

GA SWIMMING BOD MINUTES

June 16th, 2016

Conference Call

Meeting Call began at 8:00 pm. Time was then allowed for members to call into the meeting.

1) Attendance:

In attendance:	Absent:
Nelson Camilo (TARA) – arrived late NON-BOD member guest visitor	Jamey Myers – planned Guest Visitor but was absent
Ceci Christy (Safe Sport Coordinator)	Nyasha Pace (Safety Chair)
Jessica Cooper (Executive Director)	Gary Theisen (Treasurer)
Lucus Ferreira – arrived late due to meet (Age Group Committee Chair)	Beth Winkowski (Senior Committee Chair)
Jonathan Foggin (Technical Planning Committee Chair)	Ethan Young (Senior Athlete Representative – At Large)
Stu Hixon (General Chair)	
Hanna Lee (Co-Junior Athlete Representative)	
John Pepper (Coaches Committee Chair)	
Steve Potter – came on at 8:41 (Administrative Vice President)	
Rob Schreer (Officials Chair)	
Kim Seaman (Secretary)	
Andrew Tang (Senior Athlete Representative)	
Nate Wright (Co-Junior Athlete Representative)	

Discussion of how many is needed to conduct a meeting. Stu says 8. Prior to any late arrivals, we have 8 so Stu says we can go forward.

Meeting called to order at 8:04 pm by Stu Hixon, General Chair.

2) Approval of the April 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

(presented by Jessica Cooper and Stu Hixon)

Jessica asks if there are any questions about the minutes from the April BOD meeting. None.

So, Stu moves to make a motion to approve them.

- **Motion (Jonathan Foggin)**
- **Second (Andrew Tang)**
- **No Discussion, Vote-approved - no opposition.**
- **Motion passed unanimously.**

3) Guest Attendee: Jamey Meyers (Meet Surcharge)

Outcome:

This was to be presented by Jamey Meyers – but he is not on the call – Jessica does not have the details so she says that, seeing as how he is not here, we will skip over that agenda item for now. If he comes on the call later, we will include him then.

4) Treasurer's Report:

(This was to be presented by Gary Theisen – Gary is also not on the call since he is at a meet.)

Jessica does the report instead:

Financials Updates include:

- Under Miscellaneous: LEAP \$2500 award is included under the Miscellaneous (Oct. – May)
- All Star Banquet was over budget. In comparison to last year, we spent a little over \$1,900 more on the banquet this year. We brought in roughly the same amount of ticket sale income as the previous year, within a few dollars. Other differences included:
 - o Cut Costs:
 - Removed almost \$1,040 in Tech/AV needs over the weekend
 - Zero Printing Fees
 - o Additional Costs:
 - Higher Banquet Meal Prices/Fees
 - Added Officials Lunch & Learn Meal
 - Speaker Fee
 - Photographer/Photo Booth
 - More Record Breaker Plaques + Graphic Set-up Fee

- Higher Facility Fees

Jonathan mentions that he has a question about the previous investment discussions – He knows we had had some discussion about switching our brokers, and he was not sure if that was related to this current Financials Update. But, he was wondering where that stood right now.

Stu offers an update. USA Swimming is using a different broker than us. And, we are talking to a lot of various people right now (one next week that might help as well), and we are trying to work on it. But, we don't want to make any sudden moves. So, it is something we are just taking some time on it.

While Stu is talking there is static on the phone line – Kim interrupts to fix in order to hear and record what is being said – Static is fixed, and Stu summarized what he had been saying to Jonathan:

Basically he says that they are talking to people and working on this but no moves yet. He also mentions that Jessica has met with Lynnette Mitchell with Marriot trying to partner with Marriott in the future (instead of Sonesta for LSC meetings for example) that might be cheaper.

Jessica asks if there are any other questions. Kim asks for clarification on the OTW zones section of the budget listing – Jessica clarifies that there was no money in the budget for the OTW zones but that the amount listed was provided and used from outside of the budget.

No other questions.

5) Committee Updates:

(presented by Committee Representative – see below)

a) Executive Report:

(presented by Jessica Cooper)

- Marriott Update: Jessica reviews that she had met with rep from Marriott to set up room blocks and receive rebates back from the hotel. The plan for right now is for Lynnette to attend the Fall LSC meeting to present the opportunity to the coaches and gauge interest. Marriott is a partner with USA Swimming so there are some benefits there. We also have a potential to apply the partnership benefits to State Swim Meet hotel stays.

