

**Minutes of the September 29, 2013
VSI Board of Directors Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present were: Steve Hennessy, Leanne Hillery, TJ Liston, Kevin Hogan, Mary Turner, Terry Randolph, Bob Rustin, Bill Geiszler, Kevin McHaney, Bryan Wallin, David Strider, Ted Sallade, Kara Morgan McHaney, Maureen Tolliver, Jessica Simons, Gordon Hair, Art Anthony, Steven Phillips, Scott Baldwin and Lisa Liston.

Administration Report – None

Membership Report – Mary reported that the discussion concerning seasonal memberships will need to be continued until a later date.

Sectionals Report – Ted discussed the issue of out of zone teams coming to sectionals. The group thought this could be done, but discussion was needed to determine restrictions and dates. We need to know the numbers wanting in the meet versus the number the facility can handle. He asked if VSI was willing to put together a group to select the out of zone teams and the number of swimmers. Discussion ensued including topics such as capping the number of out of zone swimmers and capping the total meet size. The Board decided to allow out of zone teams to register. The parameters will be determined later.

Ted continued by observing that requiring the receipt of certifications three days out from the start of the meet worked well. He asked if this practice should be continued. Mary added that this practice was less burdensome and made the process off registration easier for her and the meet host. The Board decided to keep this practice as is. A policy needs to be written that states the deadline for certifications is three days prior to the start of a meet.

Age Group Report – Scott reported that the formats for regionals and district champs will be the same as last year. The mile will be dropped from the schedule. 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.

Athletes-No report.

Coaches Report- TJ report that the Coaches Committee endorsed everything sent to them from the Age Group, Senior, and Technical Planning Committees.

Officials Report – Bryan reported during their meeting the officials reviewed the current Administrative Official certification requirements. Some of the requirements required updating. This will be completed soon. He also reported that the LSC Officials Chairs would be meeting on Wednesday. They will continue to review the rule change for breast stroke touches. We will be using rule as it is interpreted by USA-S. He will send any updates to all coaches via Mary. It will also be placed on the front page off the VSI website and on the “What’s New” page.

Club Development Report- Steve P. 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. Jim Miller's presentation was excellent. He is open to doing something else with VSI over the next few years. Steve will post Dr. Miller's PowerPoint and video on the exercises he discussed on the VSI website.

Diversity Report – Peter would like to host two camps next year. He is looking for locations and would like clubs to participate.

Safety – No report.

Open Water Report – Scott reported that the Open Water Zone male and female winners will get automatic bids to Nationals in the 5K. There not enough 12 and under participating in Open Water to offer an Open Water Award for this age grouping. A motion was made the age groups be changed to 14 and under and 15 and over. Awards would go to a 14 and under male and female and a 15 and over male and female. The motion carried.

National Times Report – Terry received the Top Ten List and will send it to USA-S. Certificates will be given for 11-18 individual ages. The Short Course list will be posted in Splash. The Long Course List will be posted a couple of months later.

Records – No report.

Rules Report – Kevin reported that Dan McAllen said it is alright to have 20% athlete membership on the Coaches Committee, but it is not required. However, this is a LEAP 1 requirement and in the VSI bylaws. This change must go through the House of Delegates and requires 30 days prior notice.

The bylaws were pre-approved by John Morris at USA-S. Several housekeeping changes were mandated. Mary stated that it is unclear if the Board can make housekeeping changes to the bylaws or if such changes need to be ratified. Currently, the VSI bylaws do not state that the Board can make housekeeping changes. Also, our LEAP 1 was evaluated on October 8 and this was not a concern. Steve H. indicated that it is currently not clear what the Board can and cannot do pertaining to housekeeping changes to bylaws. This needs to be verified with USA-S, so that we can get everything in order. TJ suggested that Kevin contact USA-S to see if any housekeeping changes can be made by the Board or if they need to be ratified. Steve H. asked Kevin and Mary to work together to get direction from USA-S and take care of this issue.

Technical Planning Report – Lisa reported that the Technical Planning Committee has 20% athlete membership. The Committee discussed the 4 hour mandate that is currently applied to all sessions. They no longer want this rule to apply to 13 and over sessions. Steve and Mary indicated that this rule applied to all sessions does not currently appear in the policy and procedures manual. Lisa recommended that the LSC procedures and policies mirror what is in the USA-S Rule Book. The four hour rule should apply to 12 and under sessions and be dropped for 13 and over sessions, with distance events being open. Mary indicated that according to procedures, the change cannot be made today. Seven days' notice is needed to vote on it.

The Committee endorsed the Age Group and Senior meet formats. They also endorsed finals A, B, C with fastest first with trickle down.

She also reported that the coaches would prefer to have the banquet in the spring and proposed that this change be made. The athletes will be discussing this issue during their meeting and will report their preference.

Senior Report – Ted enthusiastically congratulated Bryan on the success of Senior Champs meet. There were no national certifications done at LC Senior Champs. The Officials Chair will make sure that this does not happen in the future. He asked Kevin for a guideline on what occurrences are protestable and those that are not.

He reported on the format for championship events. There will be posted timelines. The finals heat order will be A, B, C with alternates filling vacant lanes. Athlete bios will be given to allow more preparation behind the blocks. The top three finishers will get awards. With this format, a ready room will not be necessary.

The General Chair Ted requested that the Senior Committee investigate the possibility of establishing a Senior Circuit. The District Chairs will discuss the possibility with coaches to see if there is support. The report will be due in January.

The Committee discussed time standards. They proposed using the winter 2013 Junior Nationals as a baseline for reimbursement. Terry made a point of order that the Board needs to approve any proposals brought by committees. Discussion ensued. Many LSCs do this for higher level meets (sectionals and higher). If we want to send swimmers to elevated meets, providing options for reimbursement is necessary. However, time standards have gotten so fast, it is difficult to meet them. The high time standards were not set to deter participation, but to encourage higher performance levels. Bill suggested that the Senior and Finance Committees look at this issue together. Bob would like to see the language before the Board votes on this. It needs to clearly state what will be reimbursed. This will be a policy change, so the language needs to be right. It can be taken to the House of Delegates in the spring. Bill proposed that the Senior and Finance Committees put together a revised athlete travel policy to bring to the Board by January. This was passed by the Board.

Spring House of Delegates Meeting – Steve reported that the Spring HOD meeting would need to be rescheduled from the last week of April due to conflicts. He suggested that the meeting be held during the second weekend of April. This was discussed and the date approved. Steve reminded everyone that any proposed policy changes required 30 days advance notice to bring to the HOD.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Hillery/Secretary