

Gulf Swimming Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: April 8, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM (via Zoom)

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Reports

Executive Director (Julie Bachman)

- Coaches Clinic: 170 coaches and 30+ referees attended
- Thanked all contributors
- Southern Zone Open Water: need board volunteers; sign-up form on website
- Focus on hospitality for visiting LSCs
- Continue prioritizing officials recruitment; Natalie available to assist
- Proposal: Officials + TPC input on referee assignments for LSC Champs
- Goal: ensure strongest officials/mentors are placed effectively
- Fred to bring proposal back next meeting; Travis emphasized communication with host teams

Athlete Committee (Brendan)

- Strong interest in future events
- Junior Officials Survival Guide created to support recruitment
- Southern/Eastern Zone Summit applications finalized this week
- Elections scheduled for May

Officials (Fred)

- Officials decreased from 397 to 367; some attrition due to moves/retirement
- 37 Stroke & Turn apprentices in pipeline
- 37 teams have at least one official
- Positive feedback from Gulf University officials track
- 3 OQM meets in July – need officials support
- Continue recruitment efforts

Open Water (Seth)

- Qualifier participation over 250 athletes (highest since pre-COVID)
- Lake Longhorn secured with USA Swimming insurance support
- Need volunteers for SZ Open Water event; athletes can assist
- Athlete Committee to support event

Technical Planning Committee (Davis)

- Fall Championship Series recommendations reviewed
- Athletes limited to ONE championship meet
- Southern Senior Champs (13&O P/F): TWST recommended; add 50s of stroke
- Age Group Champs (14&U P/F): AGS recommended; add 50s of stroke, review time standards
- Gulf Senior Champs (13&O): reduced to 2 sites for quality competition
- Sites: FBISD (TEST) and Pearland (BTA)
- Geographic balance emphasized; add 50s of stroke
- Fall Champs: 5 sites (one multi-site)
- Sites: Cy Fair ISD (LSST), Tomball, Katy, MAC, NOCH
- No format changes; geographic balance applied
- Notes: Katy HS better spectator setup; LSST experienced; ESCA not suitable
- Spring 2027 meet bidding opens early June
- Motion to approve Fall Champs recommendations – seconded

Finance (Henry / Tom)

- Market volatility noted
- YTD financials ahead of budget: -\$61K vs -\$221K budget
- Net income currently -\$173K with investments impact
- Clean audit report received
- Form 990 in progress; will be reviewed before May 15 filing

Safe Sport (Tanja)

- Updated Safe Sport courses released by US Center
- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month – educational sessions ongoing
- Liz Hahn session at clinic provided 2 SSRP points
- Gulf ranked 31st in SSRP participation
- Outreach to clubs continues; resources shared

Additional Discussion

- Out-of-zone teams for SZ Senior Champs may be allowed to enter at same deadline
- Target cap: 600 athletes (potential expansion to 675–700)
- Cap of 75 teams discussed
- Julie to analyze Gulf team participation numbers
- Club Development Committee - reintroduction into the GULF; Travis will head up and present a more formal report at HOD