



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 28, 2024, 8:00 PM
Location: Zoom***

Call to order at 8:01 p.m.

Quorum verified.

Purpose of Meeting: Mary Evelyn Bowling (MEB)-Approve the release of Platinum Aquatics from South Texas Swimming. Approve the release of Tigershark Swim Team from South Texas Swimming. Approve changing the South Texas boundaries to remove Bell and Milam counties and transfer both to Gulf.

Meeting Procedures: Parliamentarian, Patrick Hunter (PH)

- There is submitted main motions. The floor will be then opened for debate. 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.

Approve the release of Platinum Aquatics from South Texas Swimming: Submitted by Greg Spano (GS). Mary Spano (MS) second. Failed

- Bill Spurgeon (BS)-What specifically is South Texas not doing as an LSC to not take care of your needs as a club that we cannot change to get you to stay?
 - GS-I don't feel the LSC, currently, offers the opportunity for the level of swimmers we have in our program.
- BS-Are there no other clubs in our LSC in the same position as you?
 - GS-I'm not worried about other clubs. I'm worried about our club and our swimmers.

- 40 • Mark Parshall (MP)-I don't understand how you say we don't offer meets for
41 your level. We host 1-2 meets per month, you're 45 minutes away. UT host at
42 least 1 unclassified meet per month. This is half an hour away. Lonestar host
43 unclassified meets. Sailfish host unclassified meets. There are a lot of
44 people that host meets that are unclassified for all levels of swimmers. Gold
45 host meets. All of these are within 45 minutes of you that have unclassified
46 all level meets.
 - 47 ○ Mary Spano (MS)-Mark this has never been about the in season
48 meets. It has strictly been about the Championship Meets format.
49 There is no championship meet for the B and under swimmers. We are
50 a developmental team. Our area has no summer league, learn to
51 swim programming to have as a feeder program into ours. We are
52 underserving our swimmers since there is no championship level
53 meet for these swimmers.
 - 54 ■ MP-I can argue that we probably shouldn't have a
55 championship meet for someone that doesn't have at least a B
56 cut. We have discussed this several times.
 - 57 • MS-And we disagree with that. This is why we are asking
58 to be released.
- 59 • GS-Mark, I have discussed with you and several other coaches in the LSC. At
60 one time the LSC did have a Technical Planning Committee. You did have
61 opportunities for B and under swimmers. So, where we are at now is that we
62 don't have a championship meet that encompasses an opportunity for our
63 kids to have an end of season championship meet. We had an athlete last
64 summer that had 2 cuts that had to travel and get a hotel so that they could
65 only swim 2 events. It's just not cost efficient to send someone to a meet to
66 swim 2 events. He had times for other events, they just weren't the cut to
67 qualify for the meet.
 - 68 ○ BS- You have athletes on all levels from Futures, down to STAGS that
69 only have 1 or 2 cuts, they may have to travel, and have other
70 expenses. That's not just a South Texas issue that's all levels of USA
71 Swimming. We used to do C champs, and no one would go. Hosts
72 were losing money by hosting these meets so we stopped doing them.
- 73 • Madison Donofrio (MD)-I am an athlete serving on the Championship Meet
74 Committee. Recently there has been discussion about changing the format
75 to include more athletes. I don't remember off the top of my head, but have
76 you all been part of that discussion with us or given us feedback?
 - 77 ○ MS-We haven't been invited.
- 78 • BJ Allenstein (BA)-The Championship Meet Committee is open to anyone and
79 has a standing invite to all. It is posted on the South Texas website.
- 80 • MD-Also, I don't know if I'm misremembering but didn't, we send out
81 questionnaires about the championship meets?
 - 82 ○ BA-We did last short course and long course seasons. But we have
83 had conversations on deck. As a committee we are discussing other
84 things. But when nobody shows up to talk about it, it's kind of hard to
85 have those conversations.

