



BOD Minutes

March 13, 2020

The meeting began at 10:30am via conference call

BOD members present:

Steve Potter (DAQ) - General Chair
Gary Theisen (SA) - Treasurer
Beau Caldwell (SEGA) - Secretary
Henry Bethel (CCAC) - Athlete At-Large
Jamey Myers (SCAT) - Admin Vice Chair
Sarah-Grace Thompson (SA) - Sr Athlete Rep
John Pepper (UNAT) - Coaches Chair (Joined 10:48am)

Daniel DeCarlo (RAYS) - Athlete At-Large
Ceci Christy (UNAT) - Safe Sport Chair
Wes Hamborg (WRA) - Tech Planning Chair
Will Fogglin (ABSC) - Jr. Athlete Rep
Ed Saltzman (DYNA) - Officials Chair
Mark Schilling (Gold) - Senior Chair
Lucas Ferreira (GA) - Age Group Chair

BOD members absent:

None

GSI Swimming staff present:

Megan Kingsley, Executive Coordinator

Others Present:

Eric Pingle - Sanction coordinator
Lora Thompson - Registration coordinator

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 10:31am by Steve Potter.

Agenda Items

1. USA Swimming notice regarding COVID-19, posted March 12, 2020.

Motion (Saltzman): To suspend swimming competitions for next 30 days per USA Swimming's recommendation. (Myers second).

Discussion: Potter clarified that this is an adoption from USAS, effective March 12 through April 11, 2020

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Resolution: GSI sanctioned meets suspended until April 11

2. A COVID-19 subcommittee is created

- COVID 19 subcommittee is tasked with evaluating current situations and our moratorium on meets.
- Ed Saltzman will serve as temporary chair until the subcommittee can elect a chair
- Henry Bethel, Daniel DeCarlo, Will Foggin, Sara-Grace Thompson, Gary Theisen, Ceci Christy, Jamey Myers, Wes Hamborg, and Mark Shilling are all subcommittee members.
- Committee will meet Wednesday's at 8:00pm. All are welcome to join. Call-in information will be posted in an event page on the website.

3. Sanction requests after April 11

- Sanctions Chair (Pingle) will process sanction requests for meets after April 11 under the assumption that the moratorium will be lifted.

4. Succession Planning

Motion (Potter): In the event of the incapacity of the general chair and admin vice-chair, the remaining quorum of BOD members will elect appoint an interim general chair to serve as general chair until such time has passed where the general chair and/or admin vice-chair are able to serve or a meeting of the HOD can be called to elect a new general chair. (Caldwell second).

Amendment: (Thesien): to change the word "elect" to "appoint" (amendment seconded and approved)

Discussion: This could be applied to both in sickness and death situations involving the general chair and/or admin vice-chair. Currently, the LSC meeting is scheduled for April 18 and elections can happen there if needed.

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Resolution: Succession plan approved.

5. Discussion regarding member clubs holding practices:

- Potter asked how we should be addressing teams in regards to holding practices, citing that the government has suggested smaller meetings and maintaining space between persons.
- It was commented that several facilities are closed until a later date; coaches are using video technology for dryland and instruction
- Hamborg addressed concerns that if we make any recommendations other than mirroring state and local regulation, we don't want the parent to say that Georgia Swimming has recommendations. Potter suggested listing some things to consider for concerns and alternatives.
- Myers commented that his county just closed all public and private pools.
- Hamborg again addressed concerns with making any sort of recommendations due to the fact they could be out of date before too long, with the interest of decreasing the liability for GSI. Hamborg recommends putting nothing out but following Federal, State, and Local guidelines.

Resolution: Potter agreed that we should take Hamborg's recommendation of following Federal, State, and Local guidelines and regulations in advising clubs on holding practices.

6. Meet formatting for meets after April 11

- GSI Tech Planning, Age Group, and Senior standing committees, plus the sanction chair, are charged with developing flexible formatting for upcoming meets to address athlete opportunities for competition and challenges of host clubs.

