



Minutes

August 19th Board of Directors Meeting

 Wed August 19th, 2020

 7:30pm - 8:30pm CDT

 Remote

 **In Attendance**

Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 7:33pm. Attending: Charlie Fry, Paige Sikkema, Jennie Shamburger, Bob Kizer, Dusti See, Erik Cozzad, Katie Shelburne, Ainsley Dodson, Jimmy Gavin, Eddie Adams, John Burke, Tom Hasz, Julie Bachman, Loren Fischbach, Donna Dormiani, Natalie Melenric, Herb Schwab, Travis Sandifer, Mark Martinez, Seth Huston.

Mission Moment

1. 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 to approve minutes from 7.29.20 made and seconded. Minutes approved.

Old Business

BOD and HOD minutes now posted and viewable on the Gulf website.

Officer/Chairperson Reports

a. General Chair

Introduced Jaime Lewis from USA Swimming as guest attendee at Gulf Swimming BOD meeting. Available for questions at the end of the meeting. Charlie thanked Jamie Morgan, Katie Shelburne and Jimmy Gavin for their time and service to Gulf Swimming as Athlete Representatives.

1. Swim Meets

- 1) Update: how are we doing so far?
- 2) Virtual meet schedule for Gulf teams to compete
- 3) Gulf Open Water Meet

2. Meet Sanctioning

1). Moving forward with bigger meets

2). Shadowing for sanction

Sanctioning began on Aug. 1. Intrasquad and round robin meets have been held. Travis summarized the KATY meet - 3 sessions of 35 swimmers. Meet went smoothly. Swimmers were very appreciative of racing opportunity. Bob said his team enjoyed the round robin tournament with Swimmingly. Swimmers and parents enjoyed the non-sanctioned event and swam fast. Paige said intrasquad meet was challenging during practice time. Next meet will be different pools and protocols. Tom Jones discussed FLEET meet with strict protocols and max of 70 swimmers. Spacing and single heats worked well. Meet should not be rushed to be successful. Everything went well and swimmers got fast times.

Charlie asked if we wanted to move forward to tri-meets or keep current intrasquad and dual meet formats. Natalie M clarified that no Gulf Club has sanctioned a dual meet yet. Paige asked if intrasquad meet and small tri-meet may be similar numbers. Numbers on deck should be focus. Charlie spoke about bringing different people into different areas for these meets. He asked if now is the time for expansion. Tom Jones said 15 min of swimming, 25 min of sanitizing and 20 minutes of warmup. Key is limiting number of swimmers per session. Julie Bachman said local ordinances should also be taken into consideration. Charlie stated that meets have only been sanctioned for 19 days and bringing multiple teams into a meet within the capacity numbers still brings new swimmers into new areas. Bob Kizer also spoke to increased risk with schools starting back up both in person and virtual. He said holding steady with current sanction requirements makes most sense. Concern about what will be brought onto decks with school beginning.

No action required to keep sanction rules the same.

Seth Huston presented changes for Gulf Open Water Meet (proposal attached to meeting documents).

This would be an Open Water Champs similar to Winter Champs in the fall. Tour de France time trials style for this meet. Teams could be clustered in one hour windows with 1/2, 1 and 2 mile events over the course of the day. We could keep it to 40 people spread out over an 800 meter course at any one time.

Swimmers would self navigate and swim against the clock. Times and performance and race experience would still be there.

Charlie asked for a motion to approve the Gulf Open Water Meet proposal for the fall. Motion made and seconded. Charlie asked for warmup procedures. Seth spoke to location on far side of actual competition venue of lake. This would separate warm up group from racing group. Those swimmers would be going down to race area once warm up done. 1pm race would mean noon arrival and warm up. This would limit numbers in warm up area. Biggest issues will be pre/post race congregating. Herb asked about staggered starts and seeding to ensure swimmers not being caught. Single teams could come in together and compete in varying distances within the same time. Two teams could swim together and increase the send off distances. Two milers would go first and 800 swimmers going in last. Could also seed by age group or distances but that puts coaches there longer and will be harder to keep teams separate.

Clustering teams makes more sense. Bob spoke to this keeping swimmers and parents at ease and keeps teams together. Open water competition guidelines from USA Swimming are expected soon.

Seth said even guards and kayak personnel could wear gaiters/face masks and swimmers would be masked until competition. Question about spectator control. Seth said original date was Oct. 18th.