- 86 • Doug Ellett (DE)-I know it wasn't too long ago we were having conversations
87 about people not wanting to travel to STAGS for 1 or 2 events because it's too
88 far away. So, I don't know what level swimmer we send to travel. I do know
89 recently that there were several teams that did not send a full complement of
90 swimmers to the meet because of all the travel.
- 91 • MP-We used to have to go down to Brownsville many years ago and that
92 stopped happening because of what the sentiment is now. We had to travel 5
93 hours this year. This is the first time in probably 12-15 years that we've had to
94 travel that far.
- 95 • GS-The in season meets have never been a problem. For us it's the challenge
96 of having a season concluding meet for our level of swimmers at the end of
97 every season. When I ask the answer I get is, that is something we used to do
98 years ago and don't do anymore. So, then the conversations just died. My
99 reaction to that is that it doesn't work for us. Because we want to give our
100 kids the opportunity to have some sort of end of season championship meet.
101 That's our main request.
- 102 • MP-I agree. I like a meet for that level of swimmer. But like Bill said it just kind
103 of died out because not enough people attended. You have a facility that
104 would hold that size meet very well. Maybe it's an opportunity for you to
105 reach out to the LSC and say we'd like to host this level of championship
106 meet. I know it could be a struggle to host depending on size with who
107 comes.
 - 108 ○ MS-We wouldn't be able to do it in the summer. It's 110 on deck during
109 that time.
 - 110 ○ GS-I did offer that at one point and didn't get any support or interest.
 - 111 ■ MP- I don't think anyone knew you were interested in this type
112 of event.
- 113 • Daniel McCord (DM)-In the last 2 ½ years we have tried to do something like
114 what you're speaking about Greg. The end of July we host an end of season
115 championship style meet for our athletes. It's just one day, no cuts. It's for
116 those athletes that didn't have the opportunity to go to STX, STAGS or TAGS. I
117 just want to affirm with you that we are in the same boat, and I think that we
118 are providing that for you and the LSC.
 - 119 ○ GS-Daniel this is the first that I've heard of anything like this going on.
120 We requested to leave 6 months ago. No one has come to us during
121 that time and said what about this or what about that. The only thing
122 that has happened is the voting and territorial discrepancies that have
123 come to light because of all of this. Now at the 24th hour as were
124 voting to leave; all of these things are now being mentioned to us that
125 we had no clue about.
- 126 • Annette Duvall (AD)- You had mentioned that you were interested in hosting
127 the old Junior Olympic style meet. This is the first that I have heard this being
128 mentioned. We used to host this meet and the kids loved it. It was a great
129 opportunity for them. My question for Greg is that you said you had offered to
130 host a meet that was for below B, how long ago was this? Was it this year?

- GS-I mentioned it at our HoD meeting back in October. It wasn't mentioned out loud at that time because we were struggling to set the format and vote on different things at that time. I spoke with a coach in December or January at a meet, it was brought to my attention that north of 55% of the swimmers in our LSC are BB and under swimmers. In my opinion it seems like there is a huge need for this level meet, but it seems like the priority is have time standard specific meets.

- Norm Collins (NC)- Motion to call the question. MD- second. Debate ended
- PH-Please use hand raise feature if you would like to approve the motion to release Platinum Aquatics.

Approve the release of Tigershark Swim Team from South Texas Swimming: Submitted by Sean Barry (SB). Withdraw Motion.

Approve changing South Texas territory to remove Bell and Milam counties and transfer to Gulf. Greg Spano makes the motion. No second.

- MP-Point of order-I was told by the General Chair that if the first two motions failed that there would not be a third.
 - Mary Evelyn Bowling (MEB)-I may have misspoken as I didn't understand the process properly.
- MP-Why would we be moving our boundaries if we have no teams moving?
 - PH-If the boundaries are moved, the teams would automatically move as would any new teams that are created within that boundary.

NC-Motion to adjourn. MP second.

Adjourn 9:39 PM