



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Puget Sound Swimming Association (PSSA)

May 14, 2024

Business Meeting Notes

Attendees:

1. Tom Wunderlich, Snohomish
2. Nicole Evanson, Grays Harbor
3. Matt Warren, Lakewood
4. Joseph Shelly, Skagit
5. Marilyn Grindrod, Bremerton
6. Shannon Millican, Whatcom
7. Blake Hurd, Auburn
8. Earl Long, Regional Officials Coordinator
9. Jan Haanio, Morgan
10. Jenna Gill, West Seattle
11. Shea McGee, Mel Korum
12. Jackie Barrat, South Sound
13. David Millican, Whatcom

Review of Previous meeting notes:

The meeting started with a quick overview of the agenda. This also included a brief review of the previous minutes, noting that there was no meeting last month.

PSSA Training Survey review:

Earl pulls up the results of the survey for coaches 101. The first thing that was reviewed was the number of participants in the survey, which most teams responded. There were 3 aquatics directors, 8 head swim coaches and 12 level 2 responses with this 2024-2025 PSSA Training Survey.

In the section asking about the coaches training needs, the most picked choices were recommendations for season practice plans and what to include in dry land practices.

There was a member that suggested we look into ASCA for guidance on coach training and they mentioned that there are many resources and guidelines given by the ASCA that would provide many answers to coaches 101 training questions.

In the section for swim meet 101, the most chosen responses were asking about how to recruit and train key volunteers, and tips to share with swim team parents (as well as how to educate team expectations for families).

For the "My Team's needs" section, there were fewer responses. The most picked choice was "what volunteer positions are needed to run a swim meet and how to recruit volunteers." Earl noted there was a drop-off in respondents at this point, though a person could choose multiple responses.

The following section was restricted to responses for head coaches and aquatic directors. "What is your preference for these training events" and the most chosen answer was "a combination of in person and virtual training sessions."

Barriers to training section – there was an even spread of responses, most being financial and staff capacity concerns.

Jackie asks the group if there are any suggestions to overcome the training barriers. Nicole says that a central location for in person meetings would provide a good opportunity for teams. Earl reminds the group that traditionally these in person trainings are in September at the start of the swim season, a good time for new members to get help from PSSA veterans. Jan says a lot of the responses that she seen from new coaches are that they are struggling with making recreational swimmers into competitive swimmers.

David suggests having a virtual one on one, having a PowerPoint showing people how to set up and run a meet from the beginning. He also says there are a lot of newer families that are nervous about starting to swim, and we need to keep things having a healthy balance of accommodating competitive and recreational swimmers. Jenna agrees and disagrees and brings up an example where a coach who talks about how scary competitive side of things can be may turn off swimmers from becoming competitive when they might otherwise have tried.

To compare with what is happening on the PNS side, Earl brings up that block parties are being started by USA Swimming to help ease teams into competitive swimming by providing less restrictions to running a smaller scale meet.

It was brought up that we could have the training recorded so that teams that were not able to access the in person meetings/trainings could access the training material. Jackie asked the group to see who would want to spearhead the in-person modified swimposium. Nicole suggests there being a committee putting this together, pulling resources from aquatics directors, assistant coaches, parents, and other representatives. She notes that this could be something that we reuse year after year.

Earl made a call to create the committee to handle the training (both in person and virtual) and Tom and Shannon volunteered to start that committee.

Treasurer Update:

Marilyn notes that the ending balance was corrected to 41,376.45 and not 41,181.45. Checks were coming in from Snohomish Y's May the 4th meet.

Rebate checks, moving forward, are put in question as the PSSA is seeing funds diminish faster than they are coming in due to staff/pool/other costs. Marilyn suggests meet fees might need to be called into question to keep a surplus in the account (recommended 30,000 in the bank is healthy). On the treasurer's report, Marilyn illustrates 3 different options. The first is a \$5 for participation and \$15 for Y State, there will be 12,835.00. Option 2 is \$5/\$10 which drops to \$11,240.00. Option 3 would be a \$5/\$5 which would cost PSSA \$9,605.

Marilyn asks the group what they want in terms of the rebate checks. She notes that PSSA has traditionally used option 1. Using option 1 would leave PSSA with about 32,000 in the bank. Option 2 would leave PSSA 33,000 and option 3 would leave PSSA with about 34,000. Nicole asks what Marilyn recommends to which she responds with option 3 to make sure we account for unknown fees and to be safe. Nicole also says that keeping the treasury healthy should be a priority, and says that it is hard to climb back.

Joseph made the motion to go with Marilyn's suggestion and Jan seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, and the PSSA will move forward with the rebate checks following the \$5/\$5 option.

There was a discussion about the numbers of participating swimmers in the PSSA and the need to plan for our current situation and will need help from YGS to see how much growth we can expect.

Fall Schedule

The following options were brought up to be considered:

- Option 1 meeting 6 times per year
- Option 2 meeting 8 times per year (includes swimposium as a meeting time)
- Option 3 meeting 12 times per year (keeping monthly business meetings)

David proposed at least having one meeting in September, one early January/late December, and one meeting in March/April. Tom says he thinks we need more meetings (maybe starting with 6 per year). David agrees that more is better.

Adjournment and next meeting

The next meeting will be in September. Tom says, if needed, an extra meeting can be announced for late summer based on the training committee's needs.

The group was in favor of the option allowing for 6 meetings per year going forward.

Next meeting(s):

August-2024	
September-2024	TBD
October-2024	
November-2024	TBD
December-2024	
January-2025	TBD
February-2025	
March-2025	TBD
April-2025	
May-2025	TBD
June-2025	
July-2025	TBD
August-2025	

Approved ✓ 5/23/24

Indira Banta
PSSA president