

2018 East Zone Convention Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 26th-30th, 2018

LOCATION: Jacksonville, Florida

Liana Litsky, East Zone Secretary

Thursday, September 27th, 2018:

- Welcome – Jennifer Hatt; Vice Chair filling in for Chair Betsy McGeoch
- Approval of March minutes (EZ March Meeting 2018)
MOTION - Anna Montgomery, second: Eugenia Gillan - APPROVED
- Joe Alwan regarding the Foundation
 - Open invite to the Foundation Reception 6:45pm, \$100 tickets
 - Announcement of Foundation Grant recipients--record number of applicants requesting ~\$230,000
 - Various guest speakers including previous grant recipients
 - Celebration of long-term donors
 - Board of Governors Meeting will bring up 3 motions
 - The Foundation is in the process of growing and more than doubling the number of trustees (8 to 18, staggered induction over time); with a change that large, there are lots of things that need to be done hence the three following motions:
 - Motion #1: determines the timing of trustees onboarded from the Foundation vs. onboarding from USA Synchro; they are currently running onboard training twice which is time consuming/cumbersome. This motion delays the onboarding of Foundation trustees so that everyone comes in together-makes things easier administratively.
 - Motion #2: establishing a special class of Trustees who can have a shorter term (2 years vs. 3 years), allowing for 6 members up for re-election each year + appropriate turnover of members
 - Motion #3: enables the Trustees to make changes to the Foundation's bylaws without bringing everything to the Board of Governors
 - Allows the Foundation to govern itself by changing its own personal bylaws with a vote of their own trustees
 - If they ever change the composition of the Board it would once again have to go to the Board of Governors
- Technical Chair Report: Svetlana Malinovskaya
 - Proposal: If a swimmer(s) draws start #1 in Preliminary Free competition, this swimmer(s) should be exempt from start #1 in Technical competition of the same event.
MOTION: to approve aforementioned rule to disallow swimmer(s) to draw #1 in both tech/free for the same routine
MOTION: Svetlana Malinovskaya, second: Laura Ehrenreich - APPROVED
 - Proposal: Host team must provide an iPad (or other videography device) to record figures; the referee may use this video to determine if a zero should be awarded for the figure.
MOTION: In the interest of the athletes and fair judging, it is required that the host team provides a video recording device with playback capabilities + associated volunteer at each figure panel, including appropriate backup options. These volunteers will stand

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behind the panel of judges in order to accurately capture the judge's point of view for all figures.

MOTION: Eugenia Gillan, second: Krista Karwosky - **APPROVED**

MOTION: All technical routines must be recorded; the recording volunteer should be stationed at the same point of view as the judges panel (exact panel location to be determined based on pool setup).

MOTION: Mary Ellen Weigand, second: Sheila Wright - **APPROVED**

- Zone Sites Committee: Carol Valles (via Jen Muzyk), Brenda (via Robin), Svetlana Malinovskaya, and Patty Melber. Athlete rep: Sydney.
 - Determine Zone meets for upcoming 2018-2019 season
- Should a routine category have less than 28 routines, at the meet hosts discretion, the event should be run straight through-without a break. **TABLED:** to be discussed at future East Zone meetings as appropriate.
- Chair Report: Betsy McGeoch, presented by Jennifer Hatt
 - The previous two East Zone Board conference calls have been cancelled due to Pete's passing/Betsy's limited readiness to return to synchro
 - Betsy was voted in at the East Zone Meeting (March 2018), but should she return at the 2019 Convention she will have maxed out her two terms as East Zone Chair.
- Vice Chair Report: Jennifer Hatt
 - Jenn will be updating the forms for nominations ASAP--once received these will be uploaded to the East Zone Website
 - There were several swimmers who were nominated for Swimmer of the Year and did not win, therefore their nominations were submitted to SwimOutlet for Swimmer of the Month in order to get acknowledgement of the East Zone
 - We did cut back the number of scholar athletes from previous years (102 in 2018) in order to make it a more prestigious honor. The requirement is currently a 92% or 3.76 GPA. Athletes do not feel the need to increase the standards at this time-no formal vote.
 - Emily Ma: is the 3.76 GPA weighted or unweighted?
 - Discussion--Is it the coaches responsibility to double check/unweight GPAs?
 - Final Determination: Swimmers can submit either weighted/unweighted GPAs according to their school's system.
 - We did find a cheaper neck ribbon, so we have made a profit and have a surplus of ribbons for next year--see Awards Chair Report on East Zone Website.
 - Eugenia Gillan: what are we doing in order to support the East Zone Collegiate community
 - East Zone Collegiates only used ribbons, no medals--Jennifer Hatt has been tracking Collegiate usage as well though they have not been communicative regarding needs.

