

CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
February 16, 2021
7:30 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call: General Chair, Rick Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Board Members: Rick Lewis, Jeff Sargent, Nick Cavataro, Kaeley Steinnagel, Lauren Lazar, Susan Lecza, Mark Wollen, Duffy Mudry, Dave Pite, Kathleen and Davide Mendonca, Emily Fox, Rob Bouchey, Greg Pinchbeck, Jen Lyman, Dave Modzelewski, Claire Michalik, Ellen Johnston, Dennis Flores, Kristen Finnegan, Ronnie Vaughan, Thomas Dupont, Meghan Lynch, David Heller, Ellen Johnson, John Scaldini.

Absent Board Members: Maddie Haley, Finn Henry

Other Present: Nan Cooper

Announcements - No announcements at this time

Approval of Agenda

MOTION made to adopt the Agenda as distributed

Passed unanimously

Adoption of Minutes from January 19, 2021 Board Meeting

MOTION made to adopt the Minutes from January 19, 2021 board meeting, as distributed.

General Chair Announcements, Rick Lewis

USA Swimming Updates

- USA Swimming Leadership meeting learned a couple of things: Tokyo is a go! Trying to figure out how to run USA Olympic Trials. Top 40 or so in one session and the other qualifiers in another session. The venue, state and local health department are all on board and involved with coming up with a solution.
- CT was 1 of 11 LSCs that had NO meets from 11/15-1/15.
- Coaches will get extensions for their certifications. Many LSCs have Red Crosses that are not teaching any classes. If you can take the class now, don't wait! College kids will be coming home and the courses will fill up.
- Beginning in March- USA Swimming will start rankings for SC and LC. If you are swimming for high school then you are unattached and the points don't count towards your team's score.
- Flex athlete membership changes have been delayed until 2023.
- USA Swimming House of Delegates will be held 9/23/21- 9/25/21. It will be a blended approach with some in person and some virtual.
- USA Swimming's focus is on the Olympic Trials vs. the convention.
- USA Aquatics Convention has been canceled.
- Mentorship program- Zone workshop- registration will be first week of March.
- It will be held 4/30-5/1- ALL VIRTUAL- there will be a keynote speaker TBD.
- There will be 18/U Spring Championships.
- Some governance changes: Will have to have 33 1/3 % athlete representative representation.
- **Rule Books-** USA Swimming will send to the business office, General Chair and 1 copy to each club. You can also access it as a PDF on your phone or you can buy a rule book for \$13. Nick suggested buying rule books for the meet refs. Going to your smartphone during a meet is tough

- Eastern Zone updates- Ellen- Challenging guidelines to run a sectional meet. It all be timed finals, no trials, no relays. 200 swimmers max per session. There will be two meets. First one will be Tuesday-Thursday and the second one will be Friday - Sunday. An athlete can only enter one of the two meets.
- Good attendance from the South not from the North. Niagara is in the water 40% of the time. New Jersey, Adirondacks and New England tough due to COVID.
- Spring meets in Richmond, VA. LC Spring meet ends 5/2/21 (Qualifying times are Winter Junior Cuts). Super sectionals- 5/13/21 weekend.
- Leaderboard for SC will begin on Wednesday, 2d/17/21. It will be updated every Wednesday to give the coaches time to enter all of the times from the previous weekend.
- Sectionals will only by held in Christiansburg, VA. They will have 400-800 swimmers. Timed finals meet. Only 200-225 athletes at pool complex at the same time. Will have multiple sessions- leaning towards having the sessions run by team.
- Open Water Championships for the Eastern Zone- Jen Lyman- at this time they are unable to hold it due to COVID. Hoping to push it back to August/September or might have multiple sites. (1 in CT and 1 out of CT)

CT Swim Updates

- Trying to prove swimming is different than other sports.
- COVID task force- the USA Swimming webinar was very disappointing. They are hesitant to give concrete information and a lot of generalizations.
- CDC- water specialists spoke about Chlorine levels and just listed everything we already know. CT vaccine program moving along- might be helpful to allow politicians and health departments to change the rulings with the new positivity rate less than 3%.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES-

- Supposed to be in May- set for 5/18/21. Will be virtual or in person, TBD.

OLD BUSINESS-

Scholar Athlete Meet Participation Requirement for 2020-2021- tabled for future meeting- It is difficult to come up with a meeting requirement.

Governance committee appointments not complete yet. 6 people on the committee so far and 2 athletes which covers the 33% ruling. Working on the rest of the committee. Will hopefully have it filled by next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS-

- LSC evaluation= LEAP-the document is extensive. LSCs are LEAP certified.
- Finance Chair- no appointments at this time.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS:

General Chair Report- Rick Lewis

Administrative Vice Chair- Jeff Sargent

Treasurer- Susan Lecza- We are even at this point at end of January. There is not much going on.

Vice-Chair- Ed Becker

Age Group Committee Chair- Dave Modzelewski

Senior Committee Chair- Rob Bouchey

Technical Planning Committee Chair- Kaeley Steinnagel

Program Development Vice- Chair- Mark Wollen

Officials Committee Chair- Dave Pite- Meeting regularly. There are meets coming up and getting ready. We are able to renew and re-certify current officials but cannot certify or train new officials due to the COVID orders and rules. Hopefully in April the committee will be able to hold some clinics. Dave and Mark explained that even if we held clinics online or in person it does make sense if you can't get on deck and train. Dave and Mark reminded everyone that a viable option is to run unsanctioned meets if you can't get an official. Downside to an unsanctioned meet is that the times can't be posted on the website. It is recommended to run some unsanctioned meets if you can't get enough officials. Dave anticipates there will be more flexibility by the end of May to allow training on deck.

Operational Risk Coordinator- Duffy Mudry

Coach Representatives- Kristen Finnegan/Ronnie Vaughan

Athlete Representatives- Claire Michalik/ Emily Fox

Safe Sport Coordinator- Greg Pinchbeck- 14 out of 67 clubs are recognized as safe sport- 19%.

Coach-at-Large- Nick Cavataro- continuing to work with the task force.

Registration/Membership Coordinator- Kathleen/Davide Mendonca- No changes to Flex membership until 2023. For credential extension, the coach must request the extension from the training organization.

Zone Team Coordinator- John Scaldini

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion- Dennis Flores- Committee met. Goal is to have all clubs name a DE&I representative. Athletes will be involved; need their ideas and messaging through social media.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16th at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Lazar

Secretary