- Speedo Sponsorship Update: Working with Speedo in terms of Zone Team sponsorship – we have avoided getting a specific brand sponsorship for our LSC meets – but we are looking at it for Zones Team outfitting – This is hopefully going to be finished this week. By the end of tomorrow so Sydney can start placing orders for Zone

Team meeting.

- Fall LSC Meeting Location: Jessica is working with Marriott to plan a place for August 27 – 28 meetings as well, because Sonesta was not available those dates. Update will be sent once finalized.

- Mighty Mega Conference Info: Mighty Mega Conference is this November for LSCs with 7000 members or more. We are planning to make room in the budget for 2 people to attend (Lucus and Jessica will be going for us). While there they will talk with other LSCs about what they are doing, learning from them, and helping teach them from our end too).

- Aquatics Hall of Fame Save the Date: Aquatics Hall of Fame is August 20th – Jessica will be posting that in the upcoming weekly email and website – Kara Lynn Joyce is one inductee, and Jessica will post the other updates online as well.

Any questions? None. Move on to the Senior Report.

b) Senior Report:

(presented by Jessica Cooper in place of Beth who is at a meet)

- Long Course State Update: Everyone is likely in the loop about what is going on with Long Course State. Stu says that the LC State Meet referee will be Cheryl Ballard (this will be a great time for her to get her “baptism under fire”) – Steve will be there as an evaluator – Rob will be there the entire time except for part of the afternoon on Saturday between the prelims / finals portion of the meet. Stu and Sheryl have had numerous conversations, and he is confident that she will do well at her first state meet.

Any other questions?

Jonathan mentions that he has been providing lots of info from past LCM State meets to Gold, and he has given Gold a lot of valuable data and advice. As of yet, they have not provided any real info about the in between session meet. Jonathan has suggested that they not do that in between session meet on Sunday.

Stu wants to add to Jonathan's comments that he doesn't believe there will be a lot of people wanting to swim in the midday meet. Stu doesn't see it being over 100. He remembers that at Jamey's in between session meet for non-state meet last year at Ga Tech was only about 100 people.

Rob agreed that that was about right. Stu doesn't even know if they will have that many this year, because our senior state overlaps GRGA the same weekend – Jonathan agrees and that it is getting late in the game to get Meet Info out, but he thinks they are still planning on doing it. There are just no real updates on it yet.

Jessica says that she was told she will have everything for sanctioning by the end of this week. She knows it is down to the wire for getting the Meet Info out so she is hoping it will be out sooner rather than later.

Any other questions? None.

c) Age Group Report:

(presented by Jessica Cooper for Lucas Ferreria – but he does arrive to the call at the end of the update)

Lucas is also at a meet so Jessica starts the update:

- Long Course State Meet Update: She reports that the Long Course State meet has been sanctioned, and it is on their website. 1500 and 800 races are explained / defined there, and coaches who are interested in having an 800 relay time trial need to let them know the best day and time to do that. Lastly, the parking situation at the State Meet will be a challenge, because Tech Parkway parking is under construction. As such, the parking situation is under discussion, and they are working to find the best plan for working with the spots we do have (most likely parking passes of some sort).

- Senior Zones Team Update: The team has been selected and is posted online. They are also in the process of reviewing the Zone Team Manual. That process has stalled at the moment, but they should have things done and approved by the committee prior to the Fall meeting).

- LSC Select Camps Update: We are trying to get information from other LSCs on LSC Select Camps; We plan to bring in the committee and coaches together to get that rolling.

Any questions? Comments?

Lucas arrived on the call at this time from his meet. He adds that he is very worried about the parking situation at AG State. He is trying to work with the Committee right now on that.

Jessica asks again if we have any questions. None.

d) Safe Sport

(presented by Ceci Christy)

Ceci says there is not much to report. She is meeting on a video conference call with all the Chairs throughout the zone. Everyone will be getting on the same page about wording of policies. Because USA Swimming had put out a few policies that do not apply to every state given certain state's laws. Especially regarding the videoing, photography, and sexting laws. They are making sure that every LSC has the appropriate policies given their state laws.

She sent out the monthly safe sport scenarios, and she hopes that the teams are actually going over those with their swimmers once a month. She wants to send out a survey to see if everyone is using the scenarios.

We have some new items coming online in January but nothing new at this point.

