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**