

Minutes of the October 5, 2014 VSI Board of Directors Meeting

Present: Steve Hennessy, Leanne Hillery, Terry Randolph, Bryan Wallin, Mary Turner, Kevin McHaney, Art Anthony, David Strider, Kara Morgan McHaney, Ted Sallade, Jessica Simons, Lisa Liston, TJ Liston, Bill Geiszler, Steven Phillips, Gordon Hair, Bob Rustin, Kevin Hogan, Jerry Hayes, Caroline Henry, Scott Baldwin, and Stephanie Suhling

The meeting was called to order by Steve Hennessey at 8:00 AM.

Steve H. distributed copies of the VSI mission statement and read it to the group. He stated that he would read this prior to this meeting and the HOD meeting. All discussion should be based on these values.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the August 23 BOD meeting. The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurers Report - Bob Rustin presented the Treasurer's report. A motion to approve the report was moved and seconded, and the Treasurer's report was approved.

Proposed By-laws, Policy, and Procedure Changes – Kevin 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 policies for Travel Fund Criteria and Classifications, Time Standards, Entries and Penalties were pulled for discussion.

The BOD approved the other items to be presented to the HOD for approval. Lisa presented the new procedure for Swimmer Recognition at the VSI Spring Awards Banquet. Discussion ensued primarily on wording. TJ called the question. A motion was moved and seconded to accept the procedure as amended. The motion was approved. Kevin stated that the changes could be made later as housekeeping.

Lengthy discussion ensued on the Travel Fund Criteria policy primarily on the points of intent and wording. Ted suggested that Section 3 covering college swimmers a change in wording to state that a swimmer must have swum in the LSC one year prior to college in order to be eligible for reimbursement as a college swimmer. Currently, the policy does not specify a recent amount time with a VSI team. TJ questioned the specific meets that were listed as eligible for reimbursement and how they were chosen. He suggested that section should read that 1 championship meet in the fall, 1 in the spring, and Olympic Trials are eligible for reimbursement. These changes were made to the document. As a friendly amendment, Terry asked that the Senior Committee compile a list of eligible meets. Ted agreed and asked that it be published on the VSI website. TJ made a friendly amendment that Open Water Nationals be added to the list of eligible meets. Lisa called the question. A motion was moved and seconded that the policy be accepted as amended. The motion passed. This policy will go the HOD for approval.

Discussion moved on to the proposed policy on Classifications, Time Standards, Entries, and Penalties. Kevin H. explained that penalties and fees have been appearing in meet announcements, but there is no written policy to back up this practice. It needs to put into language. He asked “Do we want to do this at all?” Discussion ensued around this question and the intent of fines and penalties.

Terry did not believe that fines were necessary. They are too difficult to collect and to ascertain extenuating circumstances. Scott agreed that this practice was not necessary and asked why it was being done. Bryan stated that the intent was to have coaches officially scratch swimmers. Ted stated that the fine was developed due to college swimmers and 1-2 swimmers not returning to finals at Senior Champs. He is in favor of elimination of the fine. Lisa was in favor of the fine. There needs to be something in place that will increase responsibility. Mary suggested that this is a rare event and fines should not be imposed at lower level meets. She isn’t sure that coaches have explained this fully to parents and that they understand. TJ stated that we need to codify what we have been doing. Coaches need to explain the practice. Kevin stated that the proposal could be withdrawn, but he preferred not to do this. Let the HOD decide. However, it should be presented that the BOD disagreed on this point. It was agreed that this proposal would be passed along to the HOD.

USA Swimming Convention Report – Steve H. stated that several members of the VSI Board attended the convention in Jacksonville, FL and that their reports were sent out to BOD members. He opened the floor for questions. Being none, the reports were accepted as distributed.

Administrative Division Reports

Admin and National Times – Terry stated that she would like to see those seeking sanctions to send the request to Lisa using a template. Any requests from outside of Virginia should come directly to her. Lisa suggested that this should be written into the sanctioning process procedures. The changes could be made and sent out to the BOD for approval later.

[Lisa and Terry will make the necessary changes and submit them to the BOD for approval.]

Officials – Bryan submitted his report via email. There was no discussion.

Registration and Membership – Mary reported that she received a registration payment three months after the postmark date. She did not receive it until after the invoice was sent. She contacted the club and they sent another check. Lisa stated that a standard practice of notifying clubs when their checks are received would fix this problem. Mary continued by stating that unattaching and reattaching athletes is problematic. She thinks that 30 days is not enough time to receive and verify payments. Discussion ensued.

