

# East Zone Convention Meeting Minutes

September 18-20th 2014  
Jacksonville, FL

Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

- Welcome – Diana Lenzo – Welcome, suite reminders, banquet tables etc...
- Approval of March minutes (EZ March meeting 2014)

**MOTION** to approve of March Minutes -  
Sheila Wright, 2nd Laura Enright - **APPROVED**

- Chair Report – Diana Lenzo – Adding Kim Miller Winner to report Erin Weber.
- Vice Chair/Awards Committee Report – Betsy McGeoch
- Education Report – Sheila Wright - See Report
- Lake Placid Report – Mary Ellen Wiegand - See Report
- Officials Report – Kim Kohut - See Report
- Collegiate Report – Emma Willing
- Treasurer Report – Leah Lojo - See Report – Balance 21,000
- Scoring Committee Report – Bob Wiegand - See Report
- All Star Committee Report – Krista Bessinger – Need to get report
- Technical Report – Krista Bessinger
- Athletes Report - Jennifer Wilczynski

Convention Meeting Agenda

Approval of past minutes - done

Presentation of reports – sent out prior to convention and reviewed via email

**Donations:** Louise Wing, Joy Cushman & Barbara Eaton –  
Carol Motyka – Miller, master's swimmer, past away from brain cancer in September

**MOTION** – I move to donate \$200 in each person names listed above.

Brianne Lojo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Mohammed

**APPROVED**

Discussion – Sheila - notifying zone to deaths in zone. Have a policy to standardize donations. Set up standards and guidelines.

**MOTION** - Finance committee has authorization to automatically make donations at their discretion as long as the budget allows

Anna Montgomery, 2nd - Tracey Neitzel - **APPROVED**

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**MEET STRUCTURE PROPOSAL 1a** - a.) February Zone Championship meet becomes a 13-15 Championship, with separate events for 16/O. The top 4 - 13-15 solos, duets, and teams qualify to the 13-15 Nationals. 16/O open no figures.

Krista – Explaining last year and difficulty for doing February meet with breaking out levels.

## **DISCUSSION**

Diana – figures are not addressed in proposal

Zuszas – 16 and over not - if 16-19 just finals will score qualify them for March meet

Are you planning to have min entry score for Feb. combine meet?

Krista – score big discussion point – score not being used nationally. Once there isn't a championship then there isn't a point to it.

The Feb. 16/over will not be a champ so NO the score from the Feb meet would not qualify for the March meet.

Robin – some teams only have 2 older girls for march and can only swim

3 for, 3 against - speaking to

1. a.) February Zone Championship meet becomes a 13-15 Championship, with separate events for 16/O. The top 4 - 13-15 solos, duets, and teams qualify to the 13-15 Nationals. 16/O open no figures

**Against – 3**

**Sheila –**

**Tracy –** move toward 13-15 exclusively and move 16&O to invitational

**Brianne –** will help build younger earlier in the season and push 16 and over to march

For – 0

**VOTE – 1A IS OUT**

Svetlana – already giving another opportunity to the 16&O to attend invitational

What if we make qualification out of association a placement for Feb. and march meet.

Tracey – nationally not using scores and we get our selves bogged down with scores.

**MOTION TO 1B TO VOTE – NANCY WIGHTMAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EUGENIA**

3 for 3 against speaking to

**MEET STRUCTURE PROPOSAL 1b.)** February Zone Championship meet is a true 13-15 Championship. The top 4 solo, duet, and team qualify to the 13-15 Nationals.

Discussion: bonuses for 13-15 and jrs - no bonus in srs.

Amendment - Svetlana - to remove "~~The top 4 solo, duet, and team qualify to the 13-15 Nationals.~~"

Carol - can you split duets that qualify to go from 4 duets to 8 – NO

**MOTION APPROVED** – Feb meet will now be 13-15 Championship and no open.

Krista – more people to meet to help qualifications for Feb and March issues to the Laura, Anna Katie, Lexie, Carley, Svetlana, Zuszas – one from each region Tracy – Svet – Brianne – Karen Alvarez – Jen W.

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## MARCH INVITATIONAL MEET - #3 proposal

Intermediates still have trios – 16&O open at invitationals

Krista - feel more comfortable at an invitational

Svetlana – it can't hurt the meets are small anyway

Tracy Neitzel – agreed

**MOTION to accept Proposal #3**

Krista, 2<sup>nd</sup> Eugenia **APPROVED**

**Kim Miller – Anna Montgomery** – Teena sent a letter regarding scholarship. See posted on website.

Thanks to all teams hosting Zone meets and running fundraisers. 1<sup>st</sup> year the scholarship was self-funded over \$3k has been raised to support the scholarship. Patty Smeill– big fundraiser – casino bus trip to Mohegan Sun – 50/50, host food raised \$1k

All Support is appreciated

Anna - Would it be helpful to receive a printed flyer regarding the scholarship? – sort of was the response Add to east zone handbook? Anna will be giving us copy to add to the zone handbook.

Save rooms for the Millers at Jr/Sr Zones.

Plaque for award is \$40 can the zone foot the bill.

Eugenia – plaque is nice but is it needed?

Zsuzsa Belházy-Kovacs – is this applicable to someone going to college and starting a team.

Krista – Is your intention to swim there should be a contingency plan if that doesn't happen.

Diana – questions need to go back to foundation. The timing of the scholarship awarding doesn't work with the college acceptance deadlines so there is one draw back to applying

Eugenia – could be used to help dying clubs and collegiate

**Silver Clinic – Sheila** – Direction on which dates and direction for the silver clinic – combos and level discussion from coach's college.

Diana – Coach's college will be taking top 3 srs, jrs and 12 and unders – how do we want to run Silver Clinic? Education chairs please meet with Sheila to figure out plan with Julia Ludy & Carley Sheren?

Discussion - Eugenia – A lot of discussion from top communicate to grass roots and how to we build athletes from day 1 - use coaches college information to complete the bridge Myriam is setting up bring the info to all levels

Tracy Neitzel - coaches still need combo information

Zsuzsa Belházy-Kovacs – chose date and location very carefully due to locations

**Lake Placid – Mary Ellen** – Weekend of Dec 18-19-20<sup>th</sup> go into January but waiting on Jared with Jan dates. We could do combos and not get a pool and have better dates. Let Mary Ellen know and she can say no thank you.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Per Diem – Clinics** - Establish when we have clinicians per diem

Swimmers at Coaches College

Diana – do we cover costs for the 9 swimmers and coach going to coaches college. Last year we covered all star and they came back for silver clinic as clinicians... we had some issues

Save the date - Coaches college Nov 14-15-16, Lake Placid, NY

Dates and rooms are set for coach's college.

## Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>,

Nominating Committee – Nancy – Gave a run down of resumes of the candidates

Who Need votes - Mary Ellen, Bob Wiegand, Carol Valles, Patty Melber

We need 2 more East reps to go on nominating committee

Volunteer Tracy Neitzel – Mary Ellen