Mission Statement: To empower all athletes to be successful in life by providing resources, equal opportunity, and organizational excellence.

ST Special House of Delegates
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 21, 2024, 8:00 PM
Location: Zoom

Call to order at 8:00 p.m.
Quorum is verified.

Purpose of Meeting: Mary Evelyn Bowling-Amend 4.1.1 of the Bylaws as it relates to House of Delegate voting. To amend the Bylaws, it does require a 2/3 majority vote. To amend the main motion, it requires a 50% majority vote.

Meeting Procedures: Parliamentarian, Patrick Hunter (PH)

- There is a submitted main motion. When it is opened for debate, if anyone wants to amend the main motion, an amendment to the main motion will be opened for debate and then it will require a 50% vote to amend or defeat the amendment to the main motion. The floor then will be reopened to continue discussion on the main motion with the possible amendment, if the amendment was passed. Ultimately the main motion must pass by 2/3 majority.
- If you would like to speak, please use the hand raise feature. Preference will be given to voting delegates of the House. If you are an attending member, please note in the chat and we will get to you as time allows.
- We will start with a hand raise vote feature. If it is obvious, I will call it. If the hand vote is not obvious then a Google Form will be emailed to you based on the registered email for the meeting.

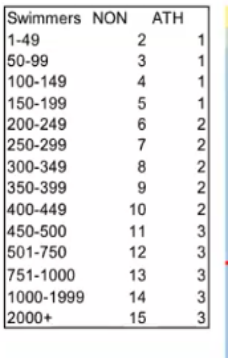
Main Motion: Submitted by Mike Worley (MW). BJ Allenstein (BA) second. **Passed**

- Mike Varozza (MV)-Clarification that this motion puts us back to what we thought we had when we changed the bylaws and policies and procedures a couple years ago.
    - MW that is correct

- BA-**Motion to amend chart to read "Registered, Premium, Outreach and Flex Athletes as of August 31".** Madison Donofrio (MD) second. **Passed**
    - Discussion offered. Seeing none.
- Annette Duvall (AD)-Clarification that if we pass this as is USA Swimming will not approve
    - MW that is my understanding
    - Derek Paul (DP), Rules Chair USA Swimming, want to clarify the process. After the HoD approves a change to the bylaws, they are submitted to Rules and Regs to review the changes to the bylaws. There are 2 parts that are specifically important. One, weighted voting has different meanings, but voting based on proportion of athletes or number of athletes proportion share to a team is something that is anticipated by the LSC model bylaws. This is addressed in footnote 5 of the model bylaws. That is not exactly what you guys are trying to do. My understanding is that you are trying to have one person vote all of those votes. There are other parts of the bylaws that specifically say you can not vote by proxy or double vote. An example, my organization has 20 votes, and I am the only person that shows up for my organization. It would be considered double voting or voting by proxy if I were to vote all 20 of those votes. What is proposed here is something that is not anticipated by the footnote. So, when the Rules and Regs secretary would receive this and it is not something that is anticipated by footnote 5, it would then kick it up to the Rules and Regs Committee to review. What I have stated is that I don't know if an unanticipated change would pass the full Rules and Regs Committee. If Rules and Regs came back that it is not accepting this change from the model bylaws. You guys will still be at 1 Group Member =1 vote until you can do this process again.
- MV at what point would USA Swimming give us the legal language that we're looking for and we thought we had passed, if this is denied?
    - DP there are 2 other LSC's that have language with the anticipated variance. But we'd be more than happy to help you guys write something that works. The items that put this out of variance is that you have 1 person doing all the voting which is by proxy or double voting. If you were to pass something tonight that has "weighted voting" but include that people were not going to double vote or vote by proxy that is an anticipated variance. But if you include that 1 person votes for 20 people that is a non-standard variance that will get kicked up the full Rules and Regs Committee. Rules and Regs would have to make a determination whether or not it would be ok to violate the no proxy and no double votes.
- Bill Spurgeon (BS)-When we voted in the weighted voting, it was a way for the teams with the larger population of athletes in the LSC to have voice when it came to certain things in the LSC. I understand the comment of not voting by proxy. I would need to bring let's say 8 members in good standing to vote.

- DP-for example, so I have a formula. An organization has 50 athletes, and you get 5 votes. 5 people show up so they all vote. This is anticipated in footnote 5
- BS I just want to make sure that if I have a site that wants to vote one way and another site that wants to vote another way that they will be able to vote and have a voice.
- DP-Yes, as long as they are present, they can vote. They can't send a letter in that says I want to vote this way and they can't have somebody vote for them.

- Lorna Anaya (LA)-can we discuss other options
- Anne Bennett- (AB)**Motion to replace chart in the main motion with the chart below.** Aubrey Knapper second. **Passed**



Swimmers	NON	ATH
1-49	2	1
50-99	3	1
100-149	4	1
150-199	5	1
200-249	6	2
250-299	7	2
300-349	8	2
350-399	9	2
400-449	10	2
450-500	11	3
501-750	12	3
751-1000	13	3
1000-1999	14	3
2000+	15	3

- Jennie Lou Leader (JLL)-Clarification that the white chart is what is being proposed as an amendment.
  - PH-Yes, that's correct
- JLL-Where do the board votes fall on this? Are there any implications for the board votes?
  - Monica Thomason-The board members would still get there one vote. This is purely for the Group Member votes.
- LA-I still think we need to add in-person/teleconference person to account for each vote.
  - PH-point of order this can be added as an additional amendment after this motion is completed and either passes or fails.
- BJ-Does this calculation match up with the 20% policy USA Swimming has?
  - PH-in doing the math I see that 56 athletes of the total 239 is roughly 23%.
- MD-In the proposed chart it seems that some teams that represent .2% of the LSC are getting an athlete vote. This is 6 times their representation in the LSC in voting power. I feel that is pretty high. We want to make sure that the athletes of the big teams are being properly represented.
  - BS-I'm not opposed to reevaluating our weighted system. The weighting needs to be equal.

