



Minutes

7/8 Board Meeting

 Wed July 8th, 2020

 7:30pm - 8:30pm CDT

 Remote

 **In Attendance**

Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm. Attending were: Charlie Fry, Paige Sikkema, Jennie Shamburger, Bob Kizer, Dusti See, Eric Cozzad, Louis Demtriades, Katie Shelburne, Noelle Marsh, Ainsley Dodson, Jimmy Gavin, Eddie Adams, John Burke, Kate Zabler, Tom Hasz, Julie Bachman, Clay Pruitt, Natalie Melenric, Herb Schwab, Travis Sandifer, Mark Martinez.

Mission Moment

Charlie read Mission Statement: Gulf Swimming provides opportunities to learn, grow and strive for excellence, developing leaders through competitive swimming.

Approval of Minutes

Decision:

Motion for approval of the 6.24.20 Gulf BOD minutes made and seconded. Minutes approved.

Old Business

No old business.

Officer/Chairperson Reports

a. General Chair

Zone Directors Report - there will be a second round of grants from USA Swimming. Charlie cited statistics from report with regards to numbers of swimmers in the water and numbers of pools open. August regional meets planned by USA Swimming will not be happening because only 5 of the 17 sites were approved.

1. Committee Reviews

Assign/reassign committee posts. Committee meeting dates/times/Zoom must be posted.

General chair requested that all committees send information with meeting times and dates to Julie so it can be posted on the Gulf website so people can sit in on virtual meetings.

2. **Lawyer opinion- re: meet sanctioning/Waiver, etc**

Tom and Julie presented report. Letter from lawyer regarding liability included in the meet packet. Herb recommended some additions to meet sanction including safety marshal contact number. Julie summarized information. Board will never be fully protected by waiver. Waivers would just demonstrate intent to communicate all risks associated with event. USA Swimming insurance doesn't protect against contagious diseases or COVID 19 cases. Texas as a state looks at waivers more seriously than others. Minors cannot sign waivers for themselves. BOD members have a huge responsibility. Question about any additional insurance for liability. Julie said we don't but can look into it. Tom said our board doesn't have any additional private insurance beyond what the USA Swimming coverage offers. The Gulf BOD is covered by USA Swimming, but individual club BODs are not covered by USA Swimming.

3. **Jamie Lewis Report**

Referenced in Gen Chair report.

b. **Finance**

Tom reviewed the financials. No actual income for first 6 months of this year. Refunds from start of 2019 showing now. Investments are coming back and the hope is to break even by next month. Budget is negative but registrations will begin to show. Confident that end of year will break even.

c. **TPC**

1. **Guidelines/Covid-19/Return to Competition Guide**

Decision:

Travis reported on committee report regarding guidelines to return to competition. Presented Meet template with new requirements. Reviewed the plan and template. Return to competition must address all concerns listed on document from USA Swimming. Clubs should each have this plan and all plans must comply with all health requirements - facility, city, state and national. Each club should have a Covid 19 counsel and point person. Capacity limits should be followed in numbers and percentages. Mandates also discussed and included in meet announcement templates. Document can evolve and become more or less stringent based on guidelines. Safe Sport statement included in meet announcement and resources included. Teams will need to get most current updated template to fill out to request a meet. This document will be at top of TPC page with updated date.

Plans will now need to be outlined with regard to swimmer observation, ingress and egress, and other items. This will depend on facility and Travis feels that more clarity is needed for Safe Sport considerations in document. Statement presented will need to be included in sanction application. Sample of waiver from USA Swimming to cover host team discussed. Language listed will need to be in announcement and meet information with verbiage that covers Gulf Swimming and requires signature. Gulf Swimming waiver will need to be included and collected before they can get in the pool.

Template example showed all the added information/procedural information. COVID disclaimer from teams would also be added. Screening questions based on CDC guidelines will need to be added. Pool deck personnel statement and off deck personnel listed. Ideas from other LSCs listed and helpful and could be added to document. Statements can be kept as stand along documents so they can be cut and pasted into meet announcement based on meet format. Links to these documents will be dated and updated and on the TPC page.

Question is who is going to confirm all the information in meet sanction application. Question about who would ultimately be responsible for sanction and execution. Travis spoke with several USA Swimming staff members and asked about sanctions and who would be able to host a sanctioned meet. At some point, meets will need to be allowed. Checklist will need to be created and turned in. Louis thanked Travis and committee for creation of these documents. He spoke to clubs being allowed to be ultimately responsible for their own liability. Clubs who take safe environment seriously will have swimmers at their meets. Coaches will ask questions and have right as visiting team to leave if they don't feel safe. We have to let people do the right thing and show how it can be done in a safe manner. None of this will look remotely like what we used to do. Louis suggested turning in times from a practice - keeping the competition as safe as current practice. Each club will need to figure out what they can and can't do. This decision should be made club by club. Reminder that meet sanction comes with liability. There was disagreement regarding sanction at this time. The percentage of Gulf swimmers in the water is less than those not swimming yet. If some teams host sanctioned meets, question about times counting for Ladder of Success and other recognitions when not all teams eligible to compete.