Weather / water temps can become a factor if meet goes much later in calendar. Current meet date is still 8 weeks away. We could also limit parents/spectators. Paige asked if the volunteer base was there and prepared for additional meet organizational needs. Seth said timeline could also have a 15/20 min buffer between groups coming in for next group/heat. Staggering starts over an hour with 40 people and getting them out and gone before next group gives most control. Warm up area to start area is a walk and swimmers will need to be prepared. Suggestion to vote on the concept and then allowing Seth and meet director / meet personnel to work out details. Seth agreed and clarified that he's asking for approval to

move forward. Paige asked if this was a special circumstance since it was just agreed that our LSC isn't sanctioning anything more than an intrasquad or dual meet. Seth wanting to offer another opportunity to compete safely. This year, swimmers will have a single event option. They could choose the event they want to race if qualifier for team. Swimmers would pick / choose which event to swim. Napoleon asked about setting up cameras at Twin Lakes and stream meet on Youtube channel so entire families can watch race. Charlie called the question. **All those in favor of RICE Aquatics proposal for Fall Open Water Champs meet - motion passes.** Seth asked how long sanction process would be needed. Charlie suggested 4 weeks out from race for submission. Natalie said current credentials would also help speed up sanction process. Kaitlin Powlowicz from USA Swimming Open Water will also be involved in this process.

Charlie asked TPC to work on a virtual meet schedule - asked Mark Martinez to take this to Clay as TPC Chair. Example would be a Gulf Virtual Meet last weekend in October. Everyone swims at own pool and times are all loaded into single meet database.

Charlie brought up Gulf rule about new teams shadowing other clubs for sanctioned meets. He suggesting waving this requirement for teams to run their own intrasquad sanctioned meet. Clarification that this is not a rule but a practice and a virtual meet hosted for their own club this would work as well. A normal multiple club meet would still be under previous practice procedures. Charlie asked for a motion on this idea. Natalie Melenric clarified that for sanction approval, meet director needs to be linked to meets. Would this requirement also be waived. Charlie said it should be waived because we are in a pandemic and teams and swimmers need to be served. Mark Martinez said the same procedure should apply to safety marshalls. Motion to allow Gulf teams who haven't previously hosted meets be allowed to host sanctioned intrasquad meets or virtual meet sessions for their teams only even if they don't have a meet director - following all other Gulf rules and guidelines. Motion seconded. Eddie Adams asked about equipment rental. The Swimmingly app and stopwatches would suffice for a sanctioned meet. Eddie said there is a limited amount of Gulf equipment and number of teams hosting on same weekend needing equipment will be an issue. Charlie agreed that broken equipment could be an issue and we need to guard against that situation. Eddie also said many teams don't have access to Meet Manager and that would also need to be shared with teams not doing Swimmingly. Herb clarified that the Gulf license is only for reports but cannot run meet. Mark said Team Unify Touchpad plug in could also be used. Bob said all options within the rules need to be used to increase flexibility and ease of use. Julie asked to work with TPC and Natalie (Sanctions) about running a swim meet 101 for reference for new teams or teams who haven't yet run meets of any type. Tom Hasz said the Rules and Regs on Gulf website can also be referenced. **Motion passes.**

3. **Convention Delegates**

1). Board Chair At Large

2). Technical

Convention delegates: Board chair at large voting passes went to Tim Bauer, Jennie Shamburger, Sharon Powers and Paige Sikkema. Terry Jones received technical voting credentials. Ainsley Dodson asked about athlete voting credentials and Julie will go over information with her.

b. **Athletes**

No report.

c. **Finance**

Tom said no change to balance sheets since last meeting. Investments for year now in the black. All losses made up at this time. Net income has dropped. Registrations starting to come in which will increase income. End of year should be very close to break even. Gulf Swimming applied for payroll protection loan and was

approved. Gulf was granted enough to cover staff pay periods for 6 months. Loan is forgivable if used for salaries and will also improve our budget numbers.

