



South Texas Swimming

Board of Directors: Agenda

Meeting Date: **January 9, 2024** 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

-
- **Welcome & Roll Call: (8:00pm)**
 - **South Texas Swimming Mission: (8:05 pm) [Why are you here ?](#)**
To empower all athletes to be successful in life by providing resources, equal opportunity, and organizational excellence.
 - **Creating a Culture of Excellence (8:10 pm)**
 - **Additions to Agenda:**
 - **Approval of Minutes: December 2023**
 - **Financial Report Presentation (8:15pm)**
 - **Board and Committee Chair Reports (8:20 pm)**
 - **Committee Updates (8:25 pm)**
 - **Operational Risk**
 - **DEI**
 - **Personnel**
 - **Governance**
 - **Budget Overage for Southern Zones Membership Dues (8:30 pm)**
 - **Policy update for Open Water Zones (see attached) (8:35 pm)**
 - **Status update teams wanting to align with Gulf Swimming (8:40 pm)**
 - **February Agenda Items (8:55 pm)**
 - **Adjourn (9:00 pm)**

Board of Directors Meeting Proposal

Proposed legislation must be submitted on this form and should be submitted prior to the mailing of the Board of Directors Agenda to the member clubs.

Date Submitted: Jan 1, 2024

Date of Board Meeting to be Discussed: Jan 9, 2024

Name of Policy: *STSI Open Water Team*

Current Policy:

XIV. STSI Open Water Team

A. STSI will sponsor an Open Water Team with up to 32 STSI athletes to attend the Open Water Festival and Open Water Zones. The cost for athletes will be a flat rate per athlete, as determined by the HoD or BoD, based on the location of the meet. Up to 32 athletes in the distance events for each age group and gender will be selected from those who applied.

Description of Issue: The Southern Zone has approved 6 athletes per gender/age group for Open Water Zones (much like Age Group Zones). South Texas Policy and Procedures still states only 32 athletes allowed although it was discussed some time ago and approved that we allow 48 athletes to attend Open Water Zones. Over the years we have generated more and more interest in Open Water Swimming and we have a large number of applicants each year. I would like to update our current policy regarding number of athletes allowed to attend Open Water Zones to be in line with Age Group Zones and with what the Southern Zone has allowed.

Financial Impact: The budget was approved for 40 athletes with an increase of expenses due to inflation. The possible budget impact could be \$1500 more than budgeted based on 2023 price per athlete.

Proposed Policy Change:

XIV. STSI Open Water Team

A. STSI will sponsor an Open Water Team ~~to 32 STSI athletes~~ to attend ~~Open Water Festival and~~ **Southern Zone** Open Water Zone Championships. **The selected team will number no more than the maximum allowed athletes at the meet.** The cost for athletes will be a flat rate per athlete, as determined by the HoD or BoD, based on the location of the meet. ~~Up to 32 athletes in~~ **Athlete selection will be based on** the distance events for each age group and gender ~~will be selected from~~ **of** those who applied.

Proposed by: Tracey Spurgeon

Position: STX Open Water Chair

December 3, 2024
South Texas Swimming
Coach Discussions

Background

The General Chair has received 3 letters in the last month from teams wishing to align with the Gulf LSC. After conversations with the teams and USAS Team Services, Coach Board Members, Marcy Parshall and John Dalton were asked to converse with the 3 teams to learn more about their desires to align with Gulf. Below are the summaries of the discussions.

Discussion notes with TST

- Geographically aligned with more Gulf meets, as STX continues to host championship meets further South

Discussion notes with AQST

- Difficulty in attending local meets
- Losing swimmers due to the inability to attend local meets
- Meet calendar not being set up early enough in the season
- LSC not supporting championship meets to the BEST of their capabilities
 - Location/host support
 - Goody bags/recognition/awards

Discussion notes with PLAT

- Was unable to meet with a coach from PLAT, shared concerns via email

Shared discussion notes from both TST and AQST

- Lack of athlete camps/clinics in STX
- Championship meet structure not conducive to beginner level athletes, or high level athletes
 - Gulf offers championship meets for ALL abilities, engaging athletes at the beginning stages of club swimming, to be included.
 - Gulf hosts championship meets in December, providing more time for athletes to prepare for higher level meets in February-March without overloading their competition schedule with back to back meets
- Voting distribution amongst teams at HOD being in favor of large teams
 - We are one of two LSC's in the nation that votes the way we do
 - Majority of the teams in the LSC are small or mid-sized teams, who are heavily impacted by decisions being made through votes, with a lack of representation.