Stu then personally thanks Ceci for all her help to Lucinda and Susan and everyone else in safe sport. He says that Ceci has been great and are a pride to Georgia Swimming.

Ceci says thank you to Stu and that she enjoys it. It has come a long way. And she mentions how everyone has heard about the Brock Turner case, and that has started so many conversations about safe sport in the swimming context. It has been very interesting to have conversations with people about that – as hard as the case is, it was nice to get the conversation started so openly.

Rob requests that Ceci send all the policies as they come to him so that all the info gets appropriately worded in the meet announcements.

Jessica thanks Ceci and asks if there are any other questions for Ceci. There are none.

e) Athlete Report:

(presented by Nate Wright)

Nate says that there is nothing too newsy. They are currently getting ready for the new votes at Senior State. He mentions they are planning on getting together with Jessica to work together for new ideas on how to get the athletes more involved.

Jessica says that she thinks it would be really good to get more things out on social media, via team emails, etc. regarding how athletes can run for these positions. An educational piece on ways to be involved would be helpful to everyone.

Nate explains that he is hoping they would post something on social media and let everyone know what they are doing with the elections that are coming up and will have the athlete reps tell their team about the elections too.

Jessica says that is a great plan and to let her know the details so she can help get the word out as well. Nate he will do that.

Any questions? None.

f) Officials Committee:

(presented by Rob Sherer)

- Use of Tape Update: Rob mentions that these updates are posted on the officials website, and USA Swimming provided it to all coaches.

To summarize, Rob reports that if tape is used to cover a wound, it will be approved with the referees' approval.

Kinesio taping would / should NOT be approved. If it is observed before the race, the swimmers will be notified to take it off before they swim. But, if they swim and it is noticed during their race, they will be told to take it off moving forward. Then, if they were to swim with it on again, they would not be allowed to compete with it in any other races while having it on.

- Masters & USA Swimming Dual Sanctioning Updates: Rob mentions that they will be working with the Masters Swimming and USA Swimming to administratively have a dual sanction allowing meets to have swimmers from both groups at 1 meet.

- LSC State Championship Officiating Update: Rob states that both Age Group and Senior State Meets will be N2 evaluations for officials. We have officials in the state who can do those evaluations and that will reduce some of the expenses for Gold as the host. However, he is not certain that he will even be able to get the Senior Meet approved as a sanctioned meet for official's certification. This is because we have the same requirements by USA Swimming to get info to them well in advance as we do for GA Swimming, and we know the time is now cutting things very short.

Questions?

Lucas has a question of clarification on the kines tape. Rob repeats the info and clarifies.

Lucas next asks about the lack of sanction for the Senior State Meet. He wants to know if it is for the meet in general or just for the sanctioning of Officials Certification. Rob says it is for Officials certification.

No other Questions.

g) Coaches Committee:

(presented by John Pepper)

- Coaches Survey Update: John says the survey got back with some interesting submissions. He noted that people are interested in helping out.

He asked if people were able to look at the results on the survey he sent out. Many answer: yes.

Then, he asked if anyone had any questions about it?

Most feedback was regarding getting the officials more streamlined and about attendance at the LSC meetings (a lot of the coaches won't bring swimmers, because it's too late and can't have practices. He noted that if they could have a place to practice prior to the meeting, there may be more athlete attendance. Lastly, the parents can't get them there sometimes.)

Stu says he doesn't want to speak out of tune, but Chris Davis has always been more than willing to have his facility to be used for training and practices during the LSC weekend when we hold the meeting. Stu summarizes that he doesn't think that the practice facility issue will become the big question, and he understands that athletes need their practice. Coaches want to be there with their athletes. But, the only question this year moving forward will be regarding the location of the LSC meeting in the future since we may not be at Sonesta. But, he does think we will be able to work that part out.

John says that is good to know. If we could try to have the LSC meeting set up with a planned pool to get in the water during set times, that would be a great idea to have.

Stu says that we can definitely work on that and that it can likely be done without any

problem.

17 coaches were interested in clinics for coaches themselves. Clinics with info on getting technique, first aid, etc. were desired for beginner-level coaches as they start out in the sport.

Stu says we tried to do something this past LSC meeting, and we could try again this next LSC meeting. But, Stu says he is not a coach so he doesn't know who to get to teach the stroke clinic (someone inside or outside GA – but he is sure we can do something like that – work with Jessica to figure something out)

Steve says that he thinks it is totally doable and that how to publicize it will be key. We need to get Jessica's support to have people lined up to come in. He says to John that he doesn't have to ask our permission to pursue this, and encourages John that it would be a feather in your cap if you could pull it off. The goal would be to get head coaches to tell their assistants to "go do this" (clinic), because it looks like a good thing.

