



2021 House of Delegates Meeting
Saturday, October 9, 2021 – via Zoom
Approved 10/8/22

Call to order – Chris Kjeldsen 9:03 am

Roll Call – Mindy Donofrio

The following teams were not present for the HOD meeting. As per South Texas Swimming Policies and Procedures, these teams may not host a sanctioned or approved meet until the 2022 House of Delegates meeting: ATLS, CLAN, CLUB, FHD, GLAA, HOT, LIFE, MMA, PRGN, RUSH, SAS, WHAC.

Adoption of 2020 Minutes – Mindy Donofrio

Jessica Evans moved that the minutes from the 2020 HOD meeting be adopted as presented on the website. Motion **PASSED**.

Reports of Officers

Chris Kjeldsen – General Chair

Chris thanked Jessica for updating the Policy and Procedures and the Bylaws. USAS has mandated a new financial audit for LSCs. South Texas is financially sound and is trying to move from reactive to proactive.

Mary Evelyn Bowling – Safe Sport Chair

South Texas has 22 teams that have become Safe Sport recognized. Safe Sport recognition will be required for all teams by the end of 2021. Mary Evelyn is contacting teams to help them complete this requirement.

Mindy Donofrio – Secretary/Membership/Sanction Chair

In 2021, there were a total of 46 clubs and 7,106 members (5438 year around athletes, 1050 Flex athletes, 81 Seasonal athletes, 299 coach non-athlete members, 217 official non-athlete members, and 46 other non-athlete members). Registration for the 2021 membership year began early, on June 1, 2020. USA Swimming is planning on conducting online registration for all members for the 2023 season.

As of October 1, 2021, there were 108 sanctioned meets for 2021.

Thomas Wu and Harold Christiansen – Athlete representatives

A new athlete committee is being formed. Athletes should contact their athlete reps if they would like to join. Harold will be sending a survey to all athletes to see what they would like to see within South Texas.

Tim Byerly – Governance

The Governance Committee has completed a board manual and board orientation for all new board members. The new board orientation will be conducted on October 10th, 2021. Mentors will be assigned to all new board members. The committee is putting together a four-year strategic plan. LEAP was completed in July.

Bill Surgeon – Age Group Chair

The open water zones team had a top five finish. The Zones team also had a top five finish and had two athletes receive high point for their age groups. South Texas received the Spirit Award at the meet.

Aubrey Knapper – TAGS committee

Short Course TAGS will be in Justin, TX and Long Course TAGS will be in Arlington Texas. The time standards were adjusted and slowed down for the 10 and under and 11/12 year-old age groups. The time standards remained the same for the 13/14-year-old age group. The new standards are published.

Schedule of Bid Meets

Jessica Evans

SC B champs – January 8-9, 2022; AAAA at San Antonio Natatorium

SC STX Champs South – February 11-13, 2022; ASC

SC STX Champs North – February 11-13, 2022; PLAT/AQTX in Temple

SC STAGS – February 24-27, 2022; TXLA

LC STAGS – July 14-17, 2022 – AAAA at Bill Walker Natatorium

LC STX Champs N/S combined– July 8-10, 2022 – CCLR

Treasurer Report

Marc Digby

Marc presented the budget report for 2021; South Texas is financially sound and is projected to operate within the BOD's amended budget. The BOD has instituted multiple points of oversight to ensure accuracy and transparency for the LSC's finances.

Key Items:

- Zones Team Stay at \$500 co-pay (50 athletes)
- Open Water Zones Stay at \$400 co-pay (32 athletes)
- Open water Festival stay at \$400 co-pay (32 athletes)
- Texas Select Camp stay at \$150 co-pay (32 athletes)

National meets eligible for support will include:

- Phillips 66 National Champs, Speedo Winter Junior National Champs, speedo Junior National Champs, 18&U Spring Cup, TYP Pro Swim Series, Toyota US Open, Open Water National Champs, US Para Swimming National Champs, Futures, NCSA Spring and Summer Champs
- When one of the above-listed meets is conducted at multiple sites, STSI will only support the site that is most geographically/financially practical for STSI members.

