

These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its August 25, 2023 meeting.

Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Minutes
August 15, 2023 / Virtual

CALL TO ORDER

David Rodriguez, General Chair called the August 15, 2023 Board of Directors meeting to order at 7:50pm with the following members in attendance:

PRESENT

Jeff Chu, Ethan Fergus, Sandy Graham, Kate Hallex, Zac Hojnacki, Annette Mackrel, Jonah Montgomery, Jamila Smith, Bob Vializ, John Yearwood

ABSENT

Joseph Apat, Thomas Cho, Dylan Gallub, Eddie Oyola

EXCUSED

Keith Green, Phil Paspalas

GUESTS

John Alaimo, Elaine Ang, Julie Chen, George Fleckenstein

STAFF

Kimberly Wyer-Ferraris

Mr. Rodriguez opened by reading Metro’s Mission and Vision Statements. Comments on Zones.

MINUTES

***MOTION:** To approve the June 20, 2023 Board of Directors meeting minutes. Seconded.*

APPROVED.

MOTION:** To approve this meeting’s agenda. Seconded. **APPROVED.

HOD MEETING

Holiday affecting September 16 date. Other options discussed. Challenges: on September 9 is our Open Water meet, September 23 is the annual USA Swimming business meeting and Metro swim meet, September 30 has a Metro swim meet. If Traverse Island is not available White Plains Y might be a possibility. Going earlier could be difficult. Consensus was not to schedule on the 16th. Board will investigate different options before the next BOD meeting.

BOD MEETING

Mr. Rodriguez suggested Tuesday before the rescheduled HOD.

USA SWIMMING ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Mr Hojnacki will attend in person in Mr. Rodriguez’s place. Everyone else will be a virtual delegate.



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ADMIN VICE

Ms. Hallex reported Post Meet Report Jotforms are coming in. Together with Ms. Wyer-Ferraris she is ironing out some details in regards to athlete reimbursements, etc. Next step, she will get in touch with Mr. Boccio and DeCasseres in regards to the Club Excellence program.

FINANCE

Mr. Rodriguez indicated the general sentiment at the last Finance Committee meeting was positive. We are waiting on athlete reimbursements from the summer and Zones to come in. The budget was being prepared for HOD, he is confident we will have numbers in hand before the next BOD.

Mr. Arena arrived later, he discussed his meeting with the accountants, they are finalizing the books for July. Senior Mets reimbursements, Zones reimbursements, and other athlete reimbursements are being worked on. Budget - status quo will be kept. New things for the next year: Olympic Trials will be an additional expense, maybe hiring a Zone Coordinator since we are back to full team travel.

COACHES

Mr. Yearwood sent Coach of the Year paperwork to Mr. Rodriguez. He would like the information to be posted this week. He hopes he'll have the nomination by the end of the month.

ATHLETE REP

Ms Smith: Nothing to report.

SECRETARY

Mr. Chu indicated that a request to modify a sanction had been received. The request would add an extra day to the meet. We don't have a specific policy to change a sanction, the Board needs to decide how to proceed.

MOTION: *To approve the modifications to the sanction to add a day prior to the meet. Seconded.*

Discussion ensued. It was suggested we follow the same sound process as recently implemented for new sanctions that are received after the bid deadline. Mr. Chu withdrew his motion.

MOTION: *To follow the same process as with new sanctions. Seconded. APPROVED.*

The secretaries brought up the issue of functional redundancy, meaning a single person has a responsibility that cannot get done if that person is not available.

MOTION: *The functions of the Sanction Officer and the functions of the Times Officer can also be performed by someone else on the board in their absence or in their incapacity. Seconded.*

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Discussion. It has happened that sanctions could not be granted because the sanction officer was on vacation. It would be beneficial if someone else could fill in. Mr. Chu and Ms. Mackrel have been assisting with the sanctioning process, it would make sense if they were able to issue sanctions in Ms. Wyer-Ferraris's absence to keep the process rolling. They can be trained by her to use the same process.

Likewise with the Times Verification Officer, if someone else were worked in by Ms. Grayson, they could step in and help out in her absence. That person would need special training, certification from USA Swimming is required. It should be another board member, the Vize Admin Chair for instance. The motion to open these two positions up to have assistance from other board members carried. The specifics will be discussed in the future.

SENIOR CHAIR

Mr. Hojnacki thanked everyone for working at Senior Mets. The better hospitality was greatly appreciated. The admin team has become much more athlete centric and has greatly improved the experience for coaches and athletes.

The Senior Committee met yesterday. In the past couple years, SM has increased the number of athletes, 5-10 more athletes in each event, women and men, each year. The meet is also incrementally getting faster. Legislation recommendations from the Senior Committee will be brought up at the next BOD.

