

DRAFT

CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC.

Board of Directors

Thursday, March 26, 2020

7:30 PM, Teleconference Meeting

Vision Statement: Connecticut Swimming...better life through swimming.

Mission Statement: Connecticut Swimming provides opportunities for swimmers to enrich their lives.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call: General Chair, Ellen Johnston (EJ) called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Present Board Members: Kristen Finnegan, Dennis Flores, Todd Gordon, Maddie Haley, Ellen Johnston, Susan Lecza, Rick Lewis, Jen Lyman, Joan Lynch, Meghan Lynch, Davide Mendonca, Kathleen Mendonca, Claire Michalik, David Modzelewski, Duffy Mudry, Richard Nolan, Jason Paige, Greg Pinchbeck, Dave Pite, Matt Pohlman, John Scaldini, Kaeley Steinnagel, Mark Wollen

Absent Board Members: Kyle Brown, David Heller

Also Present: Nan Cooper, Nick Cavataro, Spencer Hartmann, Kait Moss

Approval of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

New agenda items added:

- Athletes Social Media Page – TikTok – Richard Nolan (Add after CSI Financials)
- CSI ‘Stimulus Program’ – Ellen Johnston (Add to New Business – second item)
- Roundtable Idea Share – What are teams doing? – Kaeley Steinnagel (Add as final item)

MOTION made to accept the Agenda, as amended. Passed unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes from February 25, 2020 Board Meeting

MOTION made to adopt the Minutes from the February 25, 2020 meeting (as distributed).

Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Swimposium Update – Ellen Johnston and Matt Pohlman

Swimposium postponed. Need to look at another date...perhaps in the fall. May want to try to work it around the fall HOD meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategy and Management During Covid-19 Closures – EJ

So much is in flux since we don't know how much longer we will be in this situation. Wesleyan personnel will be meeting in mid-April to decide if/when they will allow rentals back on campus. At this point in time, any meets at Wesleyan are on hold. As of now, the long course as a whole is on hold. Don't know how far into L/C season before we get up and running. Program Development will be convening every two weeks to reassess the current situation and with the aim to come up with a program, as they get a better idea of when the bans will be lifted. Challenge for some teams which will be the strong possibility schools will not re-open this school year and not sure how this will impact clubs that use such facilities, etc. May need to be innovative, have to look at many different scenarios, and have plans for both ends of the spectrum (getting back in early May, or much later, etc.).

CSI 'Stimulus Program' – Ellen Johnston

EJ put committee together – Sue Lecza, Todd Gordon, Rick Lewis, Ellen Johnston – to discuss ideas and get input from the community, to help coaches, families and teams through this difficult time. This committee will come up with proposals and ideas, and wants input from everyone. All encouraged to email committee members with ideas.

Reach out to coaching community regarding CT Coaching Zoominars – for some social interaction, stay in touch and share ideas.

Letter to Membership re Meet Entry Deadlines, etc. – Ellen Johnston

Program Development Committee addressed the most critical issues regarding early April meet entry deadline at their meeting earlier this week. PD Committee put everything on hold for now. PD will convene every two weeks, and will look to come up with a plan. A letter conveying these decisions was sent to membership on March 25th. Don't know what other meets will be canceled. LC YMCA Nationals have been canceled.

Budget Committee Update – Todd Gordon

Emailed out spreadsheet showing most recent 'straw' budget. It's in the format used to present at HOD. Column at right is budget. Shows Actual from last year, run rate for Registration, potential impact from not running meets in March and April, how all the cancelations will positively impact the travel expense budget. Financials may end up being better than thought for the current fiscal year. Registrations are slightly down, but \$80K in swimmer travel line, of which only a fraction will be spent. Swimposium fees will also not be used until next year. Will reconstitute budget after the new committee meets, and can figure out impact of current shutdown. Income may be down 20-30K. Everyone encouraged to look at the email sent by Todd tonight, and send him your thoughts, questions, input, etc.

Interim Nominating Committee Update – David Heller

In a bit of a holding pattern at this time.

House of Delegates Planning and Elections – EJ

Would like to move HOD Meeting from May to June, and look to firm up the date at our next meeting.

***MOTION made to postpone the May House Of Delegates Meeting to June.
Passed unanimously.***

2020 Age Group Championship Format – Jen Lyman

Committee met with Dave Modzelewski...concerned about health and safety of all involved. Want to have all sessions held at Wesleyan, but they are not equipped to handle all. Would like to do 10&u timed finals and 11/12 prelims at Cheshire. Then have all Finals at Wesleyan.

MOTION to have the LC Age Group Championships format as follows: 10&Under Timed Finals combined with 11/12 Prelims at Cheshire Community Pool, and 13&Over Prelims, Thursday Session and ALL Finals to be held at Wesleyan. Passed unanimously.

Outreach Fees - Jen Lyman

Jen Lyman discussed accessibility to Outreach athletes, and made the following motion:

MOTION made to provide Outreach athletes to enter in all CSI sanctioned and approved meets, including CSI Championships, with their entry fees waived. (If fee waiver not accepted by meet host, cover fees by CSI.)

Discussion held regarding providing CSI assistance to Outreach athletes (defined as those athletes qualifying for free/reduced lunch program), which is about 23 CSI athletes. SL had two points: (1) could be quite a few more Outreach athletes if the advantageous funding is higher per Outreach athlete, and (2) this would require all Outreach athletes to be identified by teams. Proposed tabling this discussion until we have a document that breaks down, quantifies and clarifies data around outreach athletes/fees.

