

# Virginia Swimming Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, April 11, 2020  
10:00 am  
Zoom Video Conference Meeting

## MINUTES

### Call to Order

Bryan Wallin

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am

**LSC Communications with USAS:** On the weekly call with USAS, there was discussion about doing more locally based meets. USAS makes decisions about meets in 30-day increments with 45-day notifications. Next week, information about cancellations for May will come out. USAS may give grant money from the USA Swimming if they have not received money from their LSC, but much of their grant funding plans are in flux. USAS will handle it based on need of the club not with matching information from the LSCs.

**Website:** Mary and John spoke to different LSCs who have used Team Unify for the LSC website. Minnesota Swimming used an upgraded platform with more financial features including ACH. They report a positive experience including the upgrades on the financial side. VSI would have the same Team Unify contact that Minnesota Swimming has.

During the “honeymoon” period, data is transferred and then the LSC puts it in their usable format. The transition to a new platform is typically two months. The website would “go live” after a period of moving the pages around as requested.

Mary spoke with New England Swimming who use the original Team Unify platform. VSI would start on the upgraded version. New England Swimming is satisfied with the platform. Their experience has been very positive with responsive communication with Team Unify when issues arise. A typical response time is two hours. The familiarity of the platform for teams and coaches was a benefit of using the platform. Chad recommended having the point of contact with Team Unify available with the LSC.

The board approved shifting the website to the Team Unify platform.

**Grant Relief for Clubs:** The finance committee submitted a grant proposal to the board for consideration.

1. Offer grants to VS registered clubs and satellites that meet the following criteria: (a) are not affiliated with a school, college or university and (b) no more than 50% of the athletes are professional athletes.
2. Grants are to be calculated according to the following funding formula: \$500 for each club plus \$2 for each athlete registered with the club on March 31, 2020.
3. A club must submit an application before May 1, 2020 to receive a grant. If not already a Safe Sport Recognized Club, the club must also commit to completing the application process for that program prior to May 1, 2021.

Bill indicated that there are 44 eligible clubs and satellites with approximately 6940 athletes. He also stated that a second phase of grants is being considered for the future.

John asked if there was a discussion to show financial need. If a second phase is done, then a need-based stipulation is a possibility, but it is not necessary yet.

Grant funds should go to the club not necessarily the larger organization with which the club is affiliated (Ex. school or YMCA.) Discussion about the definition of a school club ensued. A school program is one where its club members are exclusively students at the school. Mary suggested that we change the wording on professional athletes could change to require a percentage of 18 and under athletes. VSI has two clubs whose purpose is for professional athletes. Chad suggested “clubs not solely serving professional, university or boarding school athletes.”

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Mike asked if including the safe sport requirement means we are missing the goal of the grant. The goal of the grant is to provide solvency for the clubs. One reason to encourage safe sport is because people are at home with time to complete. TIDE tried this approach and it did not go well. For future funding, add in the safe sport certification. Maureen reported Safe Sport will become a requirement eventually.

## **Friendly Amendments to the Grant Proposal:**

- Change the statement in part 1 of the grant proposal to read “clubs not solely serving professional, university, or boarding schools” after the word “criteria.” Approved by the board.  
*Offer grants to VS registered clubs and satellites that meet the following criteria: ~~(a) are not affiliated with a school, college or university and (b) no more than 50% of the athletes are professional athletes.~~ **clubs not solely serving professional, university, or boarding schools.***
- Remove the safe sport sentence in part 3 of the proposal. Approved by the board.  
*A club must submit an application before May 1, 2020 to receive a grant. ~~If not already a Safe Sport Recognized Club, the club must also commit to completing the application process for that program prior to May 1, 2021.~~*
- Chad proposed to add a third friendly amendment that if a club wants to become safe sport certified or is already Safe Sport certified by September 1, 2020 would receive an additional amount of money (\$500 was proposed).

Bill did not accept the third friendly amendment. He would like to take it to the finance committee and study it with a decision by May 1.

Chad withdrew amendment #3 and asked that the board revisit by May 1.

The Board approved the changes as outlined above to parts 1 and 3 of the original proposal.

## **Other Questions:**

- No tax implications as grants are capped at \$5000.
- The LSC will not ask how the club will use the money.
- Clubs must fill out the application and complete the club survey sent out by the LSC in March.

## **New Business**

**Coaches Meeting:** Morgan and Mike hosted a Coaches meeting on Friday, April 10. There were 89 coaches on the call. Tom Avischious and Scott Colby from USA Swimming were also on the call and would like to be included on future calls. No discussion about how to the end the season. The decision was made to wait until more information about when we can get going. Mary has received information about virtual meets put together by the Times committee. The current goal is to work with the clubs to make sure they stay afloat and solvent.

**Next meeting:** There will be a meeting on Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.

Attendees: Drew Hirth, John Stanley, Dave Henderson, Bryan Wallin, Chad Onken, Morgan Cordle, Maureen Tolliver, Emily Fagan, Bill Geiszler, Mike Salpeter, Steve Hennessey, Bob Rustin, Mary Turner, Maddie Wallin, Jenni Ryniewitz, Jack McCann, Logan Euker