

## 1. Welcome

### a. Call to Order

Charlie Fry called meeting to order at 7:30pm. Meeting held at the Marriott Westchase, Houston Tx.

### b. Attendance

Attending meeting were BOD members: Charlie Fry, Paige Sikkema, Jennie Shamburger, Travis Sandifer, Henry Clark, MaryAnne Svoboda, Tanja Avant, Mark Martinez, John Burke, Makayla Noe, Jake Camp, Lisa Blok. Gulf Office staff attending: Julie Bachman, Tom Hasz, Loren Fischbach, Natalie Melenric. Gulf Committee Coordinators attending: Matt Sale, Davis Peden.

### c. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Charlie asked for a motion to approve the BOD minutes from 9.27.23. Motion was made and seconded. No edits or additions to the minutes. Minutes approved.

i. [https://www.gomotionapp.com/gslsc/UserFiles/Image/QuickUpload/bod-minutes-final-9-27-23\\_043649.pdf](https://www.gomotionapp.com/gslsc/UserFiles/Image/QuickUpload/bod-minutes-final-9-27-23_043649.pdf)

### d. Welcome and Introductions

Charlie asked that all BOD members and Committee Coordinators submit their reports in a timely manner and requested the due diligence of all in reading the notes and being able to discuss and call the question when needed to keep meetings running smoothly.

## 2. Reports

### a. Executive Director

Julie Bachman brought up scheduling a strategic planning meeting for the next quad. She encouraged everyone to use Boardable for internal communication and for individual committee work. The platform is paid for this year, but feedback will be needed to continue using it as a viable communication tool.

Three South Texas teams have reached out about becoming an official part of Gulf Swimming. One team cannot due to USA Swimming boundary rules. Two teams meet the first criteria of USA Swimming and requesting to change LSCs. Each LSC HOD would have to vote (Gulf to add them and South Texas to allow them to move).

Many questions would need to be addressed before anything could proceed. A working group was designated to discuss how this move would affect the Gulf and what policies would be needed if adding new teams from other LSCs. More discussion to follow at the HOD meeting. Committee will be Julie Bachman, Jennie Shamburger, Mark Martinez, Makayla Noe, John Burke. Julie encouraged sharing thoughts and ideas from everyone.

Gulf Official Scott Reynolds was recognized for being selected to officiate on deck at Olympic Trials.

### b. Committee Reports and Updates

#### **i. Finance**

Travis Sandifer and Tom Hasz discussed the reports included in the meeting agenda. the P & L year end report showed a smaller than projected loss. Gulf fees moving back to pre-pandemic amounts contributed to increased revenues. Investments doing well. Balance sheet for this year better than previous year. Splash fee comparison to previous year will be created for HOD meeting.

Motion made to approve reimbursements for athletes, coaches and officials.

Motion seconded. Tom pointed out due dates are critical and listed on form. If submitted late, reimbursement amounts are automatically cut in half. Mileage rates increasing to .67 cents per mile. Splash fees going up to \$2 per splash as of Jan. 1 2024. Motion passed.

#### **ii. DEI**

Mark Martinez discussed DEI National Select Camp in Indianapolis, IN June 13-16th. Swimmers need a quad A time to apply. Camp staff applications open soon. All info is in meeting packet. Inspire Swimming is looking for instructors for their non-profit lesson program. Application is also included in his report.

#### **iii. Officials**

Matt Sale noted it's been a good quarter for officials. Recruitment and retention continue to be top priorities. 33 new officials were certified in this past quarter and 25 were certified to the next level. USA Swimming modifications to officials certification have been moved back to Feb/March 2024.

Motion made to include meet referees to the Gulf Coaches Clinic for the Friday night social. Clinic speakers could also offer programming for the meet referees. Cost for inviting them would be covered by budget and sponsorships. Motion was seconded. Motion for Gulf to cover hotel expenses for the Friday night of the clinic for Meet Referees passed.

#### **iv. Safe Sport**

Tanja Avant is working on education on Meet 360 including Safe Sport opportunities at meets and Meet 360 in a box to take to meets and set up. Continuing to help teams achieve Safe Sport certification - 5% of the 59 Gulf clubs have achieved the certification. She is looking at being able to offer Mental Health First Aid certification for coaches with budgeted funding.

#### **v. Athletes**

Makayla Noe reported that over 300 pieces of equipment were donated for the athlete equipment drive with FCST contributing the largest amount of equipment. Athlete committee working with DEI committee to create a pop up shop to get equipment.

Clubs are encouraged to get more Freshman/Sophomores interest in serving on the Athlete Committee. Makayla to talk to Herb Schwab / Governance committee about moving the voting for athlete committee positions from August to January so

the new members can take part in any LSC / USA Swimming educational opportunities.

Budgeted funds are available for a camp excursion in June. This weekend retreat would include presentations from current committee chairs and all new athlete committee members learning procedures. The committee is volunteering at the Houston Food Bank on Jan. 14th from 9am-noon. John Burke can chaperone and an additional chaperon will be found.

**vi. TPC**

Davis Peden reported December Champs meets went well. AG Champs at max capacity so time standards need to be adjusted. Several facilities had air quality issues. Feedback about meets should be sent to [TPC@gulfswimming.org](mailto:TPC@gulfswimming.org).

Due dates for Spring Champs meets were discussed and posted on [gulfswimming.org](http://gulfswimming.org). TPC asked to look into importance of High Point awards for 8 & Under and specific age groups. TPC was asked by General Chair to put together a quad plan for 2025-2028 meets and how they would be structured. Senior Chair / AG Chair to work with TPC at what would best serve athletes. Swag bags in place of High Point awards was discussed. MaryAnne Svoboda to work with Julie on this.

**3. Old Business**

No old business.

**4. New Business**

No new business.

**5. Closing**

**a. Action Items**

**6. Adjournment**

Motion made to adjourn and motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.