John says that he and his assistants went to a clinic at Tech, and he was one of the ones there from GA. Other states' coaches came in to it more than Georgia coaches which shocked him.

We need to get through the end of this season so we will talk more about it after August meeting.

- Nominations for Swimmer of the Quarter Update: John says he has only gotten 2 athlete nominations – so he is going to send out the request again.

Steve asks who has to nominate the swimmers?

John says we had not provided many guidelines – Steve asks if there is a way to open it to the athletes and use social media to leverage it to the athletes. That way, we might see a lot more participation and a lot more activity. If we're having a hard time getting participation, we might have the Athletes Committee get something out there and get people excited about it.

John says that it is something we hadn't talked about – he then asks Jessica what she thinks about having the athletes nominate and vote.

She says that it is up to us how we want to do this. She says the All American sponsorship gives the 2 top winners the award. She just thinks that we need to be consistent on how we go about this each quarter, but it is really up to us on how it is done.

Steve emphasizes that he thinks it would really good to get the athletes involved every quarter. It would be great to make it a Coach and Athlete kind of thing. He says he will refer back to the coaches committee but that if we have our athletes doing this on social media, we might see a lot more activity.

John then says that he would like to have the 3 BOD athletes email him to set up a time to discuss what we can come up with to help get athletes nominate other swimmers in the State that are doing something amazing. Athletes say they were not even aware of the award until now and agree to email John to get involved.

Steve adds that he can help with how to do that too. The first things they should likely figure out would be a timeline of some kind and how to tabulate the votes. Steve says he is glad to share his thoughts on how to organize it and keep it going.

Jessica says that we do need to have 2 winners for this summer's LCM state meets (1 for AG and 1 for Senior). John says that the athletes nominated so far are 1 x 10 and under and 2 x 11-12 year olds.

Lucas says that he did not realize that the awards had to be tied to the Championship meet. Jessica says that it doesn't have to be done then but we felt it would be best to announce it then. Steve agrees with that since no one knows about it right now, and announcing it on a big platform like at the State meet will get the word out, build enthusiasm, etc.

John, Steve, Nate, Hann, and Andrew plan to meet up to talk about this more to plan.

That's all that John has for now (repeats that a follow up questionnaire coming in the next few weeks). No other questions.

g) Technical Planning Committee:

(presented by Jonathan Foggin)

- Senior State Meet Update: Jonathan says that for the past month or so, he has been working on the state meet issue with Pat and Stu with regards to how the state meet has run in the past.

- Metro Divisionals Update: Jonathan says he has also discussed the scheduling of Metro Divisionals – He will have more to report on that later.

He says that he has nothing else to report other than that.

Jessica asks if he had a chance to look over any of the warm up procedures. He says he has. Jessica asks if he has any updates or a timeline for updating those warm up procedures. He says he will have something to present to the LSC at the LSC meeting in the Fall.

Any questions?

- John asks what does it look like for the realignment process so far. Jonathan says that is somewhat related to the Metros Divisionals update, and that it is actually kind of a big can of worms we probably don't want to open right now since we have other business to get to. He says there are some things that he is working on that may change things up so he has not made any actions on it right now.

- Lucas asks about the warm up procedures / sanctioning – he says he wasn't aware of what that was referring to. Jonathan says that they had found some unofficial warm up procedures that had been determined and approved years ago. So what they are doing now is comparing those to what has been put forward by other LSCs to see what is reasonable for us to apply. Since our meet info says we follow the warm up procedure guidelines and they weren't available anywhere, we are trying to set something there that backs them up.

Lucus says he agrees and that he thought it had been in the rules and regulations but had been dropped. Steve clarifies that there had been legislation that was passed but never got put into the actual documents. And, Steve saw the minutes from that year and that Jessica is waiting to look over that.

Jonathan says he was not aware of what we discussed at the LSC meeting. So, he tries to clarify what he got from an email with Rob verses what Steve is saying right now.

Steve clarifies that there were 2 documents found that were pre-legislation that never made it in. He says that if it's not good for the LSC now, we will change them. But, they were approved by the LSC prior and never made it into our legal documents.