Paige Sikkema made a motion to not sanction any meets in July. Motion seconded. Katie Shelburne spoke in agreement with Paige's motion. Numbers in Harris County and their movement means that it isn't time to sanction meets now. Discussion of liability also speaks to playing a role in taking contagion home and is not wise at this time. It was pointed out that we can't continue to make decisions based on who is in the water and who is not. At some point, we will have to move forward and take this next step safely. A small meet in practice settings needs to be looked at and teams should be allowed to do that. Louis said some teams are already having teams dive and be suited up and we need to be prepared for the upcoming months to allow competitions. Kate Zabler said her team has been in discussion with an outside pool to host a meet in the future. She suggested adding the parameters needed and give those who have the ability the flexibility to host meets. Personal liability of the individual meet directors and would additional training be required to sanction / host meets was brought up. Bob said we need to be moving forward with sanctioning processes but we are not ready at this time. Eddie called the question. Paige's motion passed.

Charlie said we need to move forward but be safe and have proper safeguards in place.

Committee will continue to work with TPC. Clay said we need to have these same safeguards in place with virtual meets as well. Virtual meets will need guidelines and processes put into place.

TPC has been talking to coaches and officials chair about formats and changing things in sanctions and what we are going to do with accelerating quadrennial plan and move to an open market system sooner than planned. Guidelines are a good first step. It was suggested that someone run a virtual meet using these guidelines to find what if anything is missing and any bugs in procedures.

d. Scholarship

Decision:

Herb Schwab presented report. Fund was established over a year ago with scholarship money.

Committee in place now to award these monies from donations from Hasty Awards, LEAP recognition money and Gulf matching funds. Team spirit, citizenship, community service will be basis for recognition. Committee wants to award up to five \$2000 scholarships this year. Committee wants to start now and award scholarships for September 2020. Application period would be July 15th to August 31st. Application requirements were reviewed based on report in BOD packet. Criteria would be

current Gulf registered swimmer graduating and attending an accredited school in the fall. An essay would be required as well as 3 recommendations including their head coach. Committee will meet and determine recipients and have ultimate say in who gets award. Goal is to distribute awards by September and moving forward - have process begin in January and have scholarships awarded in May. Jennie asked about NCAA requirements and awards to swimmers who may be swimming in college. Herb said these rules would be addressed and clarified. Paige asked how future scholarships would be funded. Julie said annual banquet silent auction proceeds could be dedicated to this fund.

Sponsors could also continue to contribute directly to this fund. There are many options to add and enrich this fund. This will be called the Hasty Award / Gulf Swimming Scholarship. Katie Shelburne asked how this would be publicized to the athletes so all are informed. Herb said this will be posted on the Gulf website and sent to the coaches. He also asked that the athlete committee publicize this information directly to the athletes. Katie motioned for the Hasty Award / Gulf Swimming Scholarship processes and procedures to be approved and up to five \$2000 scholarships awarded in September 2020. Motion seconded. Motion approved.

e. **Safe Sport**

Erik Cozzad reviewed report and listed the initiatives being offered by USA Swimming / Safe Sport. There are currently 5 Gulf teams Safe Sport certified and several more in process. USA Swimming offering a monthly incentive to clubs who become Safe Sport certified through December of next year.

1. **Gulf Website update**

<https://www.teamunify.com/team/gslsc/page/safe-sport>

Safe Sport has updated page on the website.

Executive Director Report

Julie thanked Erik for logging in and updating the Safe Sport website and said TPC also updating their page. Julie working to update links from new USA Swimming website.

a. **Virtual Meet Schedule**

Next Wednesday will be first virtual meet with the Swimmingly platform. Time trials being held now and feedback is requested. Communication from Gulf office and getting info to teams will get better. Paige noticed that if swimmers close out their phones, they need to go back to settings on their phone and rejoin the router. She wondered if any other teams had experienced that issue. Julie will bring this issue to the app developers.

New Business

No new business.

Parking Lot

Next meeting scheduled for July 29th at 7:30pm. Charlie will be looking at committees in the Gulf and speaking with each committee chair and formulate a plan moving forward. Motion to adjourn meeting made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.