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- Lake Placid Report: Mary Ellen Weigand
 - November 16th-18th 2018
 - There has been a request for new scoring clinic
 - We need to decide if there is enough interest for CCP Level 2 and/or Judging Level 3
 - Last we decided that All Stars/anyone that was on a National Team was not eligible for Lake Placid Clinic--those who were on National Teams did not like being excluded from the Lake Placid opportunity
 - Mary Ellen would like to open it up to All Stars/National Team swimmers, in order to fill our quota and to give everyone the chance to be at Lake Placid-**TABLED**
 - Do we want to focus on 13-15 figures? Choreography? Technical Routines? Think about preferred focus and possible clinicians to be discussed at future East Zone meetings.
- Treasurer's Report: Kris-Ann Gutenmakher, posted on East Zone Website--not discussed at this time
- Scoring Report: Gil Sharon + Stephanie Kuebler taking the place of Pete McGeoch
- All Star Committee Report: Krista Karwosky
 - Katie + Krista did not receive notification from all invited swimmers--please get that information back ASAP
 - Limited attendance making All Star less prestigious, though East Zone has a good showing in comparison to other parts of the country
 - Coaches, attached to athletes or not, can go for free this year (transportation cost only) given no chaperones
 - Should be able to register via USA Synchro by the end of this weekend
 - Top 16 Juniors (8 solos + 4 duets, then back to solos per decision made at 2017 Convention, given no figure competition)--if we want to tabulate further down the pool of swimmers, we should select 24 swimmers via a similar method since lots of swimmers are turning down the opportunity
 - Krista: the one thing she does not like about the All Star selection process is that it only rewards the girls who have participated in small routines--sometimes team is the priority (per club OR swimmer's extra-curricular) and those girls are not achieving All Star status
 - **TABLED:** Katie + her committee to discuss
- Officials Report: Laura Ehrenreich
 - 8 people took their Level 4 test at the June meet, 4 are ready to move on to the next level

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- Largest problem is that people left blanks--Laura cannot do anything with that, no partial credit, no learning opportunity
 - There has been increased interest in Levels $\frac{2}{3}$
 - Discussion at Judge's Board regarding 4F Judges Rating
 - Created as a supplemental position to assist with judging (referee, vice referee, etc.)--recently those judges have been coming for the second half of JOs and Junior National Championships and are unable to assist as figures do not exist
 - Those with a current 4F rating will be grandfathered in/will not be forced to move up or lose a judges rating
 - All new judges/those who took the 4F this morning will be taking the Level 4 test at a later date
 - Social Media Presence
 - There was a problem at Collegiate Nationals as lots of high-level judges are Ohio State Alumni and had been posting comments on Ohio State social media pages making other programs feel neglected/lesser than the big schools
 - Unaffiliated judges need to be sending a more appropriate message
 - Requiring bringing a Level 4 judge to all National meets-**TABLED**
- Athlete Report: Audrey Miller
 - Technical Routines
 - Suggested that people wear goggles/blank suits since technical routines are replacing figures
 - Last year this same topic was discussed at BOG, and shut down, but there is no specific determination for decorated suits in the rulebook
 - Athletes feel as though judges have a preconceived notion of a team if they wear decorated suits
 - Free Routine Lifts
 - Positive feedback with only 6 major lifts in all free teams
 - Level Testing
 - Swimmers feel as though it is a waste of time and money
 - It's a lot of time and effort to put into something along with the incorporation of technical routines
 - They feel as though the assessors are being harsh with certain skills causing Junior swimmers to fail higher levels
 - Believe it should be integrated with novice swimmers, but those who are already participating in Junior/Senior age groups should be grandfathered in
 - Athletes felt Junior/Senior Zones went well: liked a separate warm-up pool especially with increased number of routines, but did not enjoy the fact that it was the weekend of Daylight Savings Time
 - On East Zone Instagram account, Emily + Audrey (Zone Athlete Reps) are running a new logo contest (December 2018?), with the winning design to be placed on caps to be sold at all Zone meets (Intermediate and Junior/Senior)

