

These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its February 2023 meeting.

**Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
January 05, 2023 / Virtual

**PRESENT**

Christopher Arena, Dom Boccio, Thomas Cho, Jeff Chu, Lamar DeCasseres, David Ellinghaus, Sandy Graham, Kate Hallex, Zac Hojnacki, Annette Mackrel, Phil Paspalas,

**MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *To approve the October and November 1, 2022 Board of Directors meeting minutes .*  
*Seconded. APPROVED*

**GENERAL CHAIR**

Mr. Boccio opened the meeting by reading Metro’s mission and vision statements.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Coach Roger Ridenour.

Updates: Senior Mets operational staff met this week. Metro passed our LEAP certification. Feedback was received from USA Swimming. This included that the Strategic Plan can be fleshed out. Recognition of athletes, clubs, coaches, officials can be improved. More clubs can be involved in Safe Sport. We should perhaps find ways to recognize clubs excelling in business operations and professionalism. The LSC should explore additional income streams.

**ADMIN VICE**

A request for athlete travel assistance was received for the recent US Open. The athlete in question was from the Long Island Aquatic Club. Mr. Boccio, Mr. Arena, and Mr. DeCasseres recused themselves.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Chu motioned to go into a closed session*    *Seconded. APPROVED*

**FINANCE**

Mr. Arena reported working with the Office on getting things tidied up, and that we are in a good place in terms of cash flow. The Finance Committee will be working on a budget for the Spring House of Delegates meeting.

**COACHES**

Mr. Boccio discussed the QCF requirements. New coaches should be doing it immediately, returning coaches by June.



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**ATHLETE REPS**

No Report

**SECRETARIES**

Mr. Chu reminded committee chairs to contact him and Ms. Mackrel to publish committee meetings to the website.

**SENIOR CHAIR**

Mr. Hojnacki stated it would be good if all board members could make an effort to come to Senior Mets. Mr. Boccio indicated that Wendy Martinez, Ken Graham, and Annette Mackrel would serve as Meet Director, Meet Referee, and Administrative Referee respectively.

**AGE GROUP CHAIR**

Ms. Hallex has secured a hotel for the Metro team for the 2023 Long Course Zone meet in Richmond, VA. She has shown the contract to Mr. Boccio and Mr. Arena.

**MOTION:** *Ms. Hallex motioned that Metro attends the Zone meet in team travel for athletes ages 11-14. 10 & Under Athletes will travel with parents, as we have done in previous years. Seconded.*

**APPROVED**

Mr. Chu inquired, and Ms. Hallex responded about Short Course Zones Travel.

Short Course Zones is an independent team event, and has been since 2019. It is not a Metro team-attended meet. Coaches should refer to the Eastern Zone Website for information about the Short Course Zone meet.

A discussion on including Zone meets on our calendar occurred. Mr. Boccio indicated we would include Championship meets from the Eastern Zone and USA Swimming.

**SAFE SPORT**

Getting in touch with Safe Sport is difficult. Mr. Paspalas and Ms. Graham will develop a proposal to address encouraging or requiring teams to complete Safe Sport recognition.

**OPERATIONAL RISK**

No report.

**TECHNICAL PLANNING**

Mr. Ellinghaus will work with the office to get long course bids paperwork together.

**DEI**

January 12, 2023 will be the next DEI/Disability meeting. Mr. DeCasseres has been working on the Lifeguard proposal. A final draft will be presented to the committed next week, then rolled out if approved.



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**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

No report.

**HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE**

No report.

**MEET HOST COMMITTEE**

No report.

**OFFICIALS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Boccio introduced the new co-chairs, Ken Graham and Elaine Ang, reporting that the Executive Committee took action between meetings. The Executive committee consented to vote by email, and approved the appointment of the Officials Chairs.

Ms. Ang and Mr. Graham addressed several issues: The practice of having the meet referee wear a different color shirt from all other officials is inconsistent with that of National meets, and will be discontinued. Many officials' certifications have been issued improperly and in violation of Metro policy, and will need to be corrected. Chief Judge and Meet Referee requirements are not present in our policies, as well as those for LSC mentor/evaluators.

Rules have changed from World Aquatics (formerly FINA) regarding breaststroke.

Senior Mets, OQM acknowledged

**OPEN WATER COMMITTEE**

The prospective date for the 2023 Open Water Championship in Rye is September 16, 2023.

**OFFICE**

Many athletes/parents have been creating duplicate accounts, or registering the incorrect person (parent as athlete). Some clubs have been having difficulties renewing their club registration. The office, and General Chair, have been busy performing hundreds of account merges and other corrections. The former Officials Chair has returned Metro property (shirts) to the office, and Ms. Ferraris will be doing an inventory shortly.

As indicated on the website, in multiple newsletters, and stated during multiple meetings, the previous office manager is no longer in that position. Emails to [metro.office@metroswimming.org](mailto:metro.office@metroswimming.org) are received by Ms. Ferraris.

Ms. Ferraris has been handling reimbursement requests, including forwarding those to the General Chair, Administrative Vice Chair, and Finance Chair. This greatly improves transparency and accountability from previous practices.



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**New Business**

Mr. Hojnacki inquired about recognizing coaches with the Coach of the Year awards. Mr. Ellinghaus indicated this has gone through the Coaches Representative, and that he would follow up with Mr. Yearwood about this.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Boccio motioned to go into a closed session. Seconded. APPROVED*

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Boccio adjourned the meeting at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Jeff Chu  
Secretary

/s/ Annette Mackrel  
Secretary

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**Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Minutes Attachments**  
January 05, 2023 / Virtual

Attachment 1

Agenda: January 5, 2023

Attachment 2

DRAFT BOD/HOD Minutes [DATE]

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