

Minutes of the May 3, 2008 GSSA Meeting at NCC

Jim Rezzarday began the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with a greeting. He also said that last year was good and reasonably quiet. Jim also mentioned that we will be taking over the website from Jack (as he is currently too busy) and that Mike Hirst will help with it. Jack will send the domain information to Jim and he will re-register it.

Nominations for officers took place.

All positions were unanimously voted to remain the same.

President: Jim Rezzarday

Vice President: Brendan McLaughlin

Treasurer: Greg Derderian

Secretary: Margie Clark-Kevan

No minutes were read.

(Deep apologies are given from the secretary for not realizing that bringing them was part of the job description. She vows to do better next year!)

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Some teams did not pay dues last year. Greg will notify those teams. Jim made up an invoice to give to the town when requesting funds for dues. Because our funds are down, we cannot pre-buy awards at this point. Steve Van der Beken proposed that this year's team dues be \$100. It was passed unanimously.

\$100 team dues payable to GSSA should be sent care of Greg Derderian, Treasurer at 32 Tinker Avenue, Nashua, NH 03064 by July 15, 2008.

Meet manager and team manager should stay the same for established teams. New teams can have GSSA purchase \$69 towards team manager in order to get them started. They can get the information to the treasurer and a check will be sent.

Issues with late entries for last summer's state meets (North Country and Lake Region) were discussed next. Jim reminded the group that N. Country and Milford had late submittal issues last year and were on probation.

1. Brian Duran from Lake's Region presented his case for why entries were late to Dover. He stated that the team had lost both coaches and the long-time team manager at the start of the summer. Parent coaches stepped up to run the team. They looked for the link for the champs but could not find it and waited for a mailing which did not come. Eventually they received a call (2 days after the deadline) asking if they were planning on states. They entered and swam exhibition only. Brian stated that it was an oversight on their part compounded by website issues. He also said that it would not occur again and that he had been running the team all winter without any problems.
2. Scarlotte from Gold Crush spoke next. She said that they were looking at the wrong website. She stated that she knew she had missed the date one the entries were mailed in, but at the time of looking for the due date, did not know it had been missed. Her swimmers swam exhibition and she also took full responsibility.

Jim stated that the deadline dates and email information for states would be given at today's meeting and that everyone should note the information and stick to it. Jim then opened the floor for discussion.

- Dick Cuddihee suggested a probation with no fine.
- Brian Dirrane asked about by-laws and asked specifically what by-law had been violated. Jim explained that not all discussions at annual meetings could go into the by-laws, but instead precedence was followed.
- Tim Thompson from Seacoast said that there should be no probation if it's not in the by-laws. Jim responded that by-law changes could be discussed next year.
- Brendan from BGCN seconded the probation without a fine. This was voted in by the majority.

Karen from Blue was not able to make the meeting today because of a work commitment. Rebecca will get the information for her, but will not be able to vote for her today because she is related to another GSSA team.

Jen from Manchester Y was also not able to make the meeting today and arranged for Amy Doyle to be her representative.

Because both coaches made alternative arrangements and did not "blow off the meeting" it was voted to "let it slide."

Two new teams asked to join the league.

- Letters that had been submitted from Clark Memorial and the Saco Valley Swim Teams were read.
 - Brian DuBois represented Clark Memorial and reported that they have 30-35 swimmers and guess about 20-30 swimming this summer.
 - Maury McKinney from Saco Valley said they had 10-12 swimmers but that it could go up to 20 or so for the summer.
- Brendan led the discussion.
- It was asked what division they would be in for champs (most likely division IV)
- It was voted unanimously to let both into the GSSA.
- Jim welcomed the two new teams into the GSSA and reviewed that
 - \$100 will be due every year
 - they should be sure a team representative is at the annual May meeting
 - typically the first Saturday in May at the NCC
 - they have been given the by-laws.

It was announced that the White Mountain Rapids Swim Team are becoming the North Country Newts (NCN).

The next item discussed was the GSSA stroke and turn certification process.

- An official's program was reviewed.
- Paul Burkhart led the overview of the process, taking this responsibility as a way of giving back to the GSSA in his gratefulness for helping his kids learn what can't be learned in school.
- He stated that the official's objectives were first for the swimmers and next as a communication between coaches and swimmers.
- Because there is only a three month window for summer officials, this program would ensure enough officials to run meets and keep swimmers abreast of proper stroke and turn rules by parents who do cannot commit to a full year swim season.

