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Minutes of the VSI House of Delegate Meeting
September 29, 2013
Doubletree by Hilton, Richmond Virginia

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m.

Steve Hennessy honored Kevin Hogan and David Strider with Lifetime USA Swimming Memberships for their exceptional service to VSI. Steve acknowledged Bob Rustin, Kevin Hogan, Terry Randolph and Pat Donahue for their selection and service as officials at world championship meets.

The minutes of the April 28, 2013 meeting were presented. Lisa Liston moved to accept the minutes, seconded by David Strider and passed.

Treasurer – Bill Geiszler presented and fully explained the financial report for FY 2012/13. Bill indicated that overall VSI had a surplus of income largely due to actual expenses that did not meet projections. He also indicated that all financial materials were submitted to an accounting firm for review. Their report should be available in mid-October. Bill announced that his term as Treasurer had ended and this would be his final report to the House of Delegates.

Make –a-Splash Update - Gordon Hair reported that two Learn to Swim grants were awarded to Tsunami and Roanoke YMCA. From the grant posting, Girls Inc. contacted TJ about starting a Learn to Swim program in Portsmouth. A group from the Southside assisted in upgrading a pool in the area and hiring the necessary personnel. The resulting Learn to Swim program is affecting 900 after school children in the Portsmouth area. Gordon attended a celebration banquet a representative of VSI and Make a Splash.

David Strider presented Gordon with the Walter Smith Community Service Award.

Age Group Report – Scott Baldwin reported that the formats for regionals and district champs will be the same as last year. The mile will be dropped from the schedule in order to better manage timelines. Regionals will be for 13 and over and district champs will be for 12 and under with prelim/finals for 11-12 age groups. 11-12 sessions will be in the morning with 10 and under in the afternoon sessions. A highlight of the season was the introduction of chase starts at LC Age Group Champs. This worked great and helped keep things moving.

Senior Report- Ted Sallade reported that three swimmers made national teams during the past year: Jessica Arnold (SMAC-Open Water), Talley House (NOVA-US Junior Nationals), and Austin Temple (TIDE-US Junior Nationals). He acknowledged Bryan Wallin for stepping in to serve as meet referee at Senior Champs at the last minute. Ted reported that he was looking into developing a quad plan for senior swimming. He would welcome any thoughts or ideas on how this can be done successfully. A report on this will be available in the spring.

DRAFT

DRAFT

Ted reported that national certifications (N2, N3) are continuing and encouraged participation in this certification program. He also reported that the committee is looking to establish resident and open records. It follows that a VSI registered athlete would get an open record. It would not be a resident record if out of the area. He is working with Jessica to correct those we currently have. He announced that the Four Hour Rule only applies to 12 and under sessions. Sessions for 13 and over no longer need to apply the four hour rule.

Zone Team Report – Maureen Tolliver reported that Virginia sent 116 athletes and placed second overall. The boys were second and the girls placed third. Thirty Zone records were broken. Ten of these were by Virginia swimmers. Excellent team unity was exhibited throughout the meet.

There were many last minute registrations which made it difficult for swimmers who were waiting on Summer Awards results to qualify. Maureen reported on research she had done on best practices for Zones registration. She indicated that most LSCs require that swimmers apply for the team and pay a registration fee by a predetermined date to be considered for inclusion on the team. Only athletes that meet the selection criteria will be selected for the team. Those not selected would be reimbursed for the registration fee. Maureen presented the proposal:

“Athletes must submit an application to be considered for inclusion on the Zones team by a predetermined deadline.”

The proposal was presented as a motion and seconded. A friendly Amendment was introduced to set the registration fee at \$100.

Catherine Webb presented the athletes viewpoint. The Athletes Committee was not in favor of this change due to it could lead to fewer athletes attending the meet. She added that the changes must be communicated to all parents to make them aware of the new rules. She stated that the athletes were not concerned about the time standards. Their fear was that parents would not be willing to pay or that athletes would not want to fill out applications. During the first year, the burden would be on the coaches to inform and encourage parents. A lengthy discussion ensued. Ted called the question. The motion passed.

Budget/Finance Committee Report - No report.

Equipment Coordinator Report – No report.

Technical Planning Report – Lisa Liston reported that meet information is posted on the VSI website. There is a seven day turnaround time. Meets must be submitted to VSI 60 days ahead of the start of the meet or subject to fines. Meet templates are available on the VSI website. She reported that coaches must certify dives. Swimmers who have not been certified should not use the blocks at the start.

She reported that the Technical Planning Committee endorsed mirroring the USA-S policy on the four hour rule. They endorsed the format for regional and district champs meets. The committee endorsed the Senior A, B, C heat format. She also reported that the committee would like to see the banquet be changed to the spring. They are looking to the Athletes Committee for direction on this.

DRAFT

DRAFT

Administration – No report.

Membership – Mary Turner reported that Athlete Protection Training must be done annually expiring on December 31. This is the same cycle as membership. It is now possible to see membership cards on Deck Pass. It also shows certifications. Cards will not be sent out until updates occur or until registration is updated. The cards will be coming from National. If there are questions, contact Mary first before calling National.

