March 11th, 2017  
Hamden, Connecticut

* Welcome - Betsy McGeogh
* Approval of Convention Minutes

**MOTION** to approve of Convention Minutes   
Motion – Eugenia, second Anna - **APPROVED**

* Chair Report - Betsy McGeogh
* Vice Chair/Awards - Jenn Hatt
  + Nominate more people for athlete, coach and contributor of the year
* Education Report - Katie Rice
  + Silver Clinic
    - Low attendance, recommend to have it in October and focus on figures
    - Exclude 16-19 age group, but include Intermediate swimmers
  + Grade level results posted on the website and on the USA Synchro website, let Katie know if anything is missing or needs to be updated
  + Lake Placid Report - Mary Ellen Wiegand
    - Cannot be first weekend in November because it is All Star Camp
    - Will focus on figures and tech routines
* Officials Report - Patty Flanagan
  + When you’re sending in Form E, include email addresses for all judges on the form
* Treasurer Report - Kris-Ann Gutenmakher
* Scoring Report - Pete McGeogh
* Technical Report - Svetlana Malinovskaya
  + 13-15 Championship is getting smaller
    - Only 109 attended, 147 attended two years ago
  + Junior/Senior meet is a good size
  + Over-qualification
    - Current Rule:
      * Anyone who comes to Jr/Sr Zones or 13-15 zone champs are overqualified for Invitational in that routine
      * Any swimmer who has competed at Jr/Sr zones or 13-15 zone champs are overqualified for intermediate track altogether
    - **Question**: if your swimmer swims an age group routine (duet or team) at Jr/Sr Zones, can they not swim their intermediate solo at an invitational?
      * Current rule: Swimmers are overqualified for East Zone Invitational if they participated in the 13-15 Championships or Jr/Sr zones in that event only
  + Bids - we do not have many bids. We are in Hamden a lot.
    - Dates do not work for each club to be able to host a meet (SAT, events in the area, collegiate meets, etc)
    - If we do not have enough bids by August 30 from the host Association, then the bids open up to the entire zone
    - **Solution**: as we get closer to the deadline, host association must send to tech chair that they only have X amount of bids
* All Star Report - Krista Karwosky
  + National Team Camps in the summer
    - Athletes are invited if they go through the Trials process
      * If you have an athlete that you think should go (went to All Star Camp, etc) send Shari Darst an email
    - There are 3 weeks of National Team Camps in California in the summer
    - There will be a Jr National Team Camp in Las Vegas with Bill May and people from O
  + All Star Camp: November 4-5 at Spire Institute in Cleveland
  + Let Krista know if any 13-15 athletes who made both 13-15 and Junior All Star Team if they want to be considered a 13-15 or Junior so other athletes can be pulled up
  + If any teams or associations are interested in having Ali Williams come as a clinician, reach out to Shari. Theme this year is STEP (Sculling, Thrust, Extension, Power). Ali’s transportation and stipend are covered by the USSS Foundation
* Athlete Report - Caitlin Klauer, Emmanuella Tchakmakjian
  + Zone reps: Audrey Miller from NCA (runner up Isabelle Lange from BSK)
  + Awards: voted on current option for Zone meets
  + Questions:
    - Underwater music is quiet for routines
      * Answer: Too loud might make system stop working
    - Can athlete zone meeting be right after Parade of Athletes?
      * Answer: tabled to be an action item for convention
* Action Items
  + Meet hosts required to purchase awards from Zone
    - Traditionally, the Zone purchases the awards and the Meet Host purchases them from the Zone
    - Suggestion: Do not make it a requirement, just list how to access the awards

**MOTION** to indicate in the handbook that the meet host for Zone level meets must purchase awards from the zone  
Motion – Sheila, second Krista - **APPROVED**

* + East Zone Meets – bid concerns – why are we not getting bids? What can we do to make it more positive for clubs and organizations to submit a bid?
    - Already discussed during Tech Chair Report
* New Items
  + Website
    - Katie Rice has offered to take over website
  + Updated Mailing List/club lists – do we still need $5 fee for mailing list?