d. **Officials**

Donna discussed Pandemic Guidelines for Officials - a disclaimer was added. CDC guidelines were included with revised pandemic guidelines. Donna asked for questions. Paige Sikkema asked about section with the starter and DQ notifications. Paige disagrees with announcing DQs over public loudspeaker system. Ainsley spoke to athlete embarrassment at having DQs announced. Donna said this is High School protocol. Only lane and DQ will be mentioned. Idea is to eliminate paperwork. Suggestion to use word Participation instead of DQ. Donna asked for other ideas via email. Deck ref question - keeping a log of DQs , no shows, false starts, lane changes etc. The AO will need access to this paperwork and will need it from the Deck ref by event. There was a suggestion of taking picture of report and texting to AO. Donna said there is flexibility for meet ref to decide these things. Next question about meet ref assigning duties to officials day prior. How will this work with some officials not committing till day of meet. Donna clarified that this pertains to intrasquad and officials will only be from their team in most cases. Donna would have to figure out how to work with meet director to recruit officials for teams that don't normally host meets or have officials. Eddie and Charlie asked for these reports to be tabled until all can read and process information for next BOD meeting.

Provisional Official Certification info from National Committee went to all team reps. Info targeted to coaches 18 and over and pertains to S & T only. Small meets / no fees / no requirements. This certification lasts only 60 days. 25 online tests and a training clinic needed. Paige asked what USA Swimming would do to renew this if pandemic situation would require this to be needed longer than 60 days. Paige asked who mentors these people. Donna clarified only certified officials usually meet referee. Could be S & T certified official as well.

Donna summarized

third document. Presentation informational only.

Executive Director Report

Information can be tabled until next BOD meeting.

a. **Banquet Update and Discussion**

Decision: An official decision made on not hosting banquet as it normally is presented. Julie wanted to continue to work with committee with regards to virtual banquet ideas. Motion needed with cancellation announcement to be made and retain Missy Franklin Hayes as guest speaker for 2021. New ideas can be brought to the BOD. Tom clarified that force majeure needs to be declared so contract can be cancelled and then rescheduled. Motion made and seconded. Motion passes.

b. **USAS Virtual Convention**

1. **BOD retreat- socially distanced- any interest?**

c. **Scholarship Application Update**

Twelve applications already received and more expected before scholarship deadline. Swimmers very appreciative of this opportunity and thankful to the Gulf and the BOD.

d. **Swimmingly Update**

e. **Facebook "Join a Team" Advertising**

New Business

Decision: Jaime Lewis included Convention link in meeting chat. The 12 & Under suit ban begins on Sept. 1st. Brendan Hansen putting out information in Coaches Connection. CLBMS course coming up. National committee applications open through Oct. 4th. USA Swimming about to announce a September Virtual Series of meets - info should be out mid-week next week. Each week different events scored out. Three divisions among 3000 teams. First week events will be IMX/IMR based with three events each week. Second week modified HS meet schedule. Third week is distance event based with a 2000/3000 option. Week four returns to IMX event focus. Leaderboard will be posted for each division. Events can be sanctioned or not sanctioned. Mark asked if teams could run events anytime or only on specific days. Leaderboards updated on Wed of each week so results need to be sent in no later than Sunday evening. Sanctioned results go to LSC and unsanctioned results go to USA Swimming. Charlie thanked Jaime for spending time with our BOD.

Tom asked for a motion to move new splash fee structure to Aug. 1st from September 1st. Motion made and seconded. Motion passes.

Registration for Convention open now and closes on Sept. 21st. Most sessions 24th - 26th. HOD delegates will join based on whether or not they have a vote. This will allow counting only delegates who have votes. Each Gen Chair needs to provide Lori Benton with most current voting delegate roster. Each voting delegate needs up to date background check and registration.

Travis discussed no waiving of splash fees if meets lose money for host team unless a Gulf sponsored meet. He posed question as to waiving splash fees if said club runs smaller meet during pandemic. Charlie recommended doing report with new splash fees (starting on Aug. 1st). If money lost, team would need to approach board to request for money back. Eddie said money hasn't been given back for non-Gulf meets. Charlie said these are special circumstances during this time and we can try and work with teams. All info would need to be given to Tom and Charlie to review. This decision would be on case by case basis.

Eddie asked about virtual meet director clinic certification or recertification. Paige asked if this could be accomplished via Zoom. Motion made to extend current meet director certs to end of 2021 and work towards hosting virtual clinic for new meet directors via Zoom. Motion seconded. Motion approved.

Parking Lot

Next BOD meeting set for Wednesday Sept. 9th. Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Meeting adjourned.