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- Location of profits TBD

MOTION – to suspend meeting

MOTION - Eugenia Gillan, second: Krista Karwosky– **APPROVED**

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Friday, September 28th, 2018:

- Announcements
 - Krista Karwosky: if they don't hear back from All Star athletes by 6pm this evening, we will be reaching out to the alternates on a first-come, first-serve basis
 - Katie Rice: SynchroMaids in Worcester, MA are looking for a full-time coach-flyers throughout the suite/Convention
 - Karen Alvarez: We took trios away from the Age Group swimmers in place of combo--now after this morning's meeting and the addition of combo for the intermediate swimmers it seems as though intermediates have more opportunities than 11-12 AGs.
 - Betsy McGeoch: wanted to thank the East Zone, especially those who offered help in the Boston community, for all of their support and love throughout the last year
 - Beth Carey: being inducted into the International Masters Hall of Fame this evening, former East Zone member
- Education Report: Katie Rice
 - Silver Clinic: likely Binghamton, NY on October 20th-21st TBD-hoping to have it set by the end of this weekend
 - Clinician: Reem
 - Grade Levels
 - Up-To-Date list of swimmer levels on East Zone Website
 - Please keep updated by sending level to Katie and East Zone Secretary for updating
 - CCP
 - Level 2 for Regional Meets
 - Level 3 for Zone/National Meets
 - Everyone needs SafeSport certification--including those who are voting at Convention this weekend
 - Seems likely that everyone will need to take the "full" course this year, with updates every year following
 - All Star Clinic: October 26th-28th in San Antonio, Texas
 - NEED RESPONSES--if you have not RSVPd by 6pm this evening, Katie and Krista will open it up to all alternate athletes on a first-come, first-serve basis
 - Lake Placid Clinic: November 16th-18th
 - Proposal is to split the group in half (13-15, 16 + Over) to work on Grade Levels 4 + 5 which will include Junior elements
 - Possibility of assessing swimmers while there to decrease the burden later in the season
 - Assessor Training while the athletes are working with the clinician?
 - Each team can bring 4 athletes (2 13-15 AG, 2 Juniors +)

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- Is there interest in a CCP 2 or Judging Levels?
- Mary Ellen proposes bringing in Duke, Karen, and Sarah
 - Krista: make a group of high-level East Zone coaches to work together and showcase what we have in our community
- Action Items from March Meeting at Junior/Senior Zones (proposals written out in East Zone Meeting Agenda on Convention 2018 Page on East Zone Website)
 - Revenue for All Star Awards
 - Reem looking into cheaper towel options (currently \$25/towel, but we are likely receiving them at a discount given previous discrepancies on receipts)
 - Genia: there are lots of parents who are talented in embroidery-maybe we should reach out to them to see if the profit margin is smaller?

MOTION- to bring this action item back to the committee/East Zone board to determine appropriate next steps

MOTION - Anna Montgomery, second: Krista Karwosky - TABLED to East Zone Board
 - Zone Suite Cost
 - Most years the fees we charge have covered the cost of the East Zone Suite
 - 10 associations, though 1 is not paying because they do not fully compete, raising \$900 for East Zone--it seems as though the East Zone may put in \$200-300/year for something as integral as the Suite
 - ~30 teams in East Zone
 - Proposal #2 is charging those who attend, when we already pay to attend (flights/hotels/etc.)
 - What if we raised the association fee instead of putting on individual clubs?

MOTION- charge each East Zone team \$50-as opposed to the association fee of \$100-to be collected with the athlete's fees

MOTION - Dale Mohammed, second: Jen Muzyk-WITHDRAWN giving difficulty with reinforcement

MOTION- increase the association fee to \$150, from current \$100

MOTION - Svetlana Malinovskaya, second: Anna Montgomery-WITHDRAWN

 - Betsy McGeoch: as part of a small association made up of two small clubs, this change in fees would be significantly detrimental and could dissuade swimmers from participating in competition
 - **TABLED**-will return to Laura's committee
 - Pete McGeoch Memorial:

MOTION- donate \$1200 from the current East Zone budget in Pete McGeoch's memory to bump him up Gold Level in the Foundation

MOTION - Dale Mohammed, second: Jen Muzyk-WITHDRAWN
 - Senior Zone Competition

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MOTION- in the event that there is only one routine and it is the same team swimming in both tech and free, can only 1 medal be awarded?