- MD-It was mentioned that this is based off of the Georgia LSC, if we could look at maybe readjusting the athletes vote to make it proportional to fit our LSC.
    - MT-This was adjusted. Georgia's only went to around 500 athletes. An extra tier was added. There are 2 goals in mind here. One goal was to make the smaller teams feel like they had a voice. There is a big contingency of the smaller teams that feel that they don't have a voice. The other was to take something that was already passed by USA Swimming.
- Marcy Parshall (MP)-It was my understanding that we were here tonight to amend the bylaws to follow what we already voted on to be in place. While it's nice to talk about adjusting a weighted scale. I think that's a meeting to have at the actual HoD. I thought this was pretty cut and dry. Everybody understands that we intended for us to have a singular place vote that was weighted, and we are here tonight simply to add that back into our bylaws the way it was intended to be.
    - AD-The problem is we voted in these bylaws without any discussion at all at the HoD. This will not pass USA Swimming, so we need to come up with something. I personally feel one team=one vote is perfectly fine, but I know a lot of you want more weighted. Let's compromise on something.
    - MP-So, who's our USAS voting rep who is going to tell us the language we need to get this done.
    - AD-That's what the compromise method is. Georgia has been approved. USAS if we follow something that has already been approved then it should pass. That's what this compromised method is. It has been resized to match our numbers.
- BA-I don't think the issue is the chart. It's the wording that is in contradiction with the proxy and double voting that is the issue.
    - DP-Footnote 5 says that you may vary the number of representatives accorded to Group Members. This is an anticipated variance. If this comes to us then our job is to determine if this is within the anticipated variance that footnote 5 allows.
- BA-So if a team doesn't send the number of people required for their vote than those votes just don't happen, correct?
    - DP-Correct they are just dead votes.
- Mike Koebler (MK)-I am not going to bring 37 or 46 people to vote. At HoD I don't want to put my athletes on the road to sit in a room to listen to adults argue, I don't think the athletes belong in these meetings.
- AD-If we keep the P&P method it will skew to the San Antonio teams since we have to have people there in person. It will be hard for the out-of-town teams to get the large number of delegates there with the current P & P method.
- MK-37 non-athletes, that would be officials and coaches. I don't even have that many officials and coaches to make up 37 votes.

        - BA-You could have adult members register as USA Swimming members.
    - AB-Didn't we say that we could host a hybrid meeting so that we didn't have athletes and others traveling and they could participate through some sort of technological means, that would help the out-of-town teams.
        - PH-The bylaws to provide for that but ultimately, it's up to the board and the house to determine when and how you have your meetings.
        - DP-While this may seem redundant, the people that are in person would still have to work thought the system such as Loomie in order for there to be consistency for all participants that are either in person or virtually.
    - MP-Clarification-Derek you are telling us that there is no language that we could use that would allow a coach to vote for their weighted percentage of their team.
        - DP-You can but you run the risk of it being rejected by the Rules and Regs Committee. I have no idea what the committee would decide. Our next meeting is May 28th. That's when we would have this conversation. Again, I don't know what the committee would say but you would also have to amend language that talks about double voting and proxy voting.
    - BA- Call the question.
- AB-**Motion to make the following changes to the main motion**. BA second. **Passed**

4.1.1 GROUP MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES - Each Group Member in good standing shall appoint from its membership a Group Member Representatives and one or more alternates for each in accordance with the formula outlined below. The appointment shall be in writing, addressed to the Secretary of STSI and duly certified by the chief executive officer or secretary of the appointing Group Member. The appointing Group Member may withdraw one or more of its Group Member Representatives or one or more of its alternates and substitute new Group Member Representatives or new alternates by written notice, addressed to the Secretary of STSI and signed by the chief executive officer or secretary of the appointing Group Member. The representatives of any Group Member are required to be Individual Members of USA Swimming.

Group members shall appoint Group Member Representatives and athlete group member representatives to the House of Delegates in accordance with the following registered swimmer formula:

    - Discussion offered. Seeing none.

- BA- **Motion to add "and/or Group Member Representative" to 4.3**. MD second. **Passed.**

4.3 DOUBLE VOTE PROHIBITED - An Individual Member and/or Group Member Representative entitled to vote in House of Delegates meetings may only have one vote regardless of the number of positions held by such member.

- BA-Clarification that a board member cannot vote as a board member and as their team member.
  - PH-Correct
- Discussion offered. Seeing none.

- MK-The burden for teams to have to provide the number of voting delegates to show up whether in person or via video is great. You are shutting down your club for a weekend to get this done.
- PH-calls for a hand raise vote
  - PH-vote is to close and doesn't feel comfortable. We will be going to an email vote. A Google Form will be emailed to the email address you used to register for this meeting.
- 69% yes and 31% no
- BJ-**Motion to destroy/delete the ballots**. AD-second. **Passed**

Adjourn: BA-motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 PM