**MOTION** to remove mailing list fee  
Motion – Krista, second Sheila - **APPROVED**

* + Donation to USA Synchro - funding
    - Donated $1000 to the “Fill the Pool” campaign
    - Fundraising ideas?
      * Fee to be on East Zone mailing list
        + Or fee to be an East Zone member
        + **Proposal**: East Zone charges a $5 zone membership fee to all professional members

Tabled to Convention with *Laura’s committee*

* + New Fee Structure from USA Synchro
    - 2017-2018 asking each zone to look at proposal and return comments to Board of Directors, final copy will be released in May
    - Send questions/comments to Dale before May
  + Time to increase Zone Athlete Fee? Increase Hospitality fee? Sponsor/entry fee?
    - Lost money with Convention suite due to mix up but we will keep the suite
      * Discussion about membership fees that will cover the zone suite tabled to *Laura’s committee*
    - East Zone Meets:
      * Currently the sponsor fee is $15 and entry fee is $10 per person per event
    - Each Association pays a $100 for Hospitality fee - Fees for new clubs (hospitality) – what if only club in association?

**MOTION** to exempt new teams for 5 years from Hospitality fee   
Motion – Sheila, second Robin – **DISCUSSED**

**MOTION** to amend motion to exempt new teams for *1 year* from Hospitality fee  
Motion – Sheila, second Laura - **APPROVED**

* + - Association can petition to waive the fee and the board will approve or disapprove it - Will be discussed in Laura’s committee
  + Mixed duets

**MOTION** to have Mixed Duets on announcements as an event at Zone Meets  
Motion – Eugenia, second Laura – **DISCUSSED**

**MOTION** to amend motion to have Mixed Duets on announcements as an event at Zone Meets *as an open event with open qualification*Motion – Eugenia, second Dale - **APPROVED**

* + East zone was given the following Bonus Entries:
    - US nationals (1 solo, 3 duets)
    - US Jrs (2 solos, 3 duets, 2 teams)
    - US 13-15 (3 solos, 2 duets, 3 teams)
  + Notification requirements (not planning to attend US Nationals)
    - Our current handbook states: Any routine not planning on attending US Nationals must swim honorary at qualifying Zone competition.
      * Housekeeping: remove this line from the rules
    - **IDEA**: Keep regional qualification as it is now, but add the stipulation that if any number of those top 3 who are not grade level qualified to attend JO, however many needed to have 3 routines with the appropriate grade level qualification can be brought to the regional competition as an honorary routine to qualify for JO’s
      * This is a regional issue to discuss with your regions. At Convention, we will discuss how each region dealt with this issue
  + Split Bonus Requirements
    - Do we need to change requirements to silver and gold?
      * JO athletes who pass the highest level no longer have to test their split so having a split test makes them stretch their split
      * Table this to Convention and Athletes need to weigh in
  + Weather back up dates

**MOTION** to list alternate weather dates for the 13-15 Meet and Jr/Sr Zones on the calendar at convention and must automatically put it on the meet announcements  
Motion – Laura, second Nobody – **MOVEMENT FAILS**

**RE-MOVE** to list alternate weather dates for the 13-15 Meet and Jr/Sr Zones on the calendar at convention and must automatically put it on the meet announcements  
Motion – Anna, second Krista – **DISCUSSED**

* + - Finding an alternate date that early on is not always feasible

**MOTION** to amend motion to list alternate weather dates for the 13-15 Meet and Jr/Sr Zones on the calendar at convention and must automatically put it on the meet announcements *if there is a known alternate weather date*  
Motion – Dale, second Nobody – **MOVEMENT FAILS**

* + State Games
    - (MA) Bay State Games in June, contact Michael
    - (PA) Keystone State Games
* New Business
  + Krista: As discussed at Board meeting in February to get a database of judges
    - We do not have enough judges in the nation. We do not have enough level 4 judges. Eventually you will be required to bring a national judge to a national meet and you will be fined if you don’t have one, this is still in the works.
    - Get a plan for your team to get a national judge
      * There is a “National JO rating” for JO’s, Masters, and Collegiates
    - Fine money would go into an “Officials Pool” that would help to get more national judges to the meet
  + Fundraising ideas send to Jenn Hatt
  + 13 and Over Intermediate category is getting too big, what if we make another Intermediate category?
    - Tabled to convention

**MOTION** to adjourn meeting  
Motion – Melissa Cowan, second Judy – **APPROVED**