ACTION: EJ asked Dennis Flores to prepare this document with additional information regarding Outreach and related cost, and share this information with the BOD at the next meeting, prior to voting on it.

MOTION made to Table this discussion to next meeting. Passed Unanimously.

Championship 1 – Meet Eligibility Requirement – EJ/JL

Proposal to waive the one-meet eligibility requirement for this long course season. Postpone any decision until more info is known about when we will get back in.

Olympic Games Postponement and Impact on CSI Schedule – Ellen Johnston

Todd Gordon – has heard and discussed with Rowdy Gaines – may accelerate the timing in 2021, and the Olympic Games may not be exactly one year out. AS we look to roll forward with our short course season, may need to consider in scheduling, etc.

USA Swimming Insurance Update Re Dryland/Remote Training – Duffy Mudry

Activities not directly supervised are not covered under USA Swimming insurance. Insurance industry has not taken a position on this yet. Depends on your club/team affiliation (YMCA, etc.) EJ encourages coaches to check with their organization. Use the wording that ‘you, the swimmer, can do this on your own, and is NOT required’. Workouts should be provided ‘for informational purposes only’.

CSI Financials – Sue Lecza

As of end of Feb, CSI has a strong cash reserve which is good considering the current situation. Slightly over budget. Will take a small hit on Age Group Championships, but not much more than the meet costs CSI normally. The current closure will have positives and negatives on the budget, so the net impact may not be significant in dollars.

Athletes and Social Media Page – Richard Nolan

Want to figure out a way to bring together swim community. Many athletes are bummed out about how the season ended so abruptly. Want to use app TikTok. Dance, post & share. Formulate a CSI challenge where you would go in a certain song, put on caps and goggles, pretend to swim, make a ‘CSI Swimmers Got Talent’ and have a fun competition. Athlete Reps spoke with Coach Scaldini to see what they are allowed to post. Greg Pinchbeck mentioned there is a photo consent that parents sign off on with most/every team.

ACTION: Will assemble a sub-committee of Athlete Reps, Greg Pinchbeck, John Scaldini and one more coach (Kristen Finnegan?) to have a conference call to figure out a way this could work with proper approvals from parents. Set call up for Friday (tomorrow) or Monday (March 31st).

Athlete Reps also asking about timing of Athlete Rep Elections. With new by-laws, some athlete reps will become athletes at-large.

Age Group Committee Chair - Dave Modzelewski

For 2020 SC meet, revised 11/12 and 13/14 time standards. 10% participant numbers were down the most of all the age groups. Total 11/12 about same. 13/14 girls and boys both slightly down. 11/12 time standards were eased by 1%, 13/14 were eased by 0.5%. Since can go to two sites and split up, can ease the time standards due to less time restrictions. Should potentially be a better meet.

Roundtable Idea Share – What are teams doing? – Kaeley Steinnagel

Sharing Ideas on how to keep teams in touch. Open up discussion if anyone wants to share what they are doing to keep swimmers in a good emotional and mental place. Many are sad, and trying to make the best of the situation.

- Trivia Night on ZOOM – very successful
- Swimmers form SOCO Facetiming every day. Had Virtual Birthday Party the other day.
- ZOOM yoga – pick common streaming source, and do yoga together
- Tic-Toc idea of Athlete Reps – Great Idea – hope we can get it up and going quickly
- Netflix party – All watched a movie together

Reports of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Coordinators

General Chair Report – Ellen Johnston – nothing additional to report

Administrative Vice-Chair – Rick Lewis – nothing additional to report

Treasurer – Susan Lecza – nothing additional to report

Finance Vice Chair – Todd Gordon – nothing additional to report

Age Group Committee Chair – Dave Modzelewski – nothing additional to report

Senior Committee Chair – Jason Paige – nothing additional to report

Technical Planning Committee Chair – nothing additional to report

Program Development Vice-Chair – Jen Lyman

All committee chairs trying to put together Quad Plan for HOD meeting. Will be trying to have committee meetings every two weeks, as we learn more about the COVID-19 timing and restrictions, and lifting of restrictions. Will have minutes of meetings available immediately following each meeting.

Program Operations Vice-Chair – Mark Wollen

Nothing major to report, have to adapt as we move forward and have more information.

Officials Committee Chair – Dave Pite

Despite all the new requirements for Officials, managed to get most people back who planned to come back. In holding pattern until get back into pool again.

Operational Risk Coordinator – Duffy Mudry – nothing additional to report

Coach Representatives – Kristen Finnegan – nothing additional to report

Athlete Representatives – Richard Nolan/Maddie Haley/Meghan Lynch/Claire Michalik – nothing additional to report.

Safe Sport Coordinator – Greg Pinchbeck

May conference was canceled – deferred a year. Hoping to get more information on MAAP. Will inform all when he knows of any changes.

Coach-at-Large – Matt Pohlman

Will follow-up with Ellen on rescheduling of Swimposium, timing, etc.

Registration/Membership Coordinator – Kathleen/Davide Mendonca

CPR and In-Water extensions will be granted if you request – extended to July 31, 2020 – but they will not extend the deadline if you have any other item that is outstanding.

Nick Cavataro – discussed with person in charge of CT, NE, Metro certifications – individual has to log into American Red Cross account, then submit request. It will not happen automatically! Rick Lewis explained they will give you a new ‘provisional certification’ – with a new deadline.

Ellen Johnston again wanted to thank everyone involved with the work around cancelation of Age Group Championships. Tremendous effort, took a lot of work, and was great to have everyone working together! Great example of excellent teamwork all around!

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9th via teleconference at 7:30PM. Meeting was adjourned at 9:09PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joan Lynch
Secretary*