- One main controller and five regional division directors/facilitators will be designated.
- Regions:
 - Portsmouth-Seacoast
 - Lakes Region
 - South Central
 - Southwest-Keene
 - Northwest-Claremont
- Estimated costs
 - \$79 + travel per facilitator will be paid with GSSA bearing the brunt of the cost.
 - It is hoped that 5 people will take each class.
 - Jim hopes that 55 people certify this year and another 55 next year.
 - \$20 to recertify/continuing certification fee.
 - \$35 for those newly certifying.
- Steve VanderBeken motioned to vote in the process and move forward. Tim seconded the motion and it was voted in unanimously.
 - Steve also nominated Paul Burkhart to be the official's chairman. Brendan seconded the motion and it was also voted in unanimously.
 - **Jim stated that Paul's position would be a 5th voting member of the GSSA board.**
 - Jerry Zimmer, Dennis and Mary Ann were all mentioned as possible regional facilitators.
 - **Jim asked that coaches email him with contact information of those who may be interested in being a facilitator.**
- Certification cycle and requirements
 - Recertification every two years.
 - A minimum of two sessions per season must be worked.
 - "Newbies" must apprentice three meets. Recerts will not need to apprentice.
 - All certified officials will automatically recertify upon having completed three meets in a season.
 - It is hoped that some of the GSSA officials will move to USS officiating.
 - It was suggested that all newbies apprentice at states in order to get the full officiating experience which will lead to their certification for the next summer.
 - The possibility was discussed that all officials must be USS certified at the Seacoast meet because of insurance purposes. It was stated that this was under the jurisdiction of the meet referee who can decide. Paul then re-focused the group on the intent of the GSSA official's program. Brian from LRW said it was a great idea.
 - Officials will receive a patch and pocket rule book.

Venues for 2009-2010

Divisions I and III at Dover

Divisions II and IV at Claremont

State champs team venues for 2008

Steve motioned to maintain the status quo (that teams choose their preferred venue) and Amy seconded it. After some discussion, Gretchen motioned to end the discussion, which Dick Cuddihee seconded. It was voted in by majority. Teams then chose their venues with the results matching last year, and the two new teams choosing Claremont. **This alignment will stay for 2 years.**

Dover: BST, SSA, MST, ORO, EST, STORM, PST, HHS, RAYS, PWSC, BLUE, MYT, CONY, GCST

Claremont: JVST, BGCN, CTS, NSTC, CCBA, NCC, WST, SBGC, MKS, JRS, BAB, NCN, Clark Memorial, Saco Valley

2008 Sanctioned Meets:

Manchester Y Pentathlon, 5/31
Seacoast Season Opener, 6/7-8
Seacoast Summer Classic, 6/21-22
Manchester Y Long Course meet, 7/4-6
CCBA Summer Invitational meet, 7/12-13
Rotary Meet, 7/18-19
Queenie Quimby meet, 7/19
Peterborough Pentathlon, 7/26

It was mentioned that the town of Dover may charge more this summer for use of the pool this year for the state meet.

Divisions I and III will compete in Dover and should check <http://www.seacoastswimming.com/> for state meet information.

The Dover state meet entries will be due: July, ?? by ??

Divisions II and IV will compete in Claremont and should email inquiries and information to Patty Deschaine at rdeschaine@comcast.net Patty mentioned that it was a 25 m pool, that a NT should **not** be entered. **All Division II and IV entries are due to Patty by 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2008.** Warm-ups will begin at 7:00 a.m. but Patty will email specific team warm-up times as states get closer. 11 and up swimmers will compete on Saturday, 8/2 and 10 and under swimmers will swim on Sunday, 8/3.

Divisional alignments will be determined after the state entries are in so that team sizes are known in, therefore leading to fairer alignments.

Officers:

President: Jim Rezzarday

Vice President: Brendan McLaughlin

Treasurer: Greg Derderian

Secretary: Margie Clark-Kevan

Official's Chairman: Paul Burkhart

Division representatives:

Division I: Ed Faszewski

Division II: Brian Crawford

Division III: Tim Thompson

Division IV: Tarsha Doyle

Next year's GSSA meeting: Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at NCC.

Tim from HH moved to end the meeting at 11:20. Brian from LRW seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Have a terrific year of fun and swimming!

Respectfully submitted,
Margie