Metropolitan Swimming House of Delegates Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2026 / Virtual

CALL TO ORDER
General Chair, David Rodriguez called the May 7, 2026 House of Delegates meeting to order at 8:10 PM with the following members in attendance:
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Christopher Arena, Jennifer Bancroft, Dom Boccio, Jeff Chu, Kate Hallex, Zac Hojnacki, Annette Mackrel, Jonah Montgomery, Eddie Oyola, Phil Paspalas, Will Rankin, David Rodriguez, Diana Pimer Ross, Darryl Strabuk
ABSENT
Jacqueline Wong
STAFF
Kimberly Wyer-Ferraris

Mr. Rodriguez began the meeting with a recitation of the Mission and Vision of Metropolitan Swimming.

MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2025 House of Delegates Meeting and the Agenda. Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

This was followed by a moment of silence in recognition of Coach Trica Dewey's passing.

CONSENT AGENDA
Mr Rodriguez explained the Consent Agenda and went through the letters of the first block.

Block A - Recommended for Approval by the Board of Directors
(Considered as a block EXCEPT for any items pulled)

- A2 Proposal to amend Article 308
- A3 Proposal to amend Article 503
- A4 Proposal to amend Article 7.4.1
- A5 Proposal to amend Article 420
- A6 Proposal to amend Article 202
- A7 Proposal to amend Article 103 amended to go into effect after the Spring HOD

Items A5, A6, and A7 were pulled.

MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to approve items A2, A3, and A4. Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

A5 was pulled by Ms. Graham. She indicated not seeing a need for the proposal. Mr. Rankin spoke on the need for Board members to be accountable and responsive, giving the example of voting on late meet bids. Further discussion occurred.

MOTION: *By Ms. Ross to amend A5 to remove "b) missing committee meetings without prior notice to the Committee Chair,". Mr. Rodriguez Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

MOTION: *By Mr. Rankin to amend A5 to change "d)" to "being unresponsive to email that involves a vote for more than 5 business days without prior notice to the General Chair." Mr. Rodriguez Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

WITHOUT MOTION OR SECOND: *Mr. Rodriguez asked for all in favor and opposed to approve A5 as amended.* **PUTATIVELY APPROVED.**

A6 was pulled by Ms. Graham. She indicated that an exception should go to the Board of Directors rather than the Senior Committee. Ms. Mackrel questioned establishing a requirement and immediately following with an exception. Ms. Ross reported that every Senior Mets the Senior Chairs receive requests for exceptions, Mr. Hojnacki indicated having made many attempts to update language in the meet announcement for Senior Mets, but not being able to address all the situations that necessitated approving an exception. Further discussion occurred.

MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to approve A6. Mr. Hojnacki Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

A7 was pulled by Mr. Wone.

MOTION: *By Mr. Wone to amend the proposal to read in part "The Fall and Spring House delegate meetings should be scheduled for weekends to the degree practical, and to avoid impacting competition availability for athletes". Mr. Rankin Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

MOTION: *By Mr. Graham to call the question, No Second.* **APPROVED.**

MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to approve A7 as amended. Mr. Bolster Seconded. Voice vote was unclear, vote was completed by Election Buddy.* **MOTION FAILS.**

Block B - Not Recommended for Approval by the Board of Directors
(Considered as a block EXCEPT for any items pulled)

- None

Block C - No Recommendation
- C1 Approval of SC Bids (excluding Competitive Championship Bids)
- C4 Proposal to amend Article 302.3
- C5 Proposal to amend Article 311

- C7 Proposal to amend Article 308
- C10 Technical Planning Proposal 1
- C11 Technical Planning Proposal 2
- C12 Technical Planning Proposal 3
- C13 Technical Planning Proposal 4
- C14 Technical Planning Proposal 5

MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to approve C1, C5, C7, C10, C11, C12, C13, and C14. Mr. Wone Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

C4 pulled by Mr. Chu.

MOTION: *By Mr. Chu to amend C4 from "September through April" to "September through August". Mr. Billesimo Seconded.* **APPROVED**

MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to approve C4 as amended. Mr. Graham Seconded.* **APPROVED**

COMPETITIVE CHAMPIONSHIP BIDS

Silver Championship South

Ms. Phillips gave a presentation on behalf of Farmingdale Aquatics. Mr. Modrov gave a presentation on behalf of Hauppauge Swimming.

MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to close bids for Silvers South. No Second.* **NO VOTE**

Voting was conducted by Election Buddy, limited to Silvers South teams only.
Results: Hauppauge Swimming was awarded the bid.