MOTION - Jennifer Hatt, second: Dale Mohammed-**WITHDRAWN** as Patty Melber will need to adjust the entry forms to collect fees for both tech/free (for Senior Competition only)

- Are there two fees for competitors if they're entering both tech and free? If so, we should be able to cover fees for both awards.
 - There are currently not-motion tabled to be discussed at a later date once fee structure has been changed
 - **MOTION-** Unaffiliated judges (as defined through the national office) who attend and judge at least 2/3rds of the events at an East Zone meet will receive:
 1. Housing-to be provided by the host team. This may be a bed in someone's home or a shared hotel.
 2. Up to \$100 in travel reimbursement. Receipts must be submitted to the East Zone Officials Chair within 7 days of the end of the competition in order to receive reimbursement.
 3. Meals during the competition, which will be provided by meet hospitality.
 - In order to be eligible for housing and travel reimbursement, unaffiliated judges must declare their intent to judge to the East Zone Officials Chair, ~~East Zone Treasurer, and meet manager of each competition by January 15th of the competition season~~ within 30 days of the competition.
 - The Officials Chair will have to reply to aforementioned requests within 7 days to allow for appropriate travel arrangements to be made.
 - Requests for additional reimbursement funds will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Please send requests to the East Zone Advisory Board. Unaffiliated judges with extenuating circumstances should bring these to the attention of the East Zone Board for consideration.
- MOTION -** Krista Karwosky, second: Reem Abdalazem-**APPROVED**
- No exclusions from Lake Placid clinic this year despite previously discussed Tiers
 - Senior/13-15 Meet Combination (in conjunction with Collegiate Regionals)?-**TABLED** until tomorrow's meeting

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Saturday, September 29th, 2018:

- Competitive Management: Svetlana Malinovskaya
 - East Zone 13-15 Championships, February 9th-10th, New Canaan, CT
 - Back up pool at Andover YMCA February 16th-17th OR 23rd-24th
 - East Zone Junior/Senior Championships, March 8th-10th, Cheektowaga, NY
 - East Zone Invitational, March 15th-17th, Wheaton College, MA
 - East Zone Invitational, March 15th-17th, Endwell, NY
 - East Zone Intermediate and 12 & Under Age Group Championships and 13 & Over Age Group Routine Only Open, June 7th-9th, Phoenixville, PA
- New Business
 - Intermediate Free Combination Routines
 - Jennifer Hatt: against the idea for anyone under 16 & Over as the majority of intermediate teams look like combinations

MOTION - 13 & Over Intermediate Combination routines will be added at the Intermediate Zone Championships and East Zone Invitational competitions conducted as a 100% routine event. This event is open for all levels.

MOTION - Anna Montgomery, second: Jen Muzyk-**APPROVED**

RATIONALE - this could legitimize continuation in the intermediate track as well as possibly decrease the number of intermediate small routines

 - Try it, as listed above, for this year and see how many swimmers are entering in JUST a combination event without participating in figures

MOTION-I propose that for EZ competitions, that ALL intermediate swimmers swimming a routine in competition are required to enter a figure competition.

MOTION - Dale Mohammed, second: Jennifer Hatt-**REJECTED**
- Silver Clinic Update--October 20th-21st in Binghamton, New York confirmed [Katie will e-mail out information ASAP]
 - Reem Abdalazem + Petra as clinicians
 - \$1200 pool rental fee--requested lots of swimmer attendance
 - ~\$85/swimmer, coaches can attend at ½ price
 - Proposed Hours: Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 8am-4pm
- Krista Karwosky: Since next year is a legislative year, it is likely that the idea of splitting Junior National Championships again (tech + free as separate events)--maybe our Zone should be proactive and determine a way to qualify routines from our Zone in both technical/free routines.
- If the discussion regarding a 3rd 12 & Under Solo at Junior Olympics comes up again, please take into consideration the implications from a scheduling standpoint. If there is a preliminary and

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free event, we will likely need a combination final as well--please feel comfortable bringing this up at future legislative meetings.

- Mary Ellen: propose the top 25 teams participate in figures vs. the entirety of the competition (12 & Under + 13-15) in order to save time/allow for additional 12 & Under solos/combination finals
- Lake Placid Clinic Requests
 - Level 5 Skills--how to train appropriately
 - Mental Preparation/Motivation
 - Bring in Chris Lahey regarding music/sound system? He did a presentation at Coaches College-**NO**.

MOTION – to adjourn meeting

MOTION - Eugenia Gillan, second: Anna Montgomery– **APPROVED**