Lucus says that the best thing to do would be to add those now and then deal with it from there. We should add it since it had been approved then. Steve says yes - that is what we are doing. We are housekeeping from there. The right stuff is in there now, and we are going over it to make sure we like what it is (or not). He says we will determine if we should change anything.

Any other questions? None.

6) Old Business – Review of Bylaws Article 607.1 Revisions:

(presented by Jessica Cooper)

- Article 607.1 Bylaws Update: The bylaws were reviewed, and Jessica had received suggestions on changes, additions, etc. She says these suggestions were posted online and handed out today via email. We don't have to make final decisions tonight but maybe discuss what does fit and what doesn't fit.

One comment regarding the wording of Divisions in our LSC – They may be more geographical – so maybe we change the wording to make it more appropriate.

Another comment comes in about the wording of the Title of this article.

Lucas says that he does not feel that this route is the best use of our time tonight.

Jessica asks if there is another way to go through this?

Kim suggests that if we do this via email, create a final deadline for suggestions, and then put together a final wording to be voted on at the August LSC meeting.

Steve agrees that sounds like the best option – done by email – request for BOD meetings – Lucas agrees and emphasizes that there should be room for discussion at the LSC regarding them still though.

Steve agrees and says we just make it clear that we want to have a deadline 30 days before HOD meeting so that we can create a proposal. Jessica says that she will put together a document where people can comment on 1 document so she doesn't have to sift through multiple documents. Steve says he agrees and that she has done a lot to get non-responsive people to respond and that he really appreciates it. And, he just thinks we need to draw a line in the sand regarding a deadline for input.

Stu says he totally agrees. He thinks this should be JULY 27th to get your comments in (31 days before our BOD meeting at the LSC meeting) – and if you don't make comments, then you're done. If you didn't vote, don't criticize who got elected.

Rob asks: Aren't we required by our LSC to post changes 30 days prior to the vote? Stu says "Yes". So, instead Stu says the deadline will need to be July 20th. And, Jessica can post it on July 20th. And, if you don't reply by then, tough.

Lucas asks Jessica if she is going to create this document and, if so, asks if she can have the info from today's documents in there. Jessica says that she will make the document as a "working document" and will add today's info in there. Then, everyone can comment on there until July 20th. From the 20th to 27th, she will clean it up and make the proposed option ready by the 27th.

Then the discussion will be there based on a more concrete proposal. Lucas is concerned

about having enough time to discuss the final proposal. Kim comments that the working document function on Microsoft Word will allow for discussion in writing on the document itself (while it is not verbal discussion, it is still a discussion chat box via writing).

He also says that he wants to know if it will all be voted on as a whole or individually. Steve says we already have an answer since only items wanted to be discussed will be pulled for discussion in the meeting.

Jessica summarizes the plan. And, we move on to New Business.

7) New Business – Review of Bylaws Article 607.1 Revisions:

(presented by Jessica Cooper, Stu Hixon, and Kim Seaman)

- Jessica invites a brief report on the Open Water Zones Meet by Kim:

Kim summarizes that it was a great meet. She says that Nick, Nancy, and Sydney set up the meet hotels, food, transportation, etc. Even with the very limited budget we were working with, there was extra budget left over that Nick is working with Gary on how to best utilize. Kim says that the GA swimmers had excellent performance given their relative lack of experience in open water swimming. Kim reported a few of the most notable results and how well they did, and that she feels it would definitely be a good thing for the LSC to become more involved in Open Water in the future.

Steve says that is excellent information to know and that we should really push Open Water swimming in the LSC. It is great to see athletes come out of nowhere and do amazing in open water.

- Committee Meetings Update: Stu asks that all of our LSC committees start using this conference call line to host their meetings. Our LSC needs to be talking more – he would love to see the committees form a meeting 1 day of the week or month and if everyone can't make it, so be it. But it just makes sense to have meetings where people talk, because we can't handle everything for our 8,500 swimmers and hundreds of coaches in 1 day. He doesn't care what it is but you can't handle that much in 1 day. So he just wants to have people talking.

Lucas guarantees that he and his committee will definitely make a habit of meeting more

regularly. Jessica thanks him.

Jessica ask if there is any more new business? None.

9) Motion to Adjourn the Meeting @ 9:19 pm

Motion to Adjourn (Steve) Seconded (Rob). None Opposed.

Outcome: Meeting is closed at 9:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 pm by Jessica Cooper, Executive Director
Submitted for approval by GA LSC Secretary, Kim Seaman