

# METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

ZOOM Meeting

**PRESENT:** Eric Fisher, Mary Fleckenstein, Monique Grayson, Dom Boccio, Allen Wone, Kate Hallex, John McIlhargy, BJ Reynoso, David Ellinghaus, Thomas Cho, Brian Hansbury, Robert Frawley, Stanley Wong, Lamar DeCasseres, Zac Hojnacki, Jeff Chu, George Fleckenstein, Mark Amodio, and Stanley Wong.

**EXCUSED:** Don Wagner and Edgar Perez

**ABSENT:** Dylan Cellamare

**GUEST:** Abbie Fish – Founder of Swim Like A. Fish

1. **WELCOME/ROLL CALL:** Eric Fisher welcomed everyone present at this virtual meeting and called the meeting to order at 8:04pm. Eric welcomed the new Board Members: Zac (Senior Co-Chair) & Lamar (Chair DEI ), and thanked all those in attendance.

2. **ACCEPTANCE/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:**

A motion to accept the minutes of the September 2, 2020 BOD meeting was made, seconded, and approved by all. **Motion carries.**

3. **GENERAL CHAIR:** Eric Fisher

a. **Senior Mets February 2021** – Eric asked Zac Hojnacki and Don Wagner to formulate different plans for Senior Mets that we will post on the Metro Website. Some examples from Zac:

- 1) Plan A – Traditional Senior Mets (very unlikely currently)
- 2) Plan B – Hybrid format - regionalized Senior Mets based on facility availability in each region (or different flights in each facility) – results would then be combined.
- 3) Plan C – Virtual Senior Mets

At this time, we need to investigate which facilities are currently available (or will be available in February), and decide on a format based on anticipated participation on existing qualifiers.

Eric added that we must keep in mind that the meet may have to be run as Timed Finals instead of Prelims and Finals.

Qualifying period would most probably be from November 1, 2019 to February 2021.

Time standards would be the same as 2020 Senior Mets

b. **Age Group Championships 2021** – Eric asked Kate and BJ to discuss the cut times for all meets (we need to add SCM and LCM standards this year due to swimmers' competitions availability since March 2020. It has already been decided that the SCY time standards will be those from 2020. Kate Hallex added that all those championship meets (Silvers, JO's, Bronze) will present a huge challenge. David Ellinghaus mentioned that we may need to have teams submit times achieved by swimmers during a certain period TBD. Considering that the number of COVID-19 cases has been increasing, this may be the way to go in 2021. Discussion followed on virtual meets possibility.

Kate made a motion to host the 8-Under Championships for 2021 as a Virtual Event, with an eligibility period of January 1, 2021 to March 1, 2021. Swimmers must be 8-year-old at the time of the swim to be included in the Virtual meet. The motion was seconded. All in favor – **Motion carries.**

c. **Budget** – Continued Budget Freeze until further notice.

d. **Status of Clubs and Registrations** – Mary Fleckenstein – We had 82 clubs registered for 2020.

As of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 33+ clubs had registered for 2021. We already lost 5 clubs as of now (LBA, GAEL,

CENT, JCCT and VIP). Some of the newest clubs' status is unsure and the future of CIY is uncertain. Some clubs will not register until they have a pool to swim in. Registrations are definitely down at the moment. Meets and sanctions – tons of clubs are running Time Trials. Dom, Mark and Mary are tabulating a list of Officials (including Admin. and Meet Directors) that are willing to go to different pools to officiate.

- e. **Current Budget** – Allen Wone - We are way under what we estimated as income. There are only about three teams running regular meets now (BGNW – LIAC – SSC) with all others running time trials for their teams only. Restrictions on number of swimmers, facilities and regions are not helping. Finances do not look good! Most clubs that had a balance due to metro have paid now (or are paying with a payment plan). Past Due Notices must go out again. Finance Committee needs to meet soon. Other than DEI and Officials, Dom has not heard of any committee meetings lately. Lamar added that we need to Educate, reach out and give the membership the option of being involved in the Committees. Dates and times of all meetings must be posted on the Metro Website.
- f. **Lamar College Knowledge Zoom** – Lamar DeCasseres has been researching the process of getting into college for swimmers. ZOOM is particularly good to reach many swimmers and their parents. He reached out to Abbie Fish (founder of Swim Like A. Fish) and we may need to contact College Coaches in Metro to run a Seminar or something similar – Columbia – NYU – Purchase – IONA – Marist and more. This may also be a win/win process for our local college coaches and swimmers. Robert Frawley added that there are many former Metro swimmers who are now coaches in D-II or D-III programs in the Eastern Zone. Lamar also suggested that we add a Mental Health Resources page on our website.

#### 4. OFFICERS REPORTS:

- a. **Senior** – Zac Hojnacki has been looking into the feasibility of hosting some semi organized Metropolitan version of Junior Nationals. There are about 65 athletes that would qualify with the original standards, and about 255 that would qualify with the updated standards. The regional distributions of athletes would be extremely important.
- b. **Officials** – Mark Amodio - Information about Dolphin Timing System. Clark Hammond, Chair of the Rules and Regulations Committee, issued a waiver for the Dolphin Timing System in its semi-automatic mode (electronic start/manual stop) through August 31, 2021. The Manual Synchronized Start/Manual Stop is not approved as a semi-automatic system, but the manual start/stop is considered similar to traditional stop watches and is acceptable for that use.
- c. **Disability** – Kate Hallex – last year we had voted to adopt the motivational time standards for disability athletes for Senior Mets and for Age Group. Kate would like to know if we are going to keep those standards the same or should we move to something more equitable and just keep those as an LSC level. David Ellinghaus suggested that Age Group, Senior and TP should discuss this issue.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS:

Abbie Fish joined the meeting, introduced herself and spoke about the college recruiting process and steps to take in researching which program is best for each swimmer. Possibility of a webinar. Discussion followed on the financial expense - we may have some area college coaches that may want to do this pro-bono. Comments on the value of Abbie Fish expertise and that athletes would be receptive to her webinar. Lamar will explore the financial issue.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved by all. **Motion carries.** Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Monique Grayson.  
November 11, 2020