

Potomac Valley Swimming
Competition Committee Meeting
January 10, 2018
Rockville Senior Center

- Attendance – Blair Piddington – PVS, Mark Faherty – PVS, Tim Husson – PVS, Matt Solano – FFX, Rob Green – DCPR/PVS, Dave DiNardo – PVS, Tim DeLucia – PG, Erik Collins – SNOW, Ian Handerhan – SDS, Kellianne Venit – PAC, Emily Menard – HACC, Mark Murray – FBST, Lance Page – TANK, Mark Eldridge – RMSC, Priya Aurora – DCPR, Dan Jacobs – MACH, Bob Walker – ASA, Heather Haddock – MAKO, Matt Pelletier – FISH, Tim Kelly – NCAP, Lynne Gerlach – MSSC, Jocelyn Sowa -LIFE, Heather Purk – PVS, Manga Dalizu – FAST, Kent Williams – RMSC, Evan Stiles – AAC/PVS
- Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Age Group Chair, Blair Piddington at 7:05 pm.
- Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes – **Motion to approve the 2018 Fall Meeting Minutes, seconded and approved.**
- Board Reports
 - General Chair – no report submitted
 - Admin Chair – Tim Husson reported on the January Distance meet the previous weekend. The meet was roughly the same size as 2017. On Saturday (1000 free) was just under 6.5 hours and the 1650 on Sunday was over 8.5 hours. There were plenty of officials and all coaches appeared to be pleased. Tim suggested a format change for next year; running the meet as a mix gender fastest to slowest. There are no awards, so no real reason to separate the heats by gender. He believes it may help the timelines.
 - The body present like the idea.
 - **Motion to combine the genders for the February Distance meet in 2018, seconded and approved.**
 - Age Group Chair – no report submitted.
 - Senior Chair – Mark notified the body that there was a policy changed voted on by the board for athlete and official's travel reimbursement. This change will help to streamline the process. Currently coaches have 30 days to submit the forms on line from the last day of the meet. All forms go to Mark (coaches)/Rich (Officials), Ellen and Sumie. According to the new policy, within 10 days of receiving the forms, Sr. Chair/Official's Chair will validate and approve (or reject) the request. If all requirements are met and the request is approved the check will be issued right away. If there is an appeal, then it will have to be brought to the board for approval. All Outreach requests will still go to the Board.
 - Coaches Reps – nothing to report
 - Operations Chair – no report submitted
 - Strategic Planning Chair – The PVS Board of Director had a very productive meeting with Jane Grosser from USA Swimming in mid-December.
 - One of the primary tasks the board will be working on is how to better structure of our competition schedule,
 - What about the new facility in Springfield. If anyone know anything about it, please let Dave know.
 - The second task will be to form a Governance Committee – similar to the Nominating Committee we currently set up; however, this Committee will help ensure that our LSC is being governed properly (i.e. voting, policies, etc.) If you are interested in helping out or being on the committee, let Tom know. It should be part coach, part official, part parents and an athlete.
 - Safe Sport Chair – no report submitted

- Diversity Chair – There is a D&I Newsletter handed out and it will be on the website tomorrow, please read and let Rob Green know if you have any questions. A few reminders:
 - There is a Diversity & Inclusion Grant program (for \$5000) for clubs with an Outreach program/plan. If you are interested contact Rob Green.
 - The Black History Meet is scheduled for February. In addition to the meet, there will be a D&I Officials workshop with Cecil Gordan (first African American to be accepted to officiate at the Olympics in Rio, as a Starter)
 - In May there will be the National Diversity Camp in Colorado Springs. This camp will be for swimmers at the Sectional level. The application process has already started if you have D&I swimmers that might be interested.
 - A College Knowledge program is scheduled for the spring. This will be a time to talk about the college admittance process and ask questions from college coaches.
 - The annual D&I travel meet to North Carolina, Memorial Day weekend. Still looking for coaches, teams and athletes. The athlete count will be capped at 125 swimmers. We want to send a large team to represent PVS.
- Officials Rep – no report submitted
- Athletes Reps – no report submitted
- Old Business
 - LC Championship Meet format (discussion moved to the end of the meeting)
 - Mark Faherty presented his proposal for a change to the LC Championship meet, starting in 2019 and opened it up for discussion. Previously, this proposal was presented and then tabled. There have been growing concerns regarding the meet size, number of athletes in attendance and the cut times. Many have felt that our current format is adversely affecting the 14 & Under swimmers. The past few years, LC Age Group Champs has been three full prelims sessions, that they go directly into finals. A fairly low percentage of swimmers are able to swim due to the cuts being so fast year after year. Senior Champs is a good size, but swimmers must be close to Sectional cuts to qualify. Due to the current format many of the 15 & Overs are taken of at Junior champs. We need to determine how we resolve these issues.
 - **Motion to reformat the LC Meets; Hold Senior Champs (Meet #1) the 2nd weekend of July in its current format. The same weekend hold Age Group Champs for 12 & U swimmers, prelims & finals (meet #2). Then the next weekend hold a 13-14 age group prelim/finals meet (meet #3), as the priority meet for 13-14 year olds, followed by a 15-18 age session for those swimmers who do not qualify for Senior Champs. (priority first session of prelims), Seconded and approved (1 against).**
 - There was a great discussion with multiple options of how to tweak the format presented. Mark commented that there are numerous options of how each meet can be formatted, once we decide/agree on the general scope of the meets.
 - Tim Husson commented that PVS is now at the point where we are busting at the seams and feels we cannot continue to run our LC Championship meets in this manner. Why not make a change for summer 2019. The formats can always be tweaked after the first year.
 - The board will take the recommendation from this body and will look at all aspects, including the financial impact on the LSC.
 - Meet 1 & 3 will be at one pool and meet 2 will be a different pool (which is adding a pool).

