

2019 East Zone March Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 9th, 2019

Buffalo, New York

- Jen Hatt calls the meeting to order
- Welcome – Jen Hatt
- Technical Chair Report: Patti Melber
 - Thank you to meet hosts
 - Rundown of meet attendance numbers--sporadic changes
 - Meet Entry Forms:
 - Katie Rice (Education Chair) creating a Google Doc to streamline and standardize the process to take the burden off the meet hosts.
 - Laura Ehrenreich would prefer a more streamlined way of knowing which coaches and officials were attending and which events they were available for
 - There were issues with Scholar Athletes on Form A as well as individual Scholar Athlete forms-discrepancies in deadlines, etc.
 - Will be consolidated into Google Drive
 - Entries for 13-15/Junior Nationals due Wednesday March 13th, 2019.
- Officials Chair Report: Laura Ehrenreich
 - 7 people passed their Level 3 test this year, including those who practiced judged at 13-15 Zones
 - There are currently 8 people who need to get through oral examinations
 - Laura would like some help thinking of ways to get these officials through the training without having to travel to Junior Nationals/Junior Olympics if their team is not attending [didn't have enough judges/officials at this meet (Junior/Senior East Zones) to have officials completing oral exams]
 - Eugenia thinks there may be a way to do it via technology: YouTube videos with appropriate descriptions/scores, etc.?
 - Not possible per Krista
 - Debbie: could we put together a Zone panel at Junior Nationals to get those officials through? The schedule is a little more spread out/less hectic. **YES** [did not happen]
- Chair Report: Jen Hatt
 - Conference Calls with USA Synchro/other Zone Chairs
 - Emphasizing the importance of SafeSport, background checks, and all certifications [coming from US Olympic Committee, not just synchronized swimming]
 - Education Chairs for each Zone to keep track of credentialing
 - Background Checks good for 2 years, so they should coincide with the SafeSport certifications
- Awards/Vice Chair Report: Jen Hatt
 - Contributor of the Year: Mary Ellen Wiegand
 - Coach of the Year: Anna Montgomery
 - Award Forms for 2020 already submitted to Katie and Liana-- posted on the East Zone website
 - Medal Orders: slightly short on medals/lanyards for the upcoming Invitationals-subbed in medals from previous competitions

2019 East Zone March Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 9th, 2019

Buffalo, New York

- Almost tripled the amount of gold medals per season
 - 2019: 120 gold medals vs. 56 in 2017
- Asked the athletes to select the medals for upcoming seasons: not discussed at today's athlete meeting
- Cap Fundraiser: headed by Emily Ma and Audrey Millar (Zone athlete representatives)
 - 200 caps to be sold at Junior/Senior East Zones and Invitationals
- Education Report: Katie Rice
 - Thank you to Silver Clinic hosts (Gaviatas)
 - Reem + Petra as clinicians, though only <½ of the participants
 - Please provide feedback to Katie regarding what would entice you to come
 - Thank you to Lake Placid hosts (Mary Ellen)
 - Barb + Sue Nesbitt as clinicians, ~80 beds filled
 - Feedback regarding what could be changed in terms of clinic attendance:
 - Silver Clinic: Sunday open to 16 + Over Age Group swimmers who do not feel as if Lake Placid is an appropriate clinic for them?
 - Lake Placid: open to all Age Group swimmers?
 - Please keep sending Grade Level Assessment results--they will continually be updated on the East Zone Website
 - Recommendation to move East Zone Junior/Senior Zones 1 week earlier to avoid conflict with Daylight's Savings Time, SATs, and align with the three other zones
 - Collegiate Regionals is the weekend before--would prefer to switch with us (more time before Regionals, less between Regionals and Collegiate Nationals)
 - Straw Vote: 13 for, <5 against
 - Discussion regarding joining 13-15 AND Junior/Senior meets, as well as Junior/Senior meets and Collegiate Regionals [recruiting violations?-not well understood by this group]
 - Difficult for the 12 and Under Age Group swimmers to participate in both the June meet and Junior Olympics--suggested to participate in 13-15 Zone Meet as well
 - Too early for the 12 and Unders, even 13-15s; most people would like to move it to later in February
 - Per rule book, 13-15 Zones is the 2nd/3rd full weekend in February
- Lake Placid Clinic: Mary Ellen Wiegand
 - Would like to set a budget for paying clinicians (including travel)
 - Too many people in attendance? Typically 40, but Mary Ellen accepted everyone to increase profit/budget to pay the West Coast clinicians
 - Idea to bring in a dance instructor/land skills?
 - Krista: nutritionist
 - Swimmers asked for assistance with level testing skills--went over Level 3 land skills
 - We should poll the athletes at/prior to Convention in order to appropriately equip our clinicians in terms of what they would like help with?
 - Should there be a question on the registration form asking what people want?

