

Virginia Swimming, Inc.
Age Group Committee Meeting
April 22, 2020

MINUTES

Call to Order

Drew Hirth

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

Drew announced that we are using the Zoom webinar feature for the meeting. Attendees are not on the screen. The members of the committee are panelists and are visible. Mike Salpeter will answer the questions through the Q&A feature.

Mary Turner reviewed the procedures for signing up to vote in the House of Delegates meeting.

LC Season Planning

The VSI Board of Directors asked each of the committees to discuss return to play. All proposals will be considered. The BOD will consider input from each of the committees to help the LSC to get good ideas for return to play.

Using modeling initiated by Steve Hennessy as a conversation starter, several scenarios were offered. Do we follow a regular progression of meets through championship meets or extend further into August or September?

The Eastern Zone decided to cancel the Senior and Age Group Zone meet at their meeting on April 19.

MC Thomas asks if it is possible to decide if we can hold meets. Most clubs are trying to figure out how to start practices again. She asks if adding a championship meet puts pressure on clubs to get back into the water.

Drew asks whether VSI should try to host Championship meets at the end of any season whenever it may end. He reiterates that we are talking about contingency plans.

- Scott Baldwin asks what the date cutoff would be for holding a LC season.
- Drew notes we will likely need to do what we can to hold onto our athletes. Taking a month off in August if we get back into the water in late June/early July is detrimental.
- MC suggests perhaps moving the SC season up and starting LC earlier in 2021.
- Jonathan Kaplan suggests running a LC season later into the SC season, running the SC Championship season later into the winter.
- Aidan Duffy thinks the LC season is important.
- Maureen suggests using virtual meets to help with costs to the clubs and limits the team travel. Smaller meets will be in our future.
- Drew suggests that Age Group Champs could be the same meet at different locations to keep the numbers down and limit the costs on families. A virtual meet can be used to combine results and score.

- Karen Keenan says it will take another two and half months to get athletes back into shape.
- David Schreck suggests a short SC season and start LC season in January.
- Chad Onken suggests forgoing a LC season.
- Dave Henderson says if we do a LC season with a Championship meet it would be three months from the time we get back into the water with few meets during the first month and moving into a championship meet in month three.
- Anthony Pederson asks if anyone has talked to facilities. JRSSC is not interested in holding meets until September. CSAC is open with the potential exception of US Masters weekend (August). BMAC can do 1-2 meets in August. They do not want to have any meets in late August/early September when they are closing down beaches and outdoor facilities. Liberty and CAC is willing to get going once things are opened up again.
- A question from the Q&A feed: Can AG swimming and Senior swimming go in two different paths in terms of Championship meets? The committee felt it was possible to separate the schedules.

2020-2021 Championship Meets

The committee discussed recommendations of the following meets with multiple bids.

8 & U District Champs:

SE ODAC @ ODU
 757 @ WISC

Drew suggested maybe alternating meets between the two facilities. WISC has 10 lanes versus 8 lanes at ODU. The WISC facility may be able to offer more for the meet. ODAC did a great job hosting at ODU. WISC locker rooms were an issue. ODU cannot do 100 relays because it is too shallow on the turn end.

The motion to support alternating the meets in the SE district between ODU and WISC and holding the meet at 757 @ WISC. The committee approved this motion.

SW CCA @ Salem Family YMCA
 CYAC @ Brooks Family YMCA

The Brooks Family YMCA is interested in starting to host more USA Swimming meets. Scott is concerned about minimizing travel and going to Charlottesville puts 75% of athletes having to travel 1.5 hours or more. Bridget disputes.

Drew suggests alternating the meet between locations. An alternating plan may be too simple because more than 2 teams might like to host this 8 and Under meet like Lynchburg Y.

The motion to recommend that the meet be awarded to CYAC at the Brooks Family YMCA. The motion was approved by the committee.

SW 9-12 District/Blue Ridge 13 and O Regional Champs

CCA @ CAC
 LY @ CAC

The motion to recommend that LY host this meet was approved.

SC Age Group Champs

HOKI @ CAC

SRVA @ CSAC

LC Age Group Champs

SRVA @ CSAC

SEVA @ CSAC

The motion to recommend that the location for SC Age Group Champs will be CAC and the LC Age Group Champs location will be CSAC hosted by SEVA was approved.

SRVA is ok if other teams want to host the meet at CSAC

Age Group Time Standards

Qualifying Time Period: The normal qualifying period is January 1, 2020 to the start of the meet. There is a sentiment to make the qualifying period to January 1, 2019. The Zone will use 2019 for meets in the Eastern Zone.

The motion to extend the qualifying period for the Age Group qualifying times for all Championship meets will be from January 1, 2019 to the first day of the meet was approved.

Time Standards: Dave proposes that we make it a minimum of an A time for the qualifying standard. The majority of the committee believes the time standards should be reviewed in October. Steve Hennessey offered historical perspective on the process and recommended that procedures should be written down.

Athlete Representatives for the Age Group Committee

Drew asked for ideas for two new athlete representatives suggestions be emailed to him.

New Business

Regional Alignment for the Regional Champs Meets: Jessica Simons suggests that the SE Regional was at its limits. She also suggests that DC, SRVA and RACE move to the Northern region. Anthony Pederson said athlete numbers were too great for the 13 & O Northern Region meet. It was suggested that a fourth region in the Central area be created.

The topic is on the agenda for the Senior Committee meeting and they will take ownership of the regional meets.

Thank you to DC Hellams for your service. Welcome to Aidan Duffy and Drew Crockett to the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Committee Panelists: Drew Hirth (Chair), Scott Baldwin, Hayley Geiger, Anthony Pederson, Dave Henderson, Drew Crockett, Aidan Duffy, Mike Salpeter (not on Committee – Q&A attendee facilitator), DC Hellams, Maureen Tolliver, Bridget Burkot, MC Thomas, Jessica Simons