Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2026 / Virtual Meeting via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

David Rodriguez, General Chair, called the August 11, 2026 regular Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:03pm. The meeting opened with a reading of Metropolitan Swimming's mission and vision.

PRESENT

David Rodriguez, Ron Sommer, Ryan Wagner, Brennan Sawyer, Will Rankin, Aidan Zeleniy, Mike Lennon, Jack Collins, Darryl Strabuk, Phil Paspalas, Sheldon Sucre, Kate Hallex, Jonah Montgomery, Jennifer Bancroft, Iliana Bitis

ABSENT

Bobby Trenczer

STAFF

Kimberly Ferraris

GUESTS

CJ Arena, Annette Mackrel, Allen Wone

AGENDA AND MINUTES

MOTION: *Ms. Bancroft made a motion to approve the August 11, 2026 meeting agenda and the June 23, 2026 Board of Directors meeting minutes. Mr. Lennon Seconded.* ***APPROVED****.*

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Change of Meet Date: Change SSC Polar Bear Plunge to 2/5/27-2/7/27

MOTION: *Ms. Bancroft made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Paspalas Seconded.* ***APPROVED.***

GENERAL CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Rodriguez reminded Board members and committee chairs to begin preparing reports for the upcoming House of Delegates meeting and to hold committee meetings before the HOD where possible. He reported that Administrative Vice Chair Dom Boccio had resigned for personal reasons and expressed appreciation for his service. Rodriguez stated that he was considering options for filling the vacancy. He also noted strong performances by Metro athletes at Senior Mets and at National and Junior National Meets in Irvine.

APPROVED

FINANCE
Mr. Sommer reported that the Finance Committee plans to meet near the end of August. Board members were asked to submit anticipated budget changes or new program needs. Metro plans to obtain a Costco membership and a Chase credit card to support meet purchases. Open Water now has a separate drive-up storage unit, allowing Metro to reduce the size of its general storage space.

COACHES REPRESENTATIVE
Mr. Wagner reported that a draft communication regarding the Coaches Awards had been circulated for Board feedback. He requested guidance regarding formation of the Coaches Committee. The Coaches Representative election will take place at the House of Delegates meeting, with nominations to be solicited in advance.

ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVES
Mr. Sawyer reported that the Athlete Committee last met June 28 and that the minutes are posted online. The committee is exploring livestreaming Short Course Senior Mets and plans to consult the Senior Chairs and Finance Chair. The committee is preparing for the fall House of Delegates meeting, including an athlete pre-HOD meeting, distribution of legislative recommendations to club contacts, and coordination with the Secretaries to maintain 20% athlete voting representation.

Mr. Rankin thanked committee chairs for progress toward 20% athlete representation on committees and reminded committees that interactions with athlete members should remain respectful.

SENIOR
Mr. Lennon reported on the July Senior Metropolitan Championships. Swimming performances were strong, while several dry-side operational areas were identified for improvement. The Senior Chairs have begun discussing next steps with individuals experienced in the meet and plan a committee meeting near the end of August. The committee also intends to review its process for meet-entry exception requests.

AGE GROUP
No report was presented.

SAFE SPORT
Mr. Strabuk reported that there had been little recent activity from USA Swimming and that the Safe Sport Committee plans to meet before the House of Delegates meeting.

APPROVED

OPERATIONAL RISK

Mr. Paspalas reported that the committee met July 28. New Operational Risk information has been posted to the Metro website, including a USA Swimming presentation and water-safety certification information. The committee discussed appropriate coach safety certifications, the expectation that clubs designate a safety contact, that warm-up procedures published in meet announcements are complete and following proper guidelines, and meet safety coordinator requirements. Mr. Paspalas was uncertain if the committee would meet prior to the House of Delegates meeting due to committee members' travel schedules.

DIVERSITY, DISABILITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Dr. Sucre reported that the committee last met June 9, and will meet August 29. The committee is developing initiatives involving reimbursement, diversity membership and outreach, and collaboration with the Officials Committee to broaden diversity within officiating. Minutes from the prior meeting are posted online.

SECRETARY

Electronic Actions Since the Previous Board Meeting

Ms. Bancroft reported one electronic vote conducted between Board meetings. Bobby Trenczer of Condors was appointed Age Group Chair by a vote of 12 in favor, 0 against.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Metro Logo Refresh

Mr. Rankin updated the Board on the logo refresh process with USA Swimming. Feedback from the prior discussion emphasized retaining the World Trade Center as an identifying element. Rankin will circulate the logo concepts, including the options preferred by the Athlete Committee, and additional Board feedback will be gathered before the next meeting with USA Swimming.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Athlete-At-Large Proposal

Mr. Rankin presented a proposal from the Athlete Committee to change the Athlete-at-Large position from an appointed position to an elected position. He explained that the committee developed the proposal as part of its efforts to increase athlete participation in Metro governance and provide athletes with a greater role in selecting their representatives.

