

2020 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name:	Board of Directors	Session #:	2
Committee Chair:	Peter Guadagni		
Minutes recorded by:	Greg Danner	Date/time of meeting:	9/21/2020 8:00pm ET

Actions Taken:

1. Approved: August 17, 2020 BOD Meeting minutes, as amended.
2. Approved: Extend the recommendation made in May, through October 31 (To recommend LMSCs not sanction traditional format, in person pool meets or open water events. This does not extend to virtual or ePostal events where sanctions may be considered so long as participants are directed to follow facility, local, state and/or federal social distancing guidelines).
3. Approved: Recommended guidelines for Return to Competition, Phase 1, items 1 through 9, as presented.
4. Approved: 2021 Fees as submitted on the simplified schedule for presentation to the HOD for meetings this weekend, except for the club membership fee.
5. Approved: The club membership fee as proposed at \$60, for presentation to the HOD for meetings this weekend.

Number of committee members present: 27	Absent: 1	Guests: 68
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Peter Guadagni - President; Chris Colburn - VP of Administration; Chris Campbell - VP of Community Services; Ed Coates - VP of Local Operations; Donn Livoni - VP of Programs; Greg Danner - Secretary; Teddy Decker - Treasurer; At-Large Directors: Carrie Stolar (Breadbasket); Jeff Strahota (Colonies); Maddie Sibilica (Dixie); Dan Cox (Great Lakes); Matt Miller (Northwest); Clare Kubiak (Oceana); Diana Triana (South Central); Jill Gellatly (Southwest), Dawson Hughes - CEO; Past Presidents: Patty Miller (Immediate Past President), Nadine Day, Rob Copeland, Jeff Moxie, Jim Miller, Mel Goldstein, Tom Boak, Nancy Ridout, Mike Laux, Ted Haartz; Maria Elias-Williams - Legal Counsel.		
Not present: Past Presidents: Dan Gruender.		
Guests: See pages at end for complete list of delegates and guests.		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 pm ET.

1. Agenda review and declarations of conflict of interest (Peter): Jim noted his potential conflict of interest due to his involvement with FINA, UANA, and USA-S. Nadine noted her potential conflict of interest due to her USAS role.
2. Approval of August 17 BOD meeting minutes (Greg): **MSA for approval of August 17, 2020 BOD Meeting minutes, as amended.** Discussion: None. **The motion passed unanimously.**
3. Minute of happiness (Maria): Maria noted that the Jim Near Mile event in South Carolina raised over \$20,000 for a local food bank. The event was successful in honoring Jim's memory and celebrating the opening of a new aquatic facility.
4. CEO Update (Dawson):
 - a. Clubs: Registration will be available on October 1. For the first time, club contacts will be able to log in. The National Office plans to survey clubs to identify what is happening locally and what they might need. One example he provided is that we don't want to market membership if there isn't space to accommodate members.
 - b. Club relief funding: 17 LMSCs have approved grant programs, some of which have distributed funds already. We still have a few months left for LMSCs and clubs to apply. Dawson asked people to reach out to him or Bill Brenner if they have any questions.
 - c. Online community: A revamped online community with single sign-on capability is coming soon.
 - d. Membership: The National Office will be analyzing trends and feedback over the next several months, as it is a critical time period for club and member registration.
 - e. Questions:
 - i. Nadine inquired about the amount of money distributed so far through the club relief funding program. Dawson responded that approximately \$38,000 has been distributed, half of which came from the LMSCs.
 - ii. Tom asked if we had considered waiving club registration fees this year to encourage club renewals. Donn noted that based on the proposed fees for 2021 it doesn't appear that there will be any individual renewal discounts. Dawson indicated that both were considered but that the costs don't seem to outweigh the

benefits. Additional discussion on this topic may continue during the agenda topic on 2021 fees later in the meeting.