2019 East Zone March Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 9th, 2019

Buffalo, New York

- The consensus is that we should poll earlier to determine which clinicians would be appropriate for those skills
 - Eugenia: pre-registration (June?)--intent for athletes to participate as well as what skills to work on, have the information earlier on to allow for earlier decision making, etc.
- Lake Placid 2019 Dates: November 29th-December 1st [70 beds, Thanksgiving Weekend--trying to re-book]
 - Paul Smith as they're thinking of filling in the pool at North Country
 - Sheila: when Mary Ellen was unable to secure Lake Placid we did a similar clinic at a high school--shorter days with boxed lunches, near WhiteFace, etc.
- Scoring Chair: Gil Sharon
 - Meet Management:
 - Gil is here to **HELP** the meet managers/associations run the meets, **NOT** run the meets for the association/Zone. If there are no scoring people in your association/region, send them to the Lake Placid Clinic or other Zone meets to learn.
 - If there is a person running your association meets, though should be able to run a Zone meet: very few differences.
 - Meet Entry Forms:
 - Google Doc for all meets run by Gil, other meets (with another scoring chair) can utilize whatever they'd like
 - Question regarding registration through USA Synchro for East Zone held Junior Olympics this June/July
- Athlete Report: completed by Audrey Millar/Emily Ma, read by Jen Hatt
 - Athletes completely against Grade Level Assessments
 - FINA separated Technical/Free competitions--discussion regarding doing the same in Junior competition
 - Athlete vote split: believed it would put the focus on free routines vs. technical skills
 - Zone meets should have:
 - a warm-up/cool-down pool a **requirement** vs. desirable
 - **MOTION** - the Sites Committee should take a warm-up/all deep pool into consideration when picking Junior/Senior East Zone Championships/give that location a priority, while still regarding the current regional rotation [if possible]
 - **MOTION** - Svetlana Malinovskaya, second Eugenia Gillan **WITHDRAWN/TABLED UNTIL CONVENTION**
 - Patti Melber will reach out to Association Technical chairs regarding what pools in their locales would be available/if they would be interested in running a meet
 - 5 minute lap swim between "flights" #1 and #2 with more than 12 routines in an event
 - [warm-up/competition] x 2 vs. warm-up/warm-up + all competition

2019 East Zone March Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 9th, 2019

Buffalo, New York

- New East Zone Representatives: Nina Robbe from ANA Synchro, runner-up: Megan Tappe from New Canaan YMCA Aquianas
- All-Star Camp: Krista Karwosky
 - Difficult to get athletes this past year because it ruled out all swimmers on National Teams or participated in a National Training Camp
 - **MOTION** - any athlete, regardless of background, can be invited to the East Zone All-Star Camp [no longer ruling out National Team members/swimmers participating in National Team Talent Camps]
 - **MOTION** - Krista Karwosky, second Laura Ehrenreich - **APPROVED**
- Nominating Committee: Judy McGowan
 - Sheila and Britt's positions will both be vacated--look at nominating people from within the Zone
 - Forms will likely be sent out at the beginning of April 2019--all digital
 - Please look at Appendix R to confirm all the requirements prior to submitting nomination
 - Foundation is expanding numbers to 18--looking for good people to become trustees
 - Please look at the application online and recommend someone interested in finance/fundraising
- In November/December of 2018, a donation of \$1,000 was made by the Zone to USA Synchro in order to reach their fundraising goal of \$63,000, which will allow them to receive an additional \$20,000 from the USOTC to help recoup the additional costs of SafeSport, legal issues surrounding the gymnastics scandals, etc.
 - **MOTION:** As the dues for USA Synchro will likely keep rising with increasing numbers of staff members and in hopes of decreasing the "pay to play" aspect of our National Team program, I propose that the East Zone donates \$1,000 from our treasury to USA Synchro annually in order to receive the maximal funding from the USOTC.

MOTION - to adjourn the meeting

MOTION – Eugenia Gillan, second Debbie Latchford- **APPROVED**