

Minutes of the October 5, 2014 VSI House of Delegates Meeting

Present: David Strider (Disability), Bob Rustin (Treasurer), Bill Geiszler (Financial Chair), Gordon Hair (Make A Splash), Jessica Simons (At-Large), Bryan Wallin (Officials Chair), Terry Randolph (Administrative Chair), Steve Hennessey (General Chair), Leanne Hillery (Secretary), Lisa Liston (Technical Planning Chair), Steven Phillips (Club Development), TJ Liston (Coaches Rep), Ted Sallade (Senior Chair), Kevin McHaney (Coaches Rep), Kevin Hogan (Rules/Legislation Chair), (Kara McHaney (Senior Athlete Rep), Scott Baldwin (Age Group Chair), Mary Turner (Registration/Office Administrator), Art Anthony (At-Large), Caroline Henry (Athlete Rep), Jerry Hayes (Safe Sport Coordinator), Michael Braum (Webmaster), Stephanie Suhling (Open Water Coordinator), Walker Wilson (BAC), Mark Wilson (BAC), John Eife (HA), Edward Baldwin (HOKI), Scott Mortimer (RACE), Delwyn Jones (RAPP), David Henderson (SEVA), Jeffrey Kincaid (SEVA), Catherine Dominick (TAC), Christine Dominick (TAC), Carl Grissom (TAC), Sandra Jones (TIDE)

The General Chair, Steve Hennessey, called the House of Delegates to order at 10:10 am.

To begin the meeting Steve welcomed everyone and introduced the BOD members. He continued by reading the VSI mission statement and stated that all discussion should be based on these values.

Recognition of Exceptional Volunteers - Steve recognized exceptional volunteers to VSI. The following presentations were made:

- Lifetime USA Swimming Membership – Jim Frye
- Phillips 66 Outstanding Service Award – Gordon Hair

The Walter Smith Community Service Award will be deferred until the next House of Delegates meeting. The Officials Chair, Bryan Wallin, also recognized officials who had reached milestones of 15 years and above.

David Strider made a motion to approve the minutes from the last HOD meeting. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Bob Rustin, presented the summary through March of the VSI finances and noted these are posted to the website. The treasurer's report stood as a motion and was seconded by TJ. The treasurer's report was approved.

Age Group Season Highlights & Committee Report - Chair, Scott Baldwin, reported that Age Group Champs was very successful. Chase starts were used efficiently and moved things along smoothly. He commended Bryan and the officials for a smooth timeline. Overall, there were 27 individual records and 15 state records set during the meet. NOVA was the team champ. Summer Awards was very successful. Relays were eliminated to adhere to the timeline and B and C divisions were removed. The top finishers were awarded.

Scott reported that the Age Group Committee will be revisiting the Zone application process due to loopholes that may lead to a top 2 swimmer being bumped by late qualifiers. A subcommittee will be charged with addressing the Swimmer of the Year selection process.

Senior Season Highlights & Committee Report - Senior Chair, Ted Sallade, reported that this was an outstanding year for the senior swimmers. The events were well managed and the depth of meets continues to grow. Three swimmers, Taylor Hausse, Remedy Rule, and Jessica Arnold, met Junior National standard. Swimming has gotten so fast that USAS is starting a new series of Legends meets.

Ted reported on the Senior Committee's proposal for Senior Champs. A D final will be inserted for 18 and unders to provide more opportunities for swimmers. The meet will begin at 5:45 p.m. to accommodate this. Awards presentations will be eliminated to provide more time for warmups/downs. The Committee also proposes a 2:00 p.m. start time for the Thursday distance session to provide rest and recovery time for swimmers. Chase starts will be used on Saturday. The time standard will be kept for another two years. They will also consider changing and streamlining the process for determining Swimmer of the Year. A subcommittee of Senior and Age Group Committee members will form to investigate this.

2014 Long Course Zones Report – Jessica Simons reported that the Zone Team had 99 swimmers. The Team finished third overall. The new application process was flawless.

Mary Turner reported that chase starts were used and were well received. The parents and swimmers enjoyed the continuous action. There were a total of 1,300 athletes which was more than the previous year.

Gordon Hair reported on the Open Water Zones meet hosted by VSI. He stated that the open water format was well liked and he was pleased with the results. He asked for the HOD's help with developing and maintaining policies and procedures for open water events. VSI is a national leader in safety procedures.

Mary announced that VSI will host Sectionals in the spring in Christiansburg, VA and Poseidon will host Long Course Zones in the summer. Open Water Zones will be held June 27, 2015 in Atlantic City, NJ. This was the only team bid for Open Water Zones.