SERVICE AWARD

Mr. Ron Sommer was announced as the 2026 Outstanding Service Award recipient.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

GENERAL CHAIR

Written report is attached.
Mr. Rodriguez reported the most recent Senior Mets going well, Metro having a small surplus, and the need for more new members to become involved at the committee level.

Mr. Rodriguez also announced our scholarship winners:
Len Galuzzi Scholarship winners were **Maddie Boyon** and **Trevor Green**
Jo Stetz Scholarship winners were **Davia Richardson** and **Troy Speare**

COACHES REPRESENTATIVE

Written report is attached.
Mr. Hojnacki reported that this would be his last term as coaches representative, and discussed having worked on our partnership with ASCA and on coaches awards.

OFFICE REPORT

Written report is attached.
Ms. Wyer-Ferraris reminded coaches to notify meet hosts and the office of corrections following a recon. She also reported asking Head Coaches for approval of transfers. Lastly, she asked for teams to make sure their information was up to date.

ADMIN VICE CHAIR

Written report is attached.
Mr. Boccio reported the new app from USA Swimming is more similar to the old Deck Pass and should be easier for coaches to use than the last app. He reported 4 teams had won the Metro Club Achievement Program: Asphalt Green Unified Aquatics, Badger Swim Club, Long Island Aquatic Club, and Westchester Aquatic Club. He also thanked and recognized members leaving the Board of Directors: Mr. Hojnacki as Coaches Rep, Mr. Arena as Finance Chair, Mr. Chu and Ms. Mackrel as co-Secretaries, Ms. Hallex and Ms. Ross as Senior co-chairs.

FINANCE CHAIR

Written report is attached.
Mr. Arena thanked his committee members, and discussed having reduced administrative costs during his terms, as well as putting money towards additional programming, reducing LSC fees on meet entries from 20% down to 12.5%. He encouraged the membership to come forward with new ideas that could be funded.

ATHLETE REPS

Written report is attached.
Mr. Rankin reported having much higher turnout for the Junior Athlete Representative election and having

offered more opportunities to vote, including in-person at championship meets. He introduced the new Junior Athlete Representative, Aidan Zeleniy from Matchpoint.

SECRETARIES

Ms Mackrel thanked everyone, indicating it was a great experience and fun serving as Secretaries, and that it was a pleasure seeing how Metro has evolved and gotten better.

SENIOR CHAIRS

Written report is attached.

Ms. Ross reported that 50's of Stroke would be in Senior Mets this Summer, and that she and Ms. Hallex would work with the new Senior Chairs as needed with the meet. She thanked the Senior Committee.

AGE GROUP CHAIR

Mr. Yearwood reported planning to have Zone Team information out by June 1 and coaches information out early as well. Mr. Montgomery reported some issues with coaches' stipends from last year, butis expecting not to see those this year.

SAFE SPORT CHAIRS

Written report is attached.

Mr. Strabuk thanked Ms. Bancroft. He reported their main focus had been on the safety of the swimmers, educating officials, ensuring MAAPP was in effect.

OPERATIONAL RISK CHAIR

Written report is attached.

Mr. Paspalas indicated we were on the lower end of LSC in terms of reports of occurrence. He also reported planning to attend a National Operation Risk Committee meeting on the Monday following this meeting.

TECHNICAL PLANNING

Mr. Montgomery reported 50's of Stroke being approved for Metro Championships, and planning to work through the long course season on potential proposals for the Fall House of Delegates Meeting.

DDEI

No report.

GOVERNANCE

Mr Chu was unavailable due to ongoing setup for balloting.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR
Written report is attached.
Ms. Bancroft reported

> *"We did, in the short course period from September to the beginning of April, certify 40 new stroke and turn officials. We have 4 officials who became certified starters, and 4 officials who are now in the apprentice process. We have 4 officials who became brand new referees, and 4 who are in the apprentice process as well, and we have a strong pipeline of people who are finishing the AO process, which will allow them to go and move forward as referees."*

She also reported Mr. Asch had been selected as meet referee for the Summer Senior Championships, and his assigned team would include Elaine Ang as Administrative Referee, Don Ho as the Team Lead CJ, and Shannon Diaz as Head Starter.

OPEN WATER
Mr Chu was unavailable due to ongoing setup for balloting.