- The Officials present feel this change in format will work from an officiating standpoint. During the first weekend the two meets will draw from different pools of Officials.
 - Each club in attendance was asked to express their opinion on the proposal. While there were a few teams that expressed concern about the proposal, most of the teams in attendance commented that there were positives about this proposal and were willing to give it a try.
 - Motion to call the questions, seconded and approved.
- Outstanding Athlete Award – Nomination forms was sent out a week ago and put in Dropbox and on the PVS website, with a private link. This evening Ballots were handed out, one per team. Tim Husson will tally the ballots.
 - Tim counted the ballots and announced the winners
 - **Motion to destroy the ballots, seconded and approved.**
- Winter Championship Meets Recap –
 - Holiday Invite – MAKO was in attendance and commented, they felt the meet went well. They handed out ducks to heat winners.
 - Turkey Claus – It was a big meet, lots of swimmers. Biggest issue was the poor air quality
 - NCAP – Similarly to TC, the meet went well, but the air quality was poor, although slightly better than the week prior.
 - Winter Classic – Meet went well, swimmers and coaches enjoyed it.
 - RMSC – Air quality at Germantown was good. The swimming was fast. The meet is getting close to capacity, but had good timelines this year.
 - Christmas Champs – At Fairland – air quality was also bad but the lighting was great. They have now fixed the problems with the air and it should be better in the future.
 - Air quality does seem to be an issue at many of the pools. There are several board members working on figuring out why and how to best proceed.
- LC Zone Head and Assistant Coach Voting –
 - Voting for the Head Coach for the LC Age Group Zones took place.
 - On the ballot; Liz Badley, Heather Purk, Leslie Tomlinson. Ballots were handed out, voting took place, then tallied by Dave DiNardo, confirmed by Mel Eldridge.
 - Ballots were tallied and Leslie Tomlinson was voted in as the head coach for the LC Zones. **Motion to destroy the ballots, seconded and approved.**
 - Voting for the Assistant Coach for the LC Age Group Zones took place.
 - On the ballot: Liz Badley, Stephen Clendenin, Gian Polignano, Kelly Rose McCullough, Lauren Kranz, Heather Purk.
 - Ballots were handed out and then counted by Dave DiNardo, verified by Mark Eldridge; The LC Zone Assistance Head coach is: Lauren Kranz. **Motion to destroy the ballot, seconded and approved.**
- Club Meet Bids for 2018-2019- was presented to the body.
 - Each club who added a new meet to the schedule were given a few minutes to tell about the new proposed meet.
 - **Motion to approve the 2018-2019 Club meets as presented, seconded and approved.**
- New Business
 - Tech Suits in Age Group Swimming – this is being brought up for discussion only. USA Swimming has been conducting a study for the past year on the impact of Tech suits on swimmers and their families. Later in February they will present their findings to all members. At that time they will decided who will make the rule; USA Swimming, Zone, LSC or will it be left up to each club.
 - There was a brief discussion regarding the tech suits. The question most felt they needed answered were; How do we define a “tech suit” and who will be responsible for policing the use of these suits.
 - Currently, we discovered, that each PVS Club has their own guidelines.

- At this time there seems to be more questions than answers. We will wait to hear what USA Swimming find and presents and then decided what PVS is going to do from there.
- Adjourn – Wednesday May 16 – CCM, Tuesday, May 22 HOD.