2014-2015 Meet Schedule & Technical Planning Report – Lisa Liston indicated that the meet schedule for 2014-2015 is posted on the VSI website. Meets continue to come in and are being sanctioned. The schedule for District meets has been sent out. She will be updating the templates on the website to reflect the appropriate teams at the appropriate venues. The Age Group time standards also need to be updated and 10 & Under added to the finals in these meets.

Finance Committee Report -The Finance Chair, Bill Geiszler, reported that the latest financial report is up on the website. He asked that teams not change meet information after it has been sanctioned. Once a meet has been sanctioned, that is how it remains.

Administration & Times - Terry Randolph reported that the Top 10 Times will be out soon. Once compiled, they will be sent to Mary Turner in the office for certificates to be issued.

Membership & Registration Report – Mary Turner reported on information she collected at Convention. There are several new enhancements to SWIMS and the website. The date of swim will now be shown instead of the date of the meet. This will provide better information athletes transfer. The last date the athlete actually competed will be used instead of the last day of the meet when determining date of attachment. Every club has a portal and a password for SWIMS. Mary has passwords for they are needed. Passwords can be changed. The reports are excellent. There are reports for club rosters, unattached athletes and when they attach, a non-athlete list to check certifications, etc. Graphics will be added to the reports by the end of 2014. The movement toward online registration is continuing. The idea is that the team will use their normal software to register athletes and upload the file to some sort of holding tank. The information in the holding tank will then be verified with what is in SWIMS so that errors can be identified and corrected at the club level. Once corrections are made, the registrations will then sent to the LSC registrar. The registrar will still be the one to finalize all registrations.

The Red Cross no longer requires a two week lead time for setting up Safety Training for Swim Coaches courses. Courses can now be available in 24 to 48 hours after submitting the course request. Masters swimmers and USA Swimming athletes can share lanes during practice and can also participate in the same heats in Open Water events. However, the USA-S athletes must be coached by a USA-S coach member – they may not be coached by a Masters coach. In the event of an injury, the individuals will be covered by their respective insurance companies.

The Athlete protection course is back on a two year cycle. The classes are completed on the USAS website and Mary gets updates automatically. However, she does not receive notifications for the Red Cross coaches training. Please notify her with this information. Problems occur when the proper LSC is not marked (Mark Virginia as LSC). For Safety training for swim coaches, it is necessary to close the certificate in order to generate an email to Mary which she will place in permanent record.

For registration, please send Mary a registration summary with any checks that are sent. There is a spreadsheet form that will generate a list of swimmers and a payment summary. Teams will be able to pay online. A processing fee of 2.5% for online payments will be passed on to the team. Forms are fillable. They can be saved and attached to an email. A typed signature will be accepted.

Athletes Report – Kara McHaney reported that the athletes thought that D finals at Senior Champs was a good idea. They also agreed with the positive check-in for finals and that a fine was OK. This allows for more opportunities for others to swim. They prefer to have the D final instead of the awards presentation. On the topic of deck changing, the athletes felt that specifications as to what is not allowed. These specifications should be mentioned in the meet invitation and should have consequences. Athletes should be educated on what the rule is and would like some direction provided by VSI. **[A task force with members from the Athletes, Coaches, and Officials Committees will be formed to further investigate and provide guidance on the issue of deck changing.]**

Kara asked that the reinstatement of the Competitive Spirit Award be considered. All teams should have the opportunity to have someone recognized. Discussion ensued. Mary Turner stated that every team currently has the opportunity to submit a person to be honored. The award is subjective, but this is OK. Approximately, 50% of the teams do it. She did not see a problem with doing this. Terry added that this award recognizes a particular level of swimmer. Award recipients should be recognized at the banquet and receive an invitation. **[Kara was asked to prepare a written proposal for the next BOD meeting. The BOD will review and vote on it as a procedure.]**

Coaches Committee Report – TJ Liston reported that the Coaches Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Age Group Committee. TJ also announced that the Open Water Nationals will have an 11-12 3K and a 13 and Up 5 K. Qualifying times will be AAA 500 for 11-12 and AAA 1650 for the 13 and Up. Zone Senior Champs will have a .5-1 second slower qualifying standards. Senior Champs and Junior Nationals are scheduled for the same weekend. Possible rule change at the end of November, swimmers will no longer need to separate hands before a dolphin kick in the breast stroke.

Officials Committee Report – Bryan Wallin reported that the Officials Committee had four sessions during Swimposium. They were programs on Chief Judge, Administrative Referee, Situations and Resolutions, and Recruitment and Retention. The Committee is looking at changes in officials training that will make the process less daunting, but retain the same standards. These changes will be in place after 2016 Olympics. Meet referees for short and long course champs meets have been slotted. Bryan stated that we need to get more officials. There are a lot of meets scheduled and necessary positions need to be filled for all of them. He asked that clubs recommend officials training to parents and get coaches more involved in recruitment. He commended coaches for respecting the officiating process. He asked that coaches educate swimmers on what is appropriate on deck.