7. Force Majeure - regarding hardships to clubs and athletes.

- Submit requests in writing to the BOD for consideration of hardships.
- BOD members should not engage in negotiations or discussions, other than directing inquiries to the BOD.

Adjournment

Motion (Caldwell): To adjourn our meeting (Hamborg second)

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Resolution: Meeting adjourned at

Meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

[Text of email from Steve Potter to GSI BOD, sent March 12, 2020 at 10:56pm]

Georgia BOD,

Pre-Reading for our call on Friday at 10:30 AM. **1-7 below will serve as our agenda.**

First and foremost, we are protecting our membership with any and all actions we are taking...we need to always be mindful of this goal and our Mission and Vision Statement.

When I take roll, we will offer a follow-up to members of the BOD who cannot attend and need to be updated. Ceci and I spoke today, and I am also seeking guidance from a CDC leader who has children competing in GA swimming.

We are getting clear direction related to competition in the immediate term from USAS and government authority. I am looking for information that we can post to our site and communicate to our membership related to practice and training during that period. If you recall, I was looking for leadership from the board and membership to help with such a “business continuity / disaster recovery” plan. We now have a real-life example within 3 months of that conversation.

For the purposes of this emergency, I want for us to agree to a definitive message outlining:

1. **Georgia Swimming competition is suspended until April 11**, and instructions to advise teams and teams signed up for any meet that the event is canceled
2. The **GA Swimming BOD will be meeting weekly** from now until the announced ‘end of the crisis’ to either shorten or extend the duration of this moratorium on competition – and post updates to gaswim.org
3. We will grant sanctions for future meets, outside of the moratorium, that will all be subject to recall based on number 2 above
4. GA Swimming will be setting up **succession planning to address BOD illness and unavailability** of our board, and continuity of leadership and service during this crisis
5. We are working on providing advice related to healthy/safe **practice and training during this period** – we are seeking the advice of the CDC and USAS on the best approach
6. Given this is an Olympic qualifying year, Georgia Swimming will exercise flexibility in meet formatting and opportunities giving our athletes the chance to [safely] achieve their goals in 2020
7. We also need a unified message related to financial losses for teams and families related to this....as our legal friends call it...force majeure event

Copying our sanctioning chair as he needs to be up to date on where GA Swimming and USAS is regarding COVID-19 and the state of our sport.

Best Regards,

Steve

[Text of email from USAS sent March 12, 2020 at 4:05pm]

Dear USA Swimming Members,

Over the course of the last seven days, let alone the last 24 hours, the coronavirus (COVID-19) has prompted unprecedented changes within the world of sport.

Our leadership team has been meeting daily to discuss the most up-to-date information and the associated effects on our membership.

In prioritizing the health and wellness of all our members, as of March 12, USA Swimming has made the decision to suspend all our events, camps, conferences, or any occasion that requires individuals to travel and gather for the next 30 days.

We also strongly recommend that our Local Swimming Committees (LSC) and clubs suspend all USA Swimming sanctioned competitions across the country for the next 30 days.

Further information about the TYR Pro Swim Series at Mission Viejo, an officially approved FINA qualifying competition for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, will be shared within the next few days.

We continue to stress the importance of preventing the spread of infection and share the following information being circulated by healthcare officials:

1. Avoid getting closer than six feet to anyone coughing or sneezing;
2. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that has 60-95% alcohol. This is especially important after going to the bathroom, before eating, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing;
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
4. Cover your mouth with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash, and then wash your hands;
5. Stay home if you are sick, and away from the pool and from fellow team members;
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly;
7. Monitor the WHO and CDC websites for travel advisories and follow their recommendations.

Everyone is encouraged to seek further information using the CDC and the WHO websites:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html#situation-in-us>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

Questions or personal concerns regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) should be directed to your local healthcare provider.

This remains a dynamic situation and we will update our decisions and recommendations on a regular basis.

Please share the above with your members.

USA Swimming