ELECTIONS

a. Administrative Vice Chair
b. Finance Vice Chair
c. Senior Vice Chair
d. Coaches' Representative
e. Secretary
f. Safe Sport Chair
g. Disability, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair
h. Governance Committee Members (Athletes)
i. Governance Committee Members (Non-Athletes)

MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to close nominations for and elect Dom Boccio as Administrative Vice Chair, Ron Sommer as Finance Chair, and Jack Collins and Mike Lennon as co-Senior Chairs. Mr. Wone Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to close nominations for and elect Ryan Wagner as Coaches' Representative. Mr. Paspalas Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

Secretary
Ms. Bancroft spoke on behalf of herself and Kate Hallex. Ms. Cheng-Chu wrote in the chat on behalf of herself and Hon Lai, as her microphone was not working.
MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to close nominations for Secretary. Mr. Rankin Seconded.* **APPROVED.**

Voting was conducted using Election Buddy.
Results: Mr. Lai and Ms. Cheng-Chu 35 votes, Ms. Bancroft and Ms. Hallex - 45 votes
Ms. Bancroft and Ms. Hallex were elected.

Safe Sport Chair

Ms. Ang, Ms. Spierer, Ms. Mackrel, Mr. Strabuk, Ms. Bitis, Ms. Wone introduced themselves.
MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to close nominations for Safe Sport Chair. Seconded.* **APPROVED.**
Voting was conducted using Election Buddy.
Results: Elaine Ang - 5 votes, Annette Mackrel - 10 votes, Jacky Spierer and Dana Wone - 10 votes, Darryl Strabuk and Iliana Bitis - 28 votes.
Mr. Strabuk and Ms. Bitis were elected.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Chair
Mr. Sucre introduced himself. Mr. Oyola was not present
MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to close nominations for DDEI Chair. Seconded.* **APPROVED.**
Voting was conducted using Election Buddy.
Results: John Yearwood - 1 vote, Eddie Oyola - 27 votes, Shedlon Sucre - 38 votes
Mr. Sucre was elected.

Governance Committee Members
MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to close nominations and elect Kyle Wilson and Will Rankin as athlete members of the Governance Committee. Seconded.* **APPROVED.**
MOTION: *By Mr. Rodriguez to close nominations for the non-athlete members of the Governance Committee. Seconded.* **APPROVED.**
Voting was conducted using Election Buddy.
Results: Mike Barrowman - 1 vote, Kate Hallex - 1 vote, Sid Jones - 2 votes, Carle Fierro - 1 vote, Allen Wone - 1 vote, David Ferris - 47 votes, Kenneth Graham - 48 votes, Iliana Bitis 59 votes, Christopher Arena 59 votes.
Ms. Bitis, Mr. Arena, Mr. Graham were elected.

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
Ms. Fierro described how Metro committees may have functioned in the past. She went on to address the issue of missed swimmers added during the correction period for Senior Mets. She highlighted having filed a protest regarding a swimmer at the most recent Senior Mets. Mr. Rodriguez indicated that the case was on appeal.

Point of Order by Mr. Rankin: “Is there a motion?”

MOTION: *By Ms. Fierro that the House of Delegates has a say when any changes are made to any of our championship meets. That the House of Delegates are informed, and a discussion is made with the House of Delegates, and we have to vote on any changes that are made to championship meets.* **NO SECOND.**

MOTION: *By Mr. Montgomery that the HOD, if held virtually cannot use consent agenda items as the format is not ideal for getting information out to everyone while we're on the phone, coaching, driving, doing other things, so all proposals would need to be brought up and discussed at virtual HOD meetings going forward. Ms. Fierro Seconded.*

Extensive discussion ensued.

Ms. Bancroft stated "I do have to point out that under the minor athlete protection, the minor athletes, we have to cease communicating with them after 10 o'clock. It violated the electronic rules".

MOTION: *By Mr. Montgomery to Call the question. Ms. Fierro Seconded. Mr. Rodriguez stated "Any virtual format, we will not have a consent agenda. As part of it, and we will go individual, item by item." He went on to ask for All in favor and opposed. Voice voting occurred. Mr. Rodriguez indicated it would need to go to Election Buddy.*

Mr. Montgomery stated that he and Mr. Yearwood were asked to fill in as interim Age Group Co-Chair at the 2025 Spring House of Delegates Meeting. He stated verbally "I am removing myself from Age Group Chair". Mr. Rodriguez stated "I will accept that resignation and we will work on trying to find a candidate".

MOTION: *By Mr. Ferris to adjourn. Mr. Rankin seconded.* **APPROVED.**

ADJOURN

Mr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 10:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeff Chu	/s/ Annette Mackrel
Secretary	Secretary

Metropolitan Swimming House of Delegates Meeting Minutes Attachments
05/07/26 / Virtual

Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	Attendance
Attachment 3	Officer Reports:

General Chair

Office Report

Admin Vice Chair

Technical Planning

Coaches Representative

Senior Chair

Age Group Chair

Safe Sport Chair

DDEI Chair

Finance Chair

- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Activity

Athlete Representative

Officials Chair

Times Coordinator

Operational Risk Chair