- f. Peter said that the budget approval will need to occur in the next 2-2.5 months so the next BOD meeting will be Monday, October 5 (taking the place of what is typically an Executive Committee meeting).
5. Expectations for COVID-19 in 2020 and beyond (Dr. Jim Miller):
 - a. Dr. Jim provided some statistics on false negatives and false positives related to anti-body testing. He noted that the high-risk categories are increased age (50+), immune compromised, and lung function compromised populations. He added that athletes training at a high level may be more susceptible due to a cardiovascular myopathy risk. The landscape is changing quickly, and recommendations can subsequently change regularly.
 - b. He mentioned that the FINA Back to the Water Guidelines released in July 2020 is a good reference document. This is available online.
 - c. Regarding 2021 concepts related to potential vaccines: he said the most important elements are whether they work (immune response and length of immunity) and are they safe (any consequences in short term and long term).
 6. Recommendations for October and future sanction policy (Chris Colburn):
 - a. **MSA to extend the recommendation made in May, through October 31 (To recommend LMSCs not sanction traditional format, in person pool meets or open water events. This does not extend to virtual or ePostal events where sanctions may be considered so long as participants are directed to follow facility, local, state and/or federal social distancing guidelines).** Discussion: None. **The motion passed unanimously.**
 - b. Recommended guidelines for Return to Competition (future sanction) were created by a subcommittee and delivered to the Board prior to the call.
 - i. Dan asked about the reasoning for having a 100-mile limit on travel. Chris Colburn said that it was intended to minimize potential issues related to travel and that the subcommittee intended to create guidelines that would fit the greatest common denominator. He added that LMSCs will need to make choices in the best interest of the members and stressed that these weren't requirements. Patty suggested that by setting a distance we are avoiding putting the onus on the meet directors to make that judgment. Jill added that the distance was arbitrary and seeks to dissuade travel for recognition purposes and improve the chances of a safe event.
 - ii. Jim suggested that the guidelines make note of the vastly different restrictions throughout the country.
 - iii. Jeff S. asked about why the word "should" was utilized in some instances instead of "shall". Chris Colburn said that guidelines using "shall" are intended to be non-negotiable.
 - iv. Carrie asked about the process of a meet host submitting safety plan. Chris Colburn responded that there are no guidelines or documents ready yet for evaluating safety plans.
 - v. Mel commented on the value of following local and state guidelines. Patty added that local and state regulations certainly override our guidelines.
 - vi. **MSA to approve recommended guidelines for Return to Competition, Phase 1, items 1 through 9, as presented.** Discussion: No additional discussion. **The motion passed.**
 - vii. Item 10 involves not counting results for Top Ten and All-American consideration. There was debate regarding both the current results seasons and future results. Chris Colburn, Point of Clarification: we have results in the Events Results Database (ERDB) for all formats this year (SCY, SCM, and LCM). Ed indicated that the Records & Tabulation Committee voted unanimously that any swim completed should be considered for recognition. The reason is that it would not be appropriate to change rules mid-season that would exclude swimmers. The committee is exploring creating criteria to evaluate future seasons for publication. Peter recognized that both sides of the argument have valid points: everyone should have an opportunity to compete, yet meet participants competed under the contract that they would be recognized. One suggestion offered to the subcommittee was that we could ask meet hosts to consider not submitting results for AA and Top Ten inclusion. Peter concluded the discussion by saying that no Board action is necessary at this time and will not be necessary unless we decide against publication of AA or Top Ten.
 7. Approve changes to Compensation & Benefits Committee Charter (Peter): The revised charter was provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. Peter provided some background on the charter and indicated that the changes will improve our ability to keep track of when committee member terms are ending. **MSA to approve revised Comp & Benefits Committee Charter as presented to the BOD.** Discussion: None (some questions were answered earlier on the forums). **The motion passed unanimously.**
 8. Approve Finance recommendation on 2021 fees for consideration by HOD (Teddy): The fees for consideration document was provided in advance of the meeting and shared on screen. Teddy asked if anyone want to pull any specific line item fees. Dan pulled the club membership fee line item. **MSA to approve 2021 fees as submitted on the simplified schedule for presentation to the HOD for meetings this weekend, except the club membership fee. The motion passed unanimously.** Dan suggested that we waive club fees since we have used minimal relief funding to date. Several Board members spoke in agreement of this idea or variations of this idea (waived only if a club renews in October), citing a few possible reasons: it

might encourage early club renewals and remove one barrier for membership renewals, that club relief funding benefits larger clubs more than small clubs, and that it is a way to give back to existing members. Teddy indicated that although we haven't utilized much of the projected funds for club relief, we won't know until the end of December what funds we will have available. Other Board members spoke in favor of the proposed club membership fee of \$60 for several reasons: for every reduction in revenue there is an offset, free registration might inadvertently prop up clubs not truly operating and cause confusion for members looking for clubs, and that if a \$60 fee is a problem for a club they should apply for relief. Along those lines, we need to encourage LMSCs to approve grant funding programs. **MSA to approve the club membership fee as proposed at \$60 for presentation to the HOD. The motion passed.**

9. Potential USA Swimming Foundation partnership (Dawson): Prior to this meeting, the Board was provided a document that detailed potential benefits of a partnership with USA Swimming Foundation. Dawson summarized this by saying that both our organizations benefit from more interest and participation in the water. This potential partnership will be explored further.
10. 2021 USAS Convention discussions (Peter/Dawson): Peter announced that USAS voted to cancel the Hyatt contract for the 2021 convention. USMS is highly interested in having an in person meeting next year, though we don't know what that would look like and whether we will have the ability to do so. Dawson mentioned that there should be a press release in 24-48 hours. Peter added that the driving force is that USAS cannot meet the minimums without USA Swimming being in attendance and it would cost more to hold the event than pay a cancellation fee. The next USAS Board meeting on October 3 will likely determine who will be responsible for paying the cancellation fee. There were no questions from the Board.
11. Officer reports (Executive Committee):
 - a. President (Peter): Added that he plans to ensure Board policies are approved on a regular cycle. Additionally, that committee chairs and committee members are aware of USMS strategy to support everyone working together. No questions.
 - b. VP Administration (Chris Colburn): Nothing to add to his report. No questions.
 - c. VP Programs (Donn): Nothing to add to his report. No questions.
 - d. VP Community Services (Chris Campbell): Recognized his committees for their efforts this year. No questions.
 - e. VP Local Operations (Ed): Nothing to add to his report. No questions.
 - f. Treasurer (Teddy): Nothing to add to her report. No questions.
 - g. Secretary (Greg): Nothing to add to his report. No questions.
 - h. Immediate Past President (Patty): Nothing to report.
12. The next EC conference call will be held on Monday, November 2 at 8:00 pm ET. The next BOD conference call will be held on Monday, October 5 at 8:00 pm ET.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 pm ET.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Danner, Secretary