Gulf Swimming House of Delegates Meeting 10/16/24

Hilton Westchase
9999 Westheimer Rd
Houston TX 77042

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 8pm by General Chair Charlie Fry. Jennie Shamburger took the BOD and team roll call. Attending the meeting were:

BOD Members		**Gulf Staff**	**Gulf Coordinators**
Charlie Fry	John Burke	Julie Bachman	Matt Sale
Paige Sikkema	Lauren Fuller	Tom Hasz	Davis Peden
Jennie Shamburger	Courtney Scott	Loren Fischbach	Herb Schwab
Travis Sandifer	Jake Camp	Tanya Avant	Natalie Melenric
MaryAnne Svoboda	Lisa Blok		
Mark Martinez	Tanja Avant		

Clubs Attending

AGS	DADS	KATY	NOCH	SHAC	TASC
AQUA	ESA	LIFE	NEHA	SHRK	TWST
BLAST	FCST	MAC	PEAK	STA	
BTA	HYDR	MARC	PFL	SSAN	
CFSC	INSP	MEAN	PACK	TEST	

MISSION MOMENT: Charlie read Gulf Mission Statement: *Gulf Swimming provides opportunities to learn, grow, and strive for excellence, developing leaders through competitive swimming.*

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Motion was made and seconded to approve the HOD meeting minutes from May 8th, 2024. No changes or edits. ***Motion to approve minutes passed.***

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

CONSENT AGENDA: Consent agenda on all reports was presented. ***Motion to approve Governance report (all others pulled) was made and seconded***. ***Motion to approve that report passed.*** The Executive, TPC, Officials, Safe Sport and Athletes Committee reports were all pulled.

REPORTS

Athletes Committee: Lauren Fuller presented report. The recently held athlete retreat was good for team building. Everyone enjoyed the escape room and pizza afterwards. Athlete's committee project being planned. Mental health focus on managing time, anxiety, performance and more will be addressed. No questions from the room.

General Chair: Charlie thanked Gulf Swimming and those who attending the USA Swimming ABM. Changes in leadership will lead to changes in USA Swimming. Charlie shared that many of the General Chair meetings focused on not pricing ourselves out of the sport. It was reported that swimmers are leaving our sport for others due to costs - meet entry fees, travel fees, etc.

Executive Director Report: Julie Bachman sent 10 & Under report from USA Swimming to every head coach and asked that it be passed along to age group staffs.

Coaches Clinic set for April 4-6th in Galveston. Speakers Paul Yetter, Ken Ono, Paige Madden, Dr Megan Cannon. Will also have both AG and Sr tracks as well as Officials and Meet Refs - one official from each team will be invited and hotel covered.

Duel in the Pool - Gulf is host but no pool available. Alternatives being looked at. We be able to swim/host at SMU in Dallas or switch years and go back to Illinois this year. Preferred dates weekend of May 16-18th. She asked that any feedback be sent to John Burke, Charlie Fry, Davis Peden or Julie Bachman.

Gulf was awarded 2026 Zone Open Water Meet. Charlie Fry is taking lead on this meet. This year's meet is Ft Meyers at end of April but location may change.

The Gulf Gold Medal clinic went well. Everyone was appreciative of Katharine Berkhoff as athlete. She was very well received.

New Gulf logo proposal centered around space. There will be a grand build out for meets and investing in our brand. ***Motion to approve new logo made and seconded. New logo approved.***

Voting for Gulf AG and Sr Coaches of the year open through Sunday. All coaches allowed one vote.

Tanja put out a registration sign up for each team to have Gulf certification for Mental Health First Aid.

All attendees at ABM submitted reports and feedback from meeting in Co Springs.

Financial Report: Travis Sandifer presented report. Reviewed 3rd quarter and very strong / healthy balance sheet and income statements. Liability and equity statements are up and the income statement in line with budget. Investment earnings increase has been good. Unrealized gains will cover any actual losses.
There is currently .25 cent increase in splash fees for next 4 years. Proposed budget for 2025 has additional . 25 cents per splash fee included.

Legislation was passed in club dues at USA Swimming level. Clubs asking for grass roots help with clubs from USA Swimming. Additional club dues $$ will go towards this task and building an Age Group Excellence program awarding program for retention and growth. Funding for local club coaches to attend camps.

Gulf Swimming also did strategic planning for the new quad. More competition opportunities, swimming at higher levels and showing value to keep swimmers in the sport. Proposed budget reflects this planning. Will use 70% as highest reimbursement for specific meets. That money saved will be put into a salary budget dedicated to bring in individual(s) or consultants to work with club development. Money will also assist more officials attending the Gulf Clinic.