Steve H. clarified that large checks are not generally a problem. Issues come when clubs are registering a single swimmer or other smaller fees. He suggested recommending that clubs pay for single registrations online via PayPal. This would solve the problem of payment confirmation. A warning concerning the circumstances for unattachment should go into an email attached to the invoices. Ted added that Mary should be given the judgment to ascertain if the issue is a team problem or an

individual problem. Bill G. suggested adding wording to the effect that Mary and the General Chair can investigate the circumstances surrounding the late payment. Something like this would provide a buffer. Steve H. asked Mary if she felt this buffer would work. She did not want any exceptions. After 30 days, she would confer with the General Chair before unattaching. She would get his approval to do this. This system would provide dual confirmation. The BOD accepted this change.

Technical Planning – Lisa submitted her report via email. There was no discussion.

Club Development – Steven submitted his report via email. There was no discussion.

Safe Sport – Jerry 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.

Age Group Division Reports

Age Group Report - 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.

Disability – David submitted his report via email. There was no discussion

Senior Division Report

Senior Report – 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 athletes will discuss this during their meeting today. The general meeting of coaches and officials will be eliminated. Instead, the officials will provide a written document for the coaches' packet. 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.

Gordon voiced concern over the elimination of the general meeting. VSI has been trying to get the coaches and officials work together. The meeting is important in bringing these groups together where they can learn from each other. Bryan agreed that there is a need for a short meeting to get acquainted and introduce the meet referee. Steve H. suggested that a meeting be scheduled for Friday prior to the meet. Ted stated that the schedule could accommodate the meeting. Steve stated that a general meeting will be scheduled for Friday and it should be worked into the meet announcement.

Coach Division Report

Coaches Report – TJ reported that coach mentoring program will be self-funded by the LSC. We have currently not spent any of the money set aside for this program. It has rolled over, but we could lose it if it is not used. 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. Based on this change, there may be more travel reimbursement requests and the need for additional awards for Open Water Swimmer of the Year.

Diversity and Inclusion - Peter submitted his report via email. There was no discussion.

Athlete Division Report

Annual Awards Task Force – Lisa announced that the annual banquet will be on April 25, 2015 at King's Dominion. Discussion ensued on how the BOD and HOD meetings would be scheduled. The event will be all day on Saturday. Steve suggested the following schedule for Sunday: 8:00-12:00 for committee meetings; BOD 12:00-2:00; HOD 2:00-4:00. A question was raised concerning the need for invitations to the banquet since it would be open to everyone. Ted thought although it would be widely publicized that the event would be open to everyone, it would still be nice for the honorees to receive an invitation. Mary agreed. The details will be decided later.

Unfinished Business

2015 Eastern Zone Championship Meets – 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.

Speedo Contract – Since the August 23 BOD meeting, a lengthy discussion on this issue was held online. Most BOD members were in favor of a contract with Speedo. Bill G. submitted that we wait until after the April event to make a decision. Bob R. thought that the language within the proposed contract needed a thorough review. It needs to be rewritten to make more clear and direct statements. The rewrites need to be submitted and reviewed before signing. Steve H. agreed that it was valid to rewrite questionable language. He asked the group they wanted to get this done now or to table it and vote in April. Discussion ensued. Kevin H. said that financially we need to get it done quickly. Steven P. added that we should get it done and get what we need now. Lisa offered to use her legal expertise to get it done with Steve and Bob R.

Jessica moved to table decision until April. Discussion followed. TJ thought we needed to move forward now. David and Ted agreed. A friendly amendment was made to table the decision until the next face to face board meeting. The question was called and a vote taken on the friendly amendment to table until the next face to face board meeting.

[The vote was: Aye 7 and opposed 8. The amendment was defeated.]

TJ made a motion that the contract be ready for review at the next BOD meeting. A vote was taken. [Ayes 11 and opposed 4]. The motion passed.

Make a Splash Grants – Gordon reported that 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.

Zone Championship Meets Finances – Bill G. submitted the document as a motion. He stated that there was no need to amend the proposed document until it needed to be used. The motion carried.

Seasonal Membership – Mary stated that good input had been received from the committee meetings. She will take to the USAS Registration Committee to see if there is interest for considering a bridge payment.

Announcements

Lifetime USA Swimming Membership – Steve H. announced that Jim Frye was awarded the USAS Lifetime Membership.

Convention Credit Card – Bill G. stated that there was a problem with the limit of the credit card used to pay for convention. Currently, there is a \$5,000 limit on this card with a total for all cards being \$11,000. He would like to raise the limit to \$7,500 on Mary's card raising the overall total of all cards to \$15,000. This request was approved.

Open Water Meet – Stephanie the open water meet at Smith Mountain was held and was not sanctioned. The safety was not good. She reminded everyone not to attend non-sanctioned meets.

BOD Meeting Schedule – Steve stated that a new schedule was needed for BOD meeting.

[Steve will send out a list of proposed meetings.]

There will be a mix of face to face and teleconferences. Mary has signed up for the video conference software Zoom, so there may be video conferences as well. Discussion on this topic will be handled via email.

A motion to adjourn was moved and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Hillery, Secretary