

**Virginia Swimming, Inc.**  
**Senior Committee Meeting**  
**April 23, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Call to Order** Steve Hennessy

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

**Eastern Zone Meetings** – Steve Hennessy reported

- Cancelled EZ LC Age Group Champs and LC Senior Champs
- EZ LC Qualifying times will roll forward for 2021.
  - Qualifying period will remain January 1, 2019
- Meets for 2021 (Non-Olympic Year format)
  - SC 2020-2021 – two SC sectional meets
  - May 2021 – LC Super Sectional (CSAC in Richmond has a bid for the meet)
  - August 2021 – EZ LC Age Group Champs in Virginia

**VSI Senior Champs Review**

- **Participation** in the SC Senior Champs meet for last 5 years - Growth in number of athletes and entries as was the desired effect. Timelines were favorable allowing for more room.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Swimmers	536	540	552	589	653
Individual Entries	2364	2448	2315	2689	3125
Relay Entries	259	241	237	252	272

- **Dual courses:** Steve offered that at least two meets should happen before making a decision.
- **Bonus consequences:** The Senior Committee will review qualifying times. Drew will review times for AG Champs. USA Swimming has not yet stipulated what they will do with time standards for the new quad. Bonus swims may become more desirable. Delwyn Jones was concerned that he had Age Group athletes who could participate at Senior Champs than at AG Champs. This was driven by the bonus events.
- **Scheduled Breaks**
  - Jeff Kincaid commented about discussions about when breaks were this year. He recommends that the meet invitation include scheduled breaks.
  - Richard Hunter agrees about including scheduled breaks in the meet announcement to help with planning entries. Breaks were supposed to be taken liberally throughout the meet.
  - Mary asked why we need to flight the first four heats for seeding 400 IM and 500 Free when it was a dual course meet.
- **Options for future meets**
  - Build in breaks in the meet announcement.
  - 400 IM and 500 Free flighted heats elimination with a dual course meet.
  - Relays in the prelims – smaller teams or B/C relay would opt to swim during prelims. Including a break before the relay would fix the issue of quick turn around between relays and individual events.
  - Richard Hunter moves to include a minimum of a 10-minute scheduled break (adjusted as needed) before and after relays and not alter the meet format with what we have currently with 400 IM/500 Free. Sara Gaston agrees there should be a break. The motion to include 10 minute scheduled breaks before and after relays passes.
  - Changing to 15/16/ to 16 and Under – no discussion
  - Changing the meet entry deadline – no discussion
  - Rotation of Senior Champs order of events – Jonathan Kaplan and Richard Hunter will review and report back to the sub-committee.
  - John Poorman have both offered to work on the sub-committee

**Senior Champs Order of Events Sub-Committee: Jonathan Kaplan, John Poorman, and Richard Hunter**

- Moving SC Senior Champs to late November/early December.
  - In 2001 and 2002, Senior Champs was in December. There are now more opportunities in the spring that makes this possibly a good option.
  - Richard Hunter asked if Age Group does not mirror that schedule, then a gap would be created for that Age Group. What would happen with that group of athletes?
  - Chad offered that this idea grew from the Ohio LSC and the big focus on the high school season. Ohio holds two senior champs. He argues that moving the date of Senior Champs would still allow for teams to host a December meet, allows the LSC to provide racing opportunities for less accomplished athletes in January/February with a spring opportunity after the high school season for faster athletes.
  - Richard asked if this is a long-term solution and not if it is related to the shutdown. It would be a long-term solution.
  - Steve answered that it is in response to the log jam of meets in February and March.
  - Chad argues that now is a good time to try it since so much will be different this season anyway.
  - Jonathan commented that a March meet would provide an opportunity for non-Junior National athletes.
  - Sara Gaston is torn because of the weird time with COVID-19 because of the training schedule. She also does not want to cater to high school swimming.
  - Bob Herlinger offered that he will not prioritize for high school. He does not see any reason for changing the calendar.
  - Megan suggested we check with the athletes.
  - Ben Eichberg said it would be different for the athletes. He is indifferent to the November meet.
  - Sara Gaston suggested if there will be two meets, the March meet should be LC.
  - Richard asked if the schedule change is gearing too much towards the higher-level athlete.
  - Karen Keenan asked about a meet for the non-regional qualifiers, but too slow for Junior Nationals.
  - Norm Wright offered that Ohio's March meet is a non-championship meet but formatted as a prelims/finals meet.
  - Steve asked if there is enough interest to create a committee to develop a position and lay out the pros and cons. Chad Onken, Jeff Kincaid, and Jonathan Kaplan volunteered to be on the committee.
  - Karen Sundahl and Greg Guilden have both offered to work on the sub-committee