Marc moved to approve the 2022 budget as proposed, including the key items listed above. Motion

PASSED

ST Swimming Board of Directors Elections

Members of the Governance Committee, which also serves as the STS Nominating Committee, considered prospective candidates for open positions and voted on the slate of candidates. Each nominee

on the slate has been advised of the responsibilities for the position, the requirements of STS and USA Swimming, and has been given the Board of Directors handbook. Each nominee has agreed to take the required USAS course for new board members and sign a conflict of interest statement for STS. The nominees have also agreed to attend the monthly board of directors meetings and to complete their duties to the best of their abilities. The election was done electronically and monitored by Mark Parshall and Mindy Donofrio

Admin Vice Chair: Deanna Oliphant, SRG

Finance Vice Chair (1 year term, to fill vacancy): Alek Orloff, ASC

Senior Vice Chair: Monica Thomason, WLOO **elected**

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Chair (new BOD position, pending approval of the HOD): Jen Gil-Smetana, WAVE

Junior Coach Representative: Hector Becerra, MSC

Two athlete representatives were nominated by the South Texas Swimming athletes to fill two open positions. As no election was necessary, they will assume their duties effective 10/9/21.

Junior Athlete Representative: Kevin Cai, AAAA-NE

Athlete At-Large Representative: Landon Alarcon, NTRO

Other Nominations:

Admin Board of Review:

Non-athlete member (2 positions): Tim Broughton, WAVE and Steve Mandacina, AAAA

Athlete member (1 position): Liliana Gamiz, AAAA-AH

Athlete member, alternate (1 position): Jasmine Park, NTRO

Old Business

DEI discussion – see proposal #2

Audit – Marc Digby

Per mandate from USA swimming, the LSC paid for a professional outside review of the 2020 books and practices. There were no adverse findings.

New Business

Proposed Legislation

Legislative Proposal #1

Policies and Procedures: Voting procedure

Sponsor: JASON SCHMELTZER

Proposal: Votes at the annual meeting should be determined by each club in good standings having 1 non-athlete representative of the team and 1 athlete vote.

Rationale: Each team should have an impact on the leadership of our LSC not by the size of the organization. Our smaller teams who in most cases are underrepresented in decision making will have a

voice in who leads South Texas Swimming going forward. Our athletes can then be contributors and see more impact on South Texas Swimming from all levels.

Motion made by Jason Schmeltzer. A clarification was made that the athlete must be attached to the team to vote. Motion to call the question by Bill Spurgeon. Motion to call the question passes by 2/3 vote. **Motion failed.**

Legislative Proposal #2

South Texas Swimming Bylaws

Sponsor: Jessica Evans

Proposal: To change the current Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Chair position to a voting member of the Board of Directors, effective 10/9/21. The initial term for this position will be two years. Going forward, the position will be elected in odd-numbered years.

Rationale: USA Swimming has recommended adding the DEI Chair to the BODs of its LSCs, and at least 38 LSCs have already made this change. This recommendation will be a requirement for all LSCs, starting in January 2023.

Motion made by Jessica Evans. **Motion passed.**

Legislative Proposal #3

South Texas Swimming Policies & Procedures

Sponsor: Jessica Evans

Proposal: To adopt the USA Swimming 12&under “Development Competition Program” as passed at the 2021 USAS HOD meeting, to start on or after 5/1/2022, to provide teams with the flexibility to offer these types of competitions, as desired.

(Excerpts below from the USA Swimming HOD amendments, prior to passage)

(R-13) 205.11 DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION PROGRAM

- .1 Development competitions are limited to athletes ages 12 and under offering events listed in 102.1.3.
- .2 The Development competition season shall be defined by three, ten-week seasons with dates defined by the Age Group Development Committee not later than February 15 annually.
- .3 Athletes shall be limited to participating in four Development competitions per season.
- .4 Development competitions may operate as multi-day, multi-session meets. Sessions shall be planned to allow the events not to exceed two hours in length. Athletes shall only participate in one session per sanctioned competition.

.5 Member clubs hosting Development competitions shall not be charged sanction fees of more than \$50 per 10-week season. Development competitions shall not be subject to splash fees, surcharges or other fees by the LSC.

(R-7) 102.10 OFFICIALS

.1-.3 [no changes]

.4 Minimum Number of Officials Required for Development, Dual and Intra-Squad Meets

- 1 Referee, who may also act as a stroke and turn judge
- 1 Starter Proposed Amendments to Rules & Regulations September 2021 4
- 1 Other Stroke and Turn Judge (may be the Starter)
- 1 Announcer
- 3 Timers per lane (one minimum if automatic timing equipment with touchpads is used)
- 1 Administrative Official
- 1 Place Judge
- Relay Take-off Judges (if applicable)
- Timing Equipment Operators (as needed)
- Marshal(s) (number determined by the LSC)

Rationale: USA Swimming has adopted this program as a way of expanding competitive opportunities for younger athletes and smaller clubs. The individual LSCs have the option of opting “in” or “out” of this program. Many of our clubs are already offering similar opportunities to their athletes. Adopting this program will give these clubs some additional help with regard to the cost of these meets, a mandate for a shorter timeline, and the need for fewer officials to qualify for a sanction. Updates in the SWIMS database should allow for these meets to be tracked as they are limited by season for each individual update.

