

**SOUTH TEXAS SWIMMING, INC.**  
**HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes----Saturday, February 21, 2009-----**  
**NISD Natatorium, San Antonio, TX**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by Frank Swigon, General Chairman at 1:00 PM

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Frank Swigon

The minutes from the October 12, 2008 Annual HOD Meeting have been posted to the South Texas website. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion was approved.

**MEEING FORMAT:** Frank Swigon

Frank announced he would conduct the informational portion of the meeting first, followed by items needing approval by the HOD. At the end of the meeting, he would stay and update any late-comers on the informational portion of the meeting.

Having a meet at two separate pools is proving difficult for some coaches to attend the HOD meeting when it is being held at a different venue than where they are coaching. Several options were discussed including moving the HOD meeting to Thursday evening at the Short Course TAGS Qualifier / Long Course TAGS Qualifier or moving to only a semi-annual meetings, one in October and one in April. Since both suggestions would require changes to the Bylaws and input is desired by the full HOD, these suggestions were tabled until the Annual HOD Meeting in October in Corpus Christi.

*604.5 ANNUAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS - The Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates of STSI shall be held in the month of October in accordance with (IAW) Article 604.7. Other regular meeting of the House of Delegates shall also be held IAW Article 604.7 as follows: in conjunction with 1) the Short Course TAGS Qualifier, 2) the Long Course TAGS Qualifier, and 3) a major LSC competition as determined by the Board of Directors or the House of Delegates. (Please also refer to Section III. of the Standing Rules).*

The STSI Board of Directors is meeting on a monthly basis via teleconference. Anyone wanting to sit in on the teleconference or provide topics of discussion for the monthly meeting can talk with a board member or contact the STSI office. Our objective is to post the monthly agenda to the website in advance of the meeting and to post the minutes to the website within ten days of the conclusion of the meeting.

The time standards that are being used for the in progress STAGS and Senior Champs Meets were arrived at in the following way. After the Annual HOD Meeting, the Board of Directors reviewed the accepted time standards. STSI is fortunate to have Didi Byerly, a professional statistician, as our Technical Chair. Didi reviewed the time standards and determined that since we had moved the 13-14 age group to the Senior Champs Meet, the proposed STAGS standards would result in a much smaller meet than intended. Didi suggested that we continue with the previous formula of the three year average of the 24<sup>th</sup> fastest time to arrive at standards for the STAGS meet. This suggestion was approved by the Board of Directors. The qualifying times for the Senior Champs meet remained the same as those approved at the Annual HOD Meeting. Reflecting on the size of the two meets currently in progress, it appears that the changes made by the Board of Directors were prudent.

STSI is looking at changing the provider for the South Texas website. Roger Graham is spearheading this endeavor.

Frank opened the floor to discussion on the proposed Mission Statement for STSI.

*The mission of South Texas Swimming, Inc is to:*

*"Empower all athletes to be successful in life through excellence in swimming by providing resources, equal opportunity, and organization."*

The Mission Statement sets a tone for the organization. The accountability needs to be a separate paragraph that sets objectives for the broad mission statement. The Mission Statement is step 1 to strategic planning. George Block moved that we form a Planning Committee to be charged with developing a long range plan for the LSC. Betsy Ball seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Frank addressed the general financial strategy of the LSC. It is the intent that the moneys placed in our investment accounts be allowed to grow to a point where interest from the accounts could be used to fund LSC expenses such as travel to national level meets, zones, and LSC camps.

David Kalange, the STSI Sr. Vice Chair has resigned. Larry Hough was elected to fill the vacant seat.

**TECHNICAL CHAIR:** Didi Byerly

Didi reported that the STSI Bylaws revision is almost complete. USA Swimming has signed off on everything by the 20% athlete vote. It has been suggested that we use the following formula to allocate the 20% athlete vote. Any team with 5 or more votes may name an athlete to represent them and control 20% of the team's votes. Any team with fewer than five votes would have 20% of their votes allocated to At Large Athletes, each controlling one vote from the pool. George Block moved that this proposal be accepted. Betsy Ball seconded. The motion was approved.

George Block made a motion that future championship meets be entered and seeded with non-conforming times, following the same procedure that is used when entering national level meets. This policy will enhance the ability of the meet host to use SWIMS as the only proof of time necessary for the meet. The motion passed.

Dale Huggins questioned the current practice of scoring to 16 places but only awarding 8 places.

Ginny Walsh of WFLY reported that WFLY had four eleven year old girls, all qualified to swim the 50 free at STAGS but their cumulative times did not qualify them to swim the 200 Free Relay. It was decided that STSI would give this relay and any other team with a similar situation a one time exemption to be able to swim at JO's. The relay time standards will be reviewed so that the cumulative times from the lower end of an age group will be the new qualifying relay time standard for STAGS. George Block moved that his policy be implemented. The motion passed.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE:** Roxanne Balducci

Roxanne reported the Audit Committee met on February 20, 2009 to review the STSI books. No irregularities were found. The following members were present: Roxanne Balducci, Chair, Frank Swigon, and Angella Woodard. These members looked through a random selection of checks and receipts and all of the sampling were 100% accurate. George Block moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded and approved.