***Senior Champs Meet Scheduling Sub-Committee: Chad Onken, Jeff Kincaid and Jonathan Kaplan, Karen Sundahl, and Greg Guilden***

**Virginia Senior Circuit** – no discussion, but Steve offered that the circuit was an October, November, January circuit with the January meet in a Championship format. These would be smaller, more intimate meets. Steve proposes that we table the discussion. Richard Hunter, Peter Maloney, Jeff Kincaid, Morgan Cordle, and Steve Hennessy are willing to serve on a sub-committee to review a possible Senior Circuit.

***Senior Circuit Sub-Committee: Richard Hunter, Peter Maloney, Jeff Kincaid, Morgan Cordle and Steve Hennessy***

#### **Region Champs Format/Championship Progression**

- Timelines currently used have issues.
- Jonathan offered that the growth of the SRVA program have affected the timelines in the Tidewater meet. Making a Richmond meet would create more participation and allow a two-pool option. It would make for more finals' opportunities.
- Richard Hunter thinks a fourth district meet option is a more enjoyable experience for the athletes and families.
- Morgan Cordle offered that it needs to be reviewed and a holistic review of the entire LSC for these meets.
- Steve offered the simplest approach would be to have four district meets so that you do not have to pick one or two Richmond teams to travel.
- RAYS suggested changing the lineup for the meet instead of creating four districts. Additionally, they brought up removing the Richmond team from the Northern Virginia Region Champs would eliminate 50% of the swimmers from the meet.

- Chad said he would prefer to have facility set up that would be the same across the LSC.
- Megan asked to include a solution for athletes who could make it back to finals. Jeff agreed with Megan's point.
- Mary told the committee that JRSSC was at the maximum number of athletes on Saturday for fire marshal regulations in 2020.
- Ryan said there were 277 13 and over athletes in the SW region.
- Steve formed a sub-committee of Delwyn Jones, Megan Garland, Mike Salpeter and Ryan Woodruff with Ben Eichberg to discuss the Regional Champs options. Each district is represented on the committee.
- Mike Wenert offered to serve on the sub-committee

***Regional Champs Sub-Committee: Delwyn Jones, Megan Garland, Mike Salpeter, Ryan Woodruff, Ben Eichberg, and Mike Wenert***

### **Return to Play (RTP) Planning**

USA Swimming released a memo saying LSCs are not obligated to hold Championship Meets.

Should we have Senior Champs?

- Richard offered that something to look forward to is important. It may not be the same meet that we usually have.
- Jonathan agrees with Richard. Having something to look forward to keeps athletes incentivized. He also suggests that we prepare for multiple scenarios.
- Sara agrees with a shortened schedule, but says we need to announce the meet once athletes back in the water, not earlier.
- Mike Julian asks about school going back into session.
- Norm Wright asked about the 14 to 16 regional meets scheduled by USA Swimming.
- CYAC is planning an intra-squad meet once back in the water.
- Chris Bushelman suggests starting with SC in June/July.
- Jeff Kincaid suggests more inter-squad meets with no travel. We need to lower the expectations. He is also concerned with staffing issues for the public facilities.
- Ben Eichberg believes having a culminating meet is important to athletes. It is hard to work towards nothing.
- Chad says the focus should be on retaining athletes. He suggests starting off with SC and moving to LC in the new year. It aligns with elite level athletes and training for Olympic trials.
- Jonathan asked if athletes would get excited about virtual meets. Ben is indifferent.
- Sara thinks an Intra-squad would be fun.
- Mike Wenert asked about athletes without Senior Champs cuts.
- John Smithson suggest a gradual progression for athletes because they have been inactive for a while.
- Greg Guilden thinks Intra-squad meets are the most fun for athletes.
- Delwyn, Steve, Megan, Mike, Sara will all work on a sub-committee to craft draft schedules.

***Draft Schedule Sub-Committee: Delwyn Jones, Steve Hennessy, Megan Garland, Mike Salpeter and Sara Gaston***

The next Senior Committee meeting will be 1:30 PM, Thursday, May 7, 2020, in a Webinar format.

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm.

**Committee Panelists:** Steve Hennessy (Chair), Jeff Kincaid, Morgan Cordle, Chad Onken, Jonathan Kaplan, Ryan Woodruff, Megan Garland, Delwyn Jones, Peter Maloney, Richard Hunter, Sara Gaston, Ben Eichberg, Mike Salpeter (moderator)