AGE GROUP

Mr. Fergus would like to get his committee members approved.

Zones travel was beyond challenging. There were issues. Safe Sport is now involved. Team travel should be reconsidered. A report will follow.

Metro finished 3rd by 1 point to NJ. The competition itself was great. Athletes enjoyed the experience. Age Group is working with Technical Planning on changes for the next LC Championships. Will be introduced at HOD.

SAFE SPORT

Safe Sport training to be posted on the Metro site. Sandy and Phil will reach out to clubs individually to work on getting points. 35 clubs have started.

OPERATIONAL RISK

Mr. Vializ: Nothing to report.



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TECHNICAL PLANNING

Mr. Montgomery reported that they had 2 motions at TPC Meeting. One, Senior Mets - having 800/1500 1000/1650 reciprocal time standards.

MOTION: *Athletes may have a bonus swim for their distance event at both SCY and LCM Senior Mets: 800/1500 and 1000/1650. Seconded. APPROVED.*

The idea is to promote distance, it might add a head but it is not anticipated.

Item two, from the TPC Meeting: Max cut times at 15-18 challenge, and 15-18 LC AGC - Sectional times

MOTION: *New max cut times for 15-18 Challenge and 15-18 LC AGC. Seconded. TABLED*

Longer discussion ensued. The idea is to create more opportunity for Senior Mets qualifiers that do not have Sectional cuts yet. Presently the max times for 15-18 are slower than SM. Ms. Hallex explained that in the past they had looked at Sectional cut times but they would have added a significant amount of swims. Her concern is how it would affect the timeline for both LC and SC Age Group Champs. Teams also have used the 15-18 Champs as a tune up meet for faster swimmers which did not benefit the swimmers it was originally designed for, or they would use it as a last Metro meet to fulfill requirements for reimbursements. It wasn't clear which Sectional standard to use, either, regional Eastern Sectional cut, Senior Zones cut or higher. It was decided to table and get more details and research done.

Item 3, get more recognition for 10&U at AGChamps. Have a short award ceremony, try to work it into the timeline.

Mr. Montgomery said the Technical Planning meeting was very good, everyone has the same vision moving forward.

DDEI

Absent

OPEN WATER

Mr. Fleckenstein reported that the Open Water date was changed from the 16th to September 9th. The transition went smoothly, everything is set. His main concern now is the promotion. Get the info out to the teams. Sign-up date is the 31st. The event is partnered with NJ.

Registration has been changed this year to register by team instead of by individual. Info will be posted on Instagram and the website.



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Committee Member Appointments

Age Group Committee:

Aidan Baxter (athlete), Shawn Green (athlete), Jennifer Hand, John Alaimo, Gaby Buckheit, Alexis Skelos.

MOTION: *To approve those members to the Age Group Committee Seconded. APPROVED.*

No other committee member requests were submitted. It was decided to reach out to the membership in regards to considering joining committees.

NEW BUSINESS

Senior Mets Planning

MOTION: *To request that the Officials Committee and the Senior Committee select their Meet Director, Meet Referee and Admin Referee for Senior Mets by the end of September. Seconded.*

Amended

Discussion. Everyone thought it a good idea, it would help the planning process, etc. The motion was amended:

MOTION: *To request that the Officials Committee and the Senior Committee select their Meet Director, Meet Referee and Admin Referee for Senior Mets no later than 120 days before each Senior Mets. Seconded. APPROVED*

Zone Team Coordinator/Director/Manager

The idea of a Zone Team Coordinator was floated to assist coaches with Zone travel coordination and support during the meet.

Motion: *To appoint a Zone Team Coordinator for upcoming Zones meets. Seconded.*

Discussion. Would only be needed for LC meet as SC Zones travel is individual.

Responsibilities have to be identified, for the Coordinator, the Age Group Chairs and the office, before this goes to HOD. All agree, Zones is a big job, there are a lot of moving parts before and during the meet, and especially with team travel an extra coordinator would be beneficial.

Mr. Rodriguez suggested sending this back to the Committee to iron out. If there is no team travel then a coordinator will not be needed.

MOTION: *To commit. Seconded. APPROVED*

HOD

It was clarified that USA Swimming advises athletes should participate in the HOD meeting and not be kept busy in another room. The point of athlete participation is that they learn to participate in governance. If there is to be a separate athlete meeting, it should be before or after HOD.



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ADJOURN

Mr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeff Chu
Secretary

/s/ Annette Mackrel
Secretary

DRAFT



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Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Minutes Attachments
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Attachment 1

Page 1 – Agenda: [DATE2]

Attachment 2

Page 2 – DRAFT BOD/HOD Minutes [DATE]

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