

CASL Chattanooga Area Swim League, Inc.

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting September 17, 2009

The Board met on September 17, 2009 at the Downtown YMCA. In attendance were: Buck Meyer (CAT), George Thomas (Hamilton Y), Jim Chow (Ringgold), Linda Brubaker (Ringgold), Krissi Whitaker (East Ridge), Michael Mathis (CGCC), Ronnie Kimball (CGCC), Ron Snider (Mosby), James Bevill (Fairyland), Tony Swink (Calhoun), Henry Tharpe (Dalton), Missy Smith (STH), Kristie Perry (Red Bank), Carol Noblett (Ridgeside), Dale Tillman (CYF), Stephanie Huskins (OSC), and Janet Pickett (Signal Mtn).

The proposed agenda was reviewed. Two items (City Meet letter and meeting schedule for the rest of the year) were added, and accepted.

Ms. Tillman asked the Board to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Ron Snider made a motion to accept the minutes, and Linda Brubaker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports of the Officers:

Treasurer – Ms. Henderson was not present. It was noted that checks from City Meet were to be distributed shortly. Over \$5,000 would come from the meet.

City Meet – It was reported there were some missing medals, but at present there were no issues left. The banners from past City Meets are now distributed.

Safety – Ron Snider passed around a prototype safety handbook.

Old Business:

There was discussion regarding the swimmer problems that occurred at City Meet. Ms Tillman provided a letter from CASL to each pool rep. This letter could be distributed by the pool reps to their club members as needed, to address some of the issues. The letter emphasized a goal for the 2010 City Meet of better communication and zero mistakes.

Henry Tharpe noted that regarding swimmer problems at City Meet, that even with lots of first-time swimmers, the number of problems represented a very small percentage.

DQ slips and the handling of these was discussed. The DQ slips go from the official to the referee to a runner. Getting these to the scorer in a timely manner is important. The possibility of using an administrative referee was discussed.

Safety Handbook – Ron Snider extracted CASL rules for safety-related items, categorizing them as part of checklist, measurements, and maps. Each club was encouraged to review their facilities checklist, making sure it is accurate and up-to-date. There was a general discussion of pool depths and block heights, with references to industry standards versus CASL Board policies. It was noted that the insurance carrier ultimately relies on the CASL Board decisions. The issue of what is a rule versus what

is a recommendation was discussed. Ms Tillman suggested that a possible solution would be some sort of certification for each individual swimmer before being allowed to use the blocks. Ms Noblett noted that in USA clubs, some do water starts. Mr Mathis asked about pool certification. Ms Tillman noted that we operate with a swimmer's informed consent and acceptance of risks involved. Mr Tharpe opined that as much as we can do has been done. Mr Snider stated that the handbook will show the depths for each pool.

The question was posed – is one accident in 50 years of CASL simply luck, or are we doing something right?

It is the responsibility of the Pool Rep to have accurate measurements.

Mr Snider will create handbooks with the information presently available, and email the document to Ms Tillman for distribution.

Changes to City Meet – Late entries were allowed up to 2 PM Thursday, but this was not communicated consistently. In the past, Scenic City and Dalton have allowed them. Mr Snider stated that a good reason for not having rules is that if you have a rule you have to abide by it. There was a short discussion regarding the trade-offs of allowing late entries and collecting additional entry fees, versus not allowing them and not having the additional revenue. Ms Tillman stated that it is the responsibility of the Pool Reps and swimmers to know the deadlines. Ms Noblett requested year-to-year consistency. Ultimately it was decided that the host team would decide how late entries would be handled.

Relays at City Meet – The issue was discussed, whether or not there are enough teams to warrant having qualifiers and finals for relays. This led to a broader discussion of moving events, and considering what events merited timed finals. The decision by the Board to eliminate “bonus heats” should have been in effect for the 2009 City Meet, but these did take place. They will not in the future.

Other proposals collected by Ms Tillman from the Board and from parents are detailed as an attachment. Everything will stay the same as it was this year, except the 8 and under 50 free will have a timed final. In general, all dual meet events will have timed finals except relays. If the individual event is in a dual meet, it will have a preliminary and a final.

Ms Tillman addressed the issue of excessive numbers of disqualifications. She indicated this was a responsibility of the coaches, by asking “Should coaches enter a swimmer who will surely DQ?”

Communication to parents about City Meet will be enhanced. Ms Tillman asked the Pool Reps to forward to her any “City Meet 101”-type documents that are distributed by teams.

Election of Officers – Janet Pickett was nominated and elected Secretary. Jim Chow was approved as President. Stephanie Malone and Buck Meyer were nominated for the Treasurer position, and the latter was elected. Carol Noblett was nominated and elected as VP/President Elect.

Next Meeting – It was decided that the Board would not meet again until January 2010.

The meeting was adjourned.