Motion made by Jessica Evans. There was a clarification that clubs are not required to follow this format and may continue hosting meets using a similar or equivalent meet format, per current rules. Additional information about this program may be forthcoming from USA Swimming, in terms of tracking athletes who participate via SWIMS. **Motion passed.**

Legislative Proposal #4

South Texas Swimming Policies & Procedures

Sponsor: Jessica Evans

Proposal: To update the STAGS meet information template to allow STS athletes with disabilities and current qualifying LSC Para Motivational time standards to compete at the STAGS meet, regardless of age. Athletes older than 18 years old as of the meet state date would be limited to swimming individual events in prelims sessions only. When competing in timed finals events, they would be marked as “exhibition” so as not score.

Rationale: The opportunity for STS athletes with disabilities to compete should not be limited by age.

Motion made by Jessica Evans. **Motion passed.**

Legislative Proposal #5

South Texas Swimming Policies & Procedures

Sponsor: Mark Parshall

Proposal: Use the USA Motivational dual age group time standards for our meets. B for B Champs, BB for STX, A and faster for STAGS. The Championship Meet Committee shall decide what the time standards will be used for the STX Champs meet (B, BB, or B/BB).

Rationale: Set by the national body, good for 4 years, and easy for swimmers, parents, and coaches to set as achievements. We know the standards well in advance.

Scott Brown made a suggestion to use BB time standards for events 200+ meters for the LCM meet. The goal was to ensure that B swimmers have a championship meet in the summer, and not to eliminate opportunities for B swimmers to compete at a championship meet in the summer.

Motion made by Mark Parshall. **Motion passed.**

Legislative Proposal #6

South Texas Swimming Policies & Procedures

Sponsor: Mark Parshall

Proposal: Allow the Championship meet committee to recommend potential championship meet dates at least 1 week prior to the HOD meeting and notify the LSC at least one week prior to the HOD meeting. If no facility is available, and no one bids on meets at the HOD meeting, then alternate dates can be discussed at the HOD.

Rationale: Will allow hosts to properly bid for meets.

Mark Parshall amended the motion to recommend potential dates. Jason Schmeltzer amended the motion to add a requirement for notification. **Amendment passed. Motion passed.**

Legislative Proposal #7

South Texas Swimming Policies & Procedures

Sponsor: Mindy Donofrio/Jessica Evans

Proposal: To update the South Texas Swimming championship meet templates to follow USA Swimming scratch rules in finals for championship meets, per rule 207.11.6.D, and excerpted below.

D Scratching from finals:

(1) Any swimmer qualifying for a bonus, consolation or championship final in an individual event who fails to compete in said final shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet,

except as noted in paragraph E. A declared false start under 101.1.3E or deliberate delay of meet under 101.1.5 is not permitted and will be regarded as a failure to compete.

Rationale: The STS rules for scratches at championship meets are different from other meets that athletes may attend elsewhere. Our current rules rely on fines, which are payable to the meet host, for no-shows in positive check-in and finals events, and tend to penalize athletes who get “scratched into finals.” By following the scratch rules for USA Swimming, we will teach our swimmers the rules that they will encounter at other meets they attend, so they learn to do it right. The current scratch rules are also administratively difficult, and the fines have generally been inconsistently collected by hosting clubs; have caused friction between clubs, officials, coaches, and parents on whose fault it is for the swimmer’s failure to compete; and have unduly penalized swimmers who were scratched into finals.

Motion to amend to specify 207.11.6.D by Marc Digby passes. Motion to amend that this applies only in finals by Mindy Donofrio passed. **Motion passed.**

Coach of the year awards:

- Large team, age group coach: Allison Brol-NTRO
- Large team, senior coach: Roric Fink-ASC
- Small team, age group coach: Marcy Parshall-AQTX
- Small team, senior group coach, Aubrey Knapper-GOLD

Lifetime membership - award presented to Tim Byerly.

The next HOD meeting is Saturday, October 8, 2022 in San Antonio. The planning meeting will begin at 8am and the general meeting will begin at 9am.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion **PASSED**

Meeting adjourned at 2:06pm.