**BOARD OF REVIEW:** Frank Swigon

An eight member Board of Review a slate of nominees was presented. The Board of Review nominees were: Paulina Alexander, San Antonio, Athlete; Patrick McCloskey, San Antonio, Athlete; Mike Ariens, San Antonio, Official; Jonathon Caswell, Temple, Coach; Kathleen Hubert, Corpus Christi, Parent; Elizabeth Pearce, San Antonio, Athlete; Monica Rosales, Brownsville, Coach; Ron Zolno, Austin, Official. George Block moved that the slate of nominees be approved to serve as the STSI Board of Review. BJ Allenstein seconded. The motion passed. The Board of Review will need to meet and elect a Chair.

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT:** Angella Woodard

Angella reported to date we have registered 5,268 athletes, 174 coaches, 117 officials and 66 others. Angella issued a reminder not to send mail requiring a signature. This only slows down the retrieval of the item from the post office.

**OFFICIALS REPORT:** Frank Swigon

Frank presented Officials Committee and Sanction Chair reports submitted by Roger Graham, the Officials Chair. Reports are included as a supplement to the minutes.

**AGE GROUP CHAIRMAN REPORT:** Rachel Woodard

Rachel gave a report of the LSC Camps. One camp will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio and a second camp will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Corpus Christi Natatorium. The camps are being offered to STSI swimmers, who have achieved a minimum of three STAGS or three Sr. Champs qualifying standards. The cost to the athlete will be \$40.00 and will include a t-shirt, a cap, and lunch cost. Coaches are asked to volunteer to work the camp. We would like to see coaches from throughout the LSC participate. If working requires an overnight stay, South Texas will reimburse the cost of the hotel room. Coaches are asked to encourage their qualified swimmers to apply for the camp. Each camp will be limited to a maximum of 75 swimmers and will be broken out into a 12 and Under session and a 13 and over session. Applications will be posted on the STSI website and teams are asked to make the information available on their team websites.

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 PM

**FROM:** Sanction Chair, South Texas Swimming, Inc. (STSI)

**TO:** House of Delegates

South Texas Swimming, Inc.

February Meeting in San Antonio, Texas

**SUBJECT:** Report of the Sanctions Chair

I. There were 96 Sanctions and / or Approvals issued in calendar year 2008.

A. Three were either canceled or other wise voided because the meet was not held for some reason.

B. 96% were applied for 35 or more days in advance of the meet start date.

C. ~3% were applied for inside the 35 day window, incurring a \$50 fee.

D. ~1% were applied for inside the ten day window, incurring a \$100 fee.

E. Nearly 17% of the Sanctions issued in 2008 were for CLOSED competition.

II. Two new elements were added to the Sanction / Approval Checklist (#12 and #36), addressing coaches' certifications and swim wear restrictions respectively.

III. There is increasing evidence the Checklist is not being used as intended or desired.

IV. In order to conform to a new USA Swimming Rule that will be effective on May 15th of this year, it will be necessary to add another element to the Checklist having to do with pool certifications.

A. This will be of particular concern to those meet hosts who have moveable bulkheads.

B. It appears, in my opinion, the House of Delegates will be required to develop and establish a comprehensive policy to adequately address this matter.

V. The STSI SanctionsWeb Site Page continues to be somewhat underutilized.

VI. In general, Sanctions and / or Approvals are being issued within in 48 hours of application and often more quickly.

Respectfully submitted:

Colonel R. B. Graham, USAF, Retired

Sanction Chair

South Texas Swimming, Inc.

**FROM:** Official's Chair, South Texas Swimming, Inc. (STSI)

**TO:** House of Delegates

South Texas Swimming, Inc.

February Meeting in San Antonio, Texas

**SUBJECT:** Report of the Official's Committee

I. As of this date there are 113 active, properly registered and certified officials in STSI

A. 13 are in TRAINEE status. Expirations of status will occur in March and extend into June

B. Three are in "limbo" status: Current members of USA Swimming, but not certified in any capacity in STSI.

II. As of the beginning of 2009 there was a loss of nine officials from the LSC due to retirement, loss of interest or transfer to another LSC.

A. There have been a total of 13 new officials brought on board since last fall (2008), hence a net gain of four.

III. The Officials Committee is financially solvent.

A. There continue to be significant costs associated with postage and the acquisition of name tags. These expenditures re unavoidable and the former is set to increase by 9.5% in May. "Forever" postage will be purchased to minimize the immediate impact of that increase.

IV. There is an active initiative to revise and rewrite the STSI Official's Policies and Procedures. The document has the unanimous support of the Committee and is in the hands of the Executive Board for approval.

A. If approved, it will significantly lengthen and improve the Training Phase of new STSI officials as well as clarify several existing Policies and Procedures and strengthen the requirements for progression to Starter and Referee.

V. The STSI Official's Home Page continues to be somewhat underutilized as a mode of communication.

VI. Remaining problems:

A. New officials registering with USA Swimming do not realize that they must also register and be certified as Trainees in STSI.

B. Individual officials are not keeping their e-mail addresses up-to-date – hinders communication

Respectfully submitted:

Colonel R. B. Graham, USAF, Retired

Official's Chair

South Texas Swimming, Inc.