MAC, KATY, ESCA, MARC, LSST. February 14 & Under Champs/DADS, TASC, LSST, KATY, NOCH and March 13 & Over Champs/ PACK/SHRK/TEST.

MAC coach asked for reconsideration to host 14 Under Champs due to LSST receiving 5 blocks of meets (1 single and 2 double pool blocks). It was noted that the double blocked pools would result in inadequate warm up/ warm down lane space. Charlie asked that each meet and sites be approved and then request could be revisited. All meet hosts and sites passed with the exception of the 14 and under proposed hosts/sites and the caveat that ESCA would have a co-host for their Fall Champs meet.

Both MAC and AQUA requested consideration as meet hosts for 14 Under Champs.

AQUA was removed as a site host recommendation at the October BOD meeting based on coach and officials feedback from previously hosted meets. AQUA spoke to their

solutions for unforeseen meet issues and to the need for team host assessments to be put back into meet sheets or available online, so teams can take comments and suggestions for next meet. Paige Sikkema also said all are welcome to email BOD and or TPC to voice any concerns.

Motion to change format for 14 & Under Champs meet to allow more 13-14 year olds and support two added sites - MAC and AQUA made and seconded. Concern about watering down meet competition with 7 hosts. Motion failed. Motion made to remove LSST as meet host for 14 & Under Champs and add MAC and AQUA as hosts (each using a single block of the LSST original double block for this meet). Motion seconded. Motion approved.

Meet hosts for 14 & Under Champs: DADS, TASC, AQUA, MAC, KATY, NOCH

Motion made and seconded to reconsider SSAN for the 13 & Over Champs Meet. PACK has secured a double block and SSAN claimed to have reservations at that same pool for same event. Motion to reconsider passed. Motion to open up 4 sites for the 13 & Over Champs meet made and seconded. Amendment that the teams that secured double pools only use one competition pool was made and seconded. Amendment passes.

Original motion with amendment to use 4 sites for the 13 & Over Champs using PACK, SHRK, TEST and SSAN passed.

Dr Henry Clark made a motion to increase the Gulf hosted meet fees. These have not been increased since 2020. Motion was seconded. Per swimmer surcharge fees were also raised to a round number and this is also inline with escalation rate percentage used for calculations of recommended fee increases. Proposed fee increase included in meeting documents. Motion passed and go into effect November 30th at Southern Sr Champs meet.

**FORMATS:** Draft versions of formats were distributed earlier in the week with pink highlighted changes.

Southern Sr Champs - proposed shifting 200 Medley and 200 Fr Relays to Thursday night. 400 Fr R, 400 Medley and 800 Fr R - fastest 16 teams swimming in finals and electing p/f swims. Relays would be before distance events during prelims.

Gulf AG Champs and Gulf Sr Champs - no major changes. There will be circle in timeline for first night at AG Champs.

Gulf Fall Champs - recommendation to add 10 Under relays. This creates 12 U, 10 U and 8 U relays. No relay only swimmers. No swimmers with AG Champs times at this meet. Break after relays added into formats.

\*\*Entry cut off date for Southern Sr Champs, AG Champs and Senior Champs will be 11/20. Entry cut off date for Fall Champs will be 11/27.

14 U Champs (previously 12 U Champs Meet) - all events 12 U made 14 U and 13-14 400 IM added to Friday evening.

13 & Over Champs - 400 IM and 500 FR moved back to Friday pm. 1000 FR and 1650 FR now at end of Sat/Sun sessions.

Motion to approve formats was made and seconded. Motion approved. Motion to create SC prelims and LC finals at Southern Sr Champs if host facility would allow was made and seconded. Motion failed.

**REIMBURSEMENTS:** Travis Sandifer made motion to approve the three reimbursement schedules for officials, coaches and athletes as presented. Motion seconded. It was announced that some previous meets included in current policy may no longer serve Gulf Swimming. The NCSA Meet was mentioned due to their tiered admission policy. Point of clarification - this motion is only to approve the meets included and not the specific amounts for reimbursements next year. The TYR Pro Series (3 meets with application process and assigned locations) was added to the Officials reimbursement schedule.

Discussion about lack of LC competition opportunities through June and adding the 18 & Under Mesa Meet to the athlete reimbursement schedule. Discussion about adding all three sites for the TYR Pro Series to athlete schedule was held. Travis reminded all to be aware of LSC fiduciary responsibility. Vote on this motion was tabled and will be revisited later in meeting.

Travis reviewed the financial reports attached in the the meeting packet. It was explained that unforeseen airfare costs contributed to Open Water and Duel in the Pool coming in over budget.

Actuals for 3rd quarter of 2023 and proposed budget for 2024 were presented. Proposed budget for 2024 will have a negative net without any additions to revenue. Additional revenue will be needed to reverse trends. Motion made to increase the splash fees for the LSC by .25 cents starting January 1st 2024 and an additional .25 cents for the next four years - revisiting need for increase every year. Motion was seconded. Amendment made to increase splash fees by .50 cents first year. No second. Motion failed. Original motion passed.

2024 annual budget historically voted on in January. Motion to approve 2024 budget with increased splash fees to begin January 1 2024 was made and seconded. Motion to approve 2024 budget passed.

Motion to increase Gulf LSC registration dues by \$5 in each category (Premium, Seasonal, Flex, Non-athlete) beginning September 1st 2024 to bring in additional revenue. Motion was seconded. Discussion of pros and cons of raising this fee and possibility of Olympic bump in membership. Motion failed.

**GOVERNANCE:** Proposal by Herb Schwab was reviewed. Under proposed reimbursement, guideline #2 was highlighted- one day prior to first individual event in the meet until day after swimmer's last individual event in the meet with a minimum of 4 days and 3 nights. time Trial events are not included in the determination of reimbursement amounts. Motion to pass this new language for policies and procedures was made and seconded. Motion in favor of senior travel policy language as presented passed.

Motion to strike #8 of reimbursement policy and set a minimum time standards qualification for reimbursement to choose meet to attend as long as this minimum standard has been met. No second. Motion failed.

Clarification of line item #8 was requested and needs to be agreed on with no changes/as is or changes made. NCSA, USA Open and Summer Futures were cited as examples of meets not open to all swimmers. Sr Chair and Governance Chair to discuss correct language to change this and not penalize swimmers as trend of closed meets will continue. There was a request to list exceptions with regard to item #8. A special HOD meeting can be held via Zoom once the specific language is crafted. Motion made to pass all reimbursement sites as presented minus the NCSA meet. Motion seconded. Once travel policy language is updated, it can be added back in. Motion approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Paige Sikkema addressed receiving a NO SHOW meet report from all Champs/Gulf meets. Motion to have Championship meet NS report sent to Admin Vice Chair within the same two week time frame as other reports required to be submitted was made and seconded. Fine for not meeting this deadline/including this report would be \$100. Point of order that this affects only Gulf Championship meets. Reminder that reimbursement requests also be postmarked before the due date for 100% reimbursement consideration. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.