Under the proposal, the Athlete-at-Large would be elected by the athletes in conjunction with the Junior Athlete Representative election. If the proposal is approved by the House of Delegates in Fall 2026, the current Athlete-at-Large, Brennan Sawyer, would continue to serve through the Spring 2027 House of Delegates meeting. The newly elected Junior Athlete Representative and

APPROVED

Athlete-at-Large would begin their terms at the conclusion of the Fall 2027 House of Delegates meeting.

During discussion, Mr. Paspalas expressed support for allowing athletes to elect their own representatives, noting that it gives the represented group a direct voice in selecting who represents them. He noted that this was similar in principle to the officials' request to elect their own chair.

MOTION: *Mr. Rankin made a motion to recommend the Athlete-at-Large proposal to the House of Delegates. Mr. Zeleniy Seconded.* ***APPROVED.***

B. House Of Delegates Composition Proposal

Mr. Rankin presented a proposal from the Athlete Committee regarding athlete representation at House of Delegates meetings. The proposal was developed following discussion after the Spring 2026 House of Delegates meeting and is intended to increase meaningful athlete participation in Metro governance while addressing concerns raised regarding the prior proposal.

Under the proposal, each club would retain its existing three voting delegates and would also have the option to designate one athlete as an additional voting delegate. Rankin explained that, under the current structure, clubs are required to identify an athlete for the Fall House of Delegates meeting, but that athlete may be designated as an alternate and therefore may attend without having a vote. The proposed change would provide a designated athlete delegate with a vote in addition to the club's existing three votes.

The proposal would not require an athlete delegate to attend the Spring House of Delegates meeting, recognizing potential conflicts with school and swimming schedules. The existing athlete attendance requirement for the Fall House of Delegates meeting would not be changed.

Discussion from Mr. Arena and Ms. Wyer-Ferrais included how the proposal would apply if Metro returned to in-person House of Delegates meetings and how it would affect clubs whose membership consists primarily of younger athletes. Rankin clarified that the proposal does not create an additional attendance mandate or penalty for clubs and is intended to encourage athlete participation by providing athletes who attend an opportunity to participate as voting delegates.

MOTION: *Mr. Rankin made a motion to recommend the House of Delegates composition proposal to the House of Delegates. Ms. Hallex Seconded.* ***APPROVED.***

C. Swim Marketplace

APPROVED

The Board discussed an inquiry from Finn and Liv Olson regarding Swim Marketplace, a platform for buying and selling used swim gear. Discussion included possible website or social-media promotion, potential sponsorship conflicts, and the need to understand the business model. Board members will review the platform. Mr. Rodriguez will check for any concerns related to Metro's TYR sponsorship, and Ms. Bancroft will seek additional information from Swim Marketplace. The matter will return at the next Board meeting.

D. Annual Summit Delegates

MOTION: *Ms. Bancroft made a motion to appoint David Rodriguez, Jennifer Bancroft, Kimberly Ferraris, and Bobby Trenczer as Metropolitan Swimming delegates to the 2026 USA Swimming Annual Summit. Dr. Sucre Seconded.* ***APPROVED****.*

E. Late Athlete Reimbursement Requests

MOTION: *Ms. Hallex motioned to enter closed session to consider athlete travel assistance requests involving minor athletes. Mr. Paspalas Seconded.* ***APPROVED.***

The Board reviewed requests for exceptions to the 30-day submission deadline for athlete travel assistance relating to the December 2025 Winter Junior National Championships and the May 2026 Speedo Super Sectionals. The Board discussed the published deadline, the terminology used in the Travel Assistance Form and Policies and Procedures, prior handling of late requests, and the importance of consistent application of the policy.

MOTION: *To approve an exception for the late travel assistance requests related to the December 2025 Winter Junior National Championships.* ***FAILED.***

MOTION: *To approve an exception for the late travel assistance requests related to the May 2026 Speedo Super Sectionals.* ***FAILED.***

MOTION: *Mr. Paspalas motioned to exit the closed session. Mr. Rankin Seconded.* ***APPROVED.***

Upon returning from closed session a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION: *Ms. Bancroft motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sommer Seconded.* ***APPROVED***

ADJOURN

Mr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

/s/ Jennifer Bancroft
Co-Secretary, Metropolitan Swimming

/s/ Kate Hallex
Co-Secretary, Metropolitan Swimming

Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Attachments

August 11, 2026 / Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attachment 1	Agenda: August 11, 2026
Attachment 2	DRAFT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: June 23, 2026

APPROVED