Club Development Report – Steven Phillips reported that the Athletes Swim Clinic with Jason Lezak was excellent. There were 120 swimmers that participated. Jason will also be speaking at the Awards Banquet this afternoon. He also stated that the Coach Mentoring Program has funding available from USAS. There has been some interest in taking advantage of this process, but nothing has been done at this time.

Disability Committee Report – David Strider stated that the Committee has been very active. The Committee has three athlete members, Sean Harrington, Joseph Peppersack, and Samantha Tubbs, that have demonstrated significant progress in the sport over the past year. He reported that there were two national disability meets this year that went very well and received national press coverage. He asked clubs to let the Committee know if they have any disabled athletes on their rosters.

Diversity/Camps/Clinics – A Diversity Clinic will be held at the Collegiate School Aquatic Club on November 1 from 12-4 pm. It will include sport and nutrition talks. Up to 50 kids are expected to participate. Coaches are still needed to staff the event.

Safe Sport Report – Jerry Hayes reported that the safe sport rebate program had ended. VSI ranked first in USA Swimming for parent participation. However, athlete participation was not as high. Parents and athletes can take the course this year. He will work on getting the word out.

Open Water Report – Stephanie Suhling reported that the VSI website has a listing of all sanctioned open water meets. She reminded everyone not to attend non-sanctioned meets. They do not meet safety standards. You can go, but you will not be covered by USAS insurance. She asked clubs to communicate this to parents.

She reported that Open Water Nationals will be held in Fort Myers, FL in April. We are allowed to recommend four swimmers. Zones will be in Atlantic City, NJ. If clubs are interested in doing an open water meet, go to the VSI Website and click on the “Open Water” tab to start. Please contact Stephanie if you need assistance.

Records – Jessica Simons reported that she is working on updating the information for the 15-16 age group. This should be done shortly.

Rules & Legislation – Kevin Hogan reviewed the policies and procedures to be considered for approval by the HOD. Steve H. suggested that they be approved as a bundle. During the review, the proposed policy for “Fines for failure to appear as specified in the Meet Announcements for Age Group Champs and Senior Champs” was pulled for discussion. A motion was made and seconded to accept the other items. The bundled items passed.

Discussion ensued in the policy for “Fines for failure to appear as specified in the Meet Announcements for Age Group Champs and Senior Champs”. Kevin H. presented this item again. He raised the question “Do we need to be doing this at all?” If not, the language should not be used in meet announcements. If a penalty is applied, it needs to point back to a policy, but it would apply only if it was mentioned in the meet announcement. Mary suggested including that wording be applied to include policy for all prelim/finals meets and that it applied to any day of the meet. Terry felt this was an unnecessary complication at meets. Steve asked for input from the Age Group and Senior Chairs. Scott thought the fine was not necessary because there is already a penalty for failure to appear at finals. We don’t need to double tax the swimmer. Ted did not feel that there was a problem and that we can’t legislate for everything. Kara reported that the athletes were in favor of the fine. TJ stated that we should not have unnecessary fines. Lisa called the question. A vote was taken -- Aye = 11; No = 20. The HOD opposed the amendment. Housekeeping approved. It was sent back to the BOD for removal.

Make-A-Splash – Gordon Hair was awarded the Make-A-Splash Hero Award at the USAS Convention. Virginia ranks fourth in the United States behind California, Texas, and Florida in the number of local partners. The grant program was changed to a bridge program with Learn to Swim leading to competitive swimming. VSI awarded two grants this year. One grant went to Girls Inc. for \$2000 and one to Nova for \$2,000 which leaves \$2,000 for the granting period in April.

Air & Water Quality – Gordon stated that VSI has air and water quality safety practices. We are looking at air and water quality at our meets and practice facilities. CO2 levels are being measured at meets as well. This is a recurring problem at our facilities. Advice for improving air and water quality can be found under the “Safety” tab on the VSI website.

Unfinished Business

Zone Board of Review – Steve reported that George Homewood, Art Anthony, and Kara McHaney's names will be submitted as appointment to the Zone Board of Review. This will be a two year appointment.

Annual Awards Banquet – Lisa reported that the banquet will be held in the spring at Kings Dominion on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Everyone in the LSC will be invited. All State award recipients will receive an invitation. The cost for board members, coaches, and award recipients will be \$27.00. All others will be \$46.00 (\$33.00 + parking, without the banquet).

All State recipients must have 12 & Under AAA times in two different events. 13 & Over must have AAAA times in two events. This is for short course season only. There will also be a speaker. Coaches and teams will need to participate in registration. Kings Dominion will provide tickets.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

Lisa announced that elections will be held in the spring. The Nominating Committee will be putting out volunteer surveys soon.

TJ moved to adjourn the meeting. Terry seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Hillery, Secretary