Coach certifications are due three days prior to start of a meet. She will wait to update any that are received after the deadline. The reimbursement form is on the VSI website under the Athletes Tab. Please make sure that athletes going to reimbursable meets get the form in within 30 days. The Club Portal reports have been expanded. It is possible to get an athlete roster from the portal. This roster is considered a legal document for registration. Club Portal also has all coach certification information and expiration dates. Deck Pass also shows unattached athletes to your teams and the date. There is a handout covering safety training for swim coaches. If there are any questions about this, please contact Mary.

Athletes – Catherine Webb reported that the athletes liked that idea of having the banquet in the spring instead of the fall. They suggested having a more casual event outside at a park or at an amusement park. They also thought a goody bag with a towel (VSI Banquet 2013 lettering) would be nice. They also thought that ready rooms would not be necessary with the new format.

The motion was made: “Investigate the reschedule of the banquet to spring with a change in format.”

A friendly amendment was made: “Move banquet to spring not later than 2015 with details to be determined at a later time.” The amendment passed.

Coaches – TJ Liston reported that the Coaches Committee approved and endorsed everything from the other committees. He also reported that awards would be given for 15 and over Swimmer of the Year, as well as Open Water Swimmer of the Year Awards for boys and girls 14 and under and 15 and over.

Officials – Bryan Wallin report that Swimposium was held on Saturday. We will be going forward with USA-S rules and interpretation applied to rule changes on two hand touches on breaststroke and butterfly. A teleconference for officials chairs is scheduled for Wednesday where the two hand touch will be discussed. All coaches will receive updates of there are any changes.

Club Development – Steve Phillips reported that the clinic with Kate Ziegler and Kim Vandenberg went well. A total of 65 athletes participated and Kim tweeted about it. Mary spoke with the parents about Safe Sport and other topics of interest. The banquet will be later on today. The athletes really seem to be enjoying the weekend. Dr. Jim Miller’s presentation on injury prevention was excellent. Steve demonstrated some of the stretches that were good and bad for swimmers. He will post Dr. Miller’s PowerPoint and video on the exercises he discussed on the VSI website.

Disability – David Strider reported that the Disability Committee will look at additional opportunities to train officials and coaches for disability swimmers. There will be a large meet for disability swimmers in Richmond, at the CSAC pool on February 1st-2, 2014. Current members on the Disability Committee include Art Anthony, Pat Donohue, Jessica Simons, John Harrington, Sean Harrington, Joseph Peppersack

DRAFT

DRAFT

and David Strider. The Committee still needs athlete members. If you are interested, please contact David.

Diversity/Inclusion – Steve H. reported that there will be a Diversity Clinic in Fredericksburg in May. Peter Maloney would like to hold two Diversity Camps this summer.

Safety – Gordon Hair reported on the Safety Conference he attended in Chicago. Gordon discussed air and water quality and recommendations for air and water quality in our pools. He also discussed the USA-S checklist for safety of facilities. He suggested that VSI could educate teams on this process and use the form to evaluate facilities. Issues could be documented and shared. He has posted safety tips and a PowerPoint presentation on air quality on the VSI website. Gordon also reminded coaches about start certifications and procedures for warm-ups to avoid injury.

Open Water - Gordon reported that there are three open water meets scheduled: Lake Anna on May 17, OBX in June, and the Zone Open Water (no date as of yet). He also endorsed pool open water meets. VSI has all of the necessary equipment and a PowerPoint. The Ben Hair Open Water website has links to videos on open water swimming, PowerPoints, etc. for those who are interested.

Steve H. reported that VSI has taken a lead in the Zone in Open Water. Our rules were adopted by the Zone and USA-S.

NT Coordinator – Terry Randolph reported that the Top Ten Times will be released shortly.

Records – No report.

Webmaster – No report.

USA Swimming Convention Report - Steve H. reported that the schedule was intense with great presentations especially on Athlete Protection and Disability. Presentations are currently online. It was a great experience for athletes. There were great opportunities for engagement and education for all athlete levels. He reported that there will be two short course Zone meets on the same weekend; one in the north and one in the south to keep the numbers down. The Long Course Sectional will be 2-3 weeks later. The Long Course Southern Regional will be in Christiansburg. The Northern Regional will be Buffalo. He also reported that the LC Senior Zone Champs will be a super sectional meet. A new Senior Zone Championship meet will be held in August to create an alternative to Nationals on the west coast. He stated that starting in 2015; Boards of Review will function on the Zone level instead of the individual LSC level. Zones will determine how this will be structured. Each LSC was asked to submit names for membership on the Board of Review. Administrative review would continue at the LSC level for smaller grievances.

Unfinished Business

Bylaws change – Kevin Hogan indicated that most of the changes were housekeeping and that these items were being bundled. Kevin made a motion to make the changes. It was seconded. Discussion ensued on the topic of At Large board members being given a vote. A motion was made to accept the changes and seconded. The motion passed.

DRAFT

DRAFT

Policy change – Kevin introduced a policy change involving selection for membership on the Eastern Zone Team. The proposed change reads: “Athletes must submit an application to be considered for inclusion on the Zones team by a predetermined deadline.” A motion was made, seconded and discussed. The motion passed.

Announcements – Maureen Tolliver requested that the Zone team change be announced at the banquet.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Hillery, Secretary

DRAFT