Proposed budget has a -$93,000 amount (down from last year). ***Motion to approve budget for 2025 as presented made and seconded. Budget approval passed.***

TPC: Davis Peden presented report. He recognized the athlete participation in the recommendations. Fall / Dec Champs meets - received exact number of bids/ locations so BOD approved that slate of bids on 9/18. BOD voted to recommend approval of Summer Champs meets as presented at BOD meeting. Will be similar to last year's calendar. Spring Champs series was pulled from approval due to host team removing their bids.

Southern Sr Champs - TWST.
Age Group Champs - AGS.
13 & Over P/F meet: NOCH, PACK, TEST, LSST
12 & Under Champs meet: TASC, MAC, ESCA/AMBU, SHRK, KATY - Format change with boys AM and girls PM.

Feb/March Champs series: changing from last year and bringing back 12 & Under Champs Meet instead of 14 & Under w last chance TAGS for 13-14. Weekend of Feb 21st.
13 Over Champs weekend of Feb 28th. TAGS weekend after.
12 & Under Champs Meets recommendation: NOCH, TASC, DADS, PACK, MAC, KATY

13 & O Champs Meets recommendation: TEST, PEAK, LSST (2 pools)

Summer Champs: Similar to last year. No meets first weekend in July. LC AG Champs weekend of 7/11 with Sr Champs same weekend. B Under Champs same weekend as TAGS. Summer Champs p/f weekend of 27th.

Sr Champs recommendation: KATY @ UH.
AG Champs: CFSC at FLEET.
B Under Champs: SHAC, MAC, SHRK, LSST
Summer Champs P/F: ESCA/TEST at FBISD, KATY/PACE at Angleton ISD

Motion made to approve meet locations for Spring and Summer Champs series made and seconded. Motion to amend Winter Champs 13 & Over in Feb from LSST double meet at CFISD to LSST one pool and PACK one pool. Amendment to the motion seconded. Discussion included athletes speaking to decision to add breaks to add equal competition time. Question about reconsidering bids if 2 pool / 3 site. It was noted the BOD approved the TPC original recommendation. ***Amendment to motion failed. Original motion to approve recommended sites for Winter and Summer Champs series passed.***

Proposal to return to split bid process for 2025-26 season. Short Course Champs (Dec/Feb) bids would open in Jan 2025 and be awarded in May 2025. Summer meet service bids would open in Oct. 2025 and be awarded in Jan 2026. No vote needed. Question about shortening and extension of bid process for SC vs LC. Recommendation to go back and look at concerns voiced at meeting and confirm ISD reservation processes.

Motion made to increase in splash fees by .25 cents to bring Champs meet entry fees in line with an increase of .25 cents for ind event and relay event entry fees will increase to be in line with splash fee increase beginning Jan 2025. Motion seconded. There were concerns based on information presented at the ABM. It was explained that host teams now being shorted .25 cents per entry which is now .50 cents and could become $1 per entry. It was also pointed out that without this motion passing, host teams will lose money. Could higher level agreement be reached to bring costs down and solve issue. Talks with Facilitron have begunn to address overall facility cost issues. No further discussion. ***Motion passed.***

Safe Sport: Tanja Avant presented report. Mental Heath First Aid certification - deadline extended and a coach from each team encouraged to sign up. USA Swimming and USA Center for Safe Sport just updated MAAPP. Clubs have until end of year to implement these changes. Email will be sent out to clubs to get out to membership.

Officials Report: Matt Sale presented a no cost proposal for Officials Travel Reimbursement Policy. Rationale to send additional Officials to OQM meets out of

LSC. 11% of Gulf officials have this certification but average is 22% by LSC. Currently 6-7 officials being reimbursed per year and would like to increase it to 10 per year. To accomplish this, reimbursable meets would be reduced from 3 to 2 and star meet levels from Jrs to Sectionals to allow more officials to attend. This would all be accomplished within current budget numbers. This will be combined with hosting 2 OQM meets in Gulf. This proposal is revised from tabled motion at BOD. M***otion made to accept revised proposal as presented.*** Herb said this motion needs to be brought up under new business because not included in the HOD packet. Budget will not change but policy will change. ***Motion to table this until next HOD meeting in 2025 to allow entire HOD to review proposal was made and seconded. Motion to table passed.***

NEW BUSINESS: Not included in HOD packet - reimbursement schedules for US Open / athletes $1125 and Jrs West in Austin $925. Officials $1674 / $1571 for West and $1300 in East. Coaches amounts also presented. ***Recommendation to approve the travel reimbursements for US Open and Jrs in December 2024. Motion made and seconded. Motion passes.***

Charlie Fry spoke to focus on quad plan. Has discussed this with Davis Peden / TPC and asked to look into planning four years out and which meets will be SC/LC and which distance prelims/finals, work on schedules and work on what meets will need to look like to plan for the future. This will facilitate discussion. HOD will vote on final draft of this proposal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Desktop Discussion inaugural call was successful. Looking forward to growing this program. Next call will be Sunday, November 10th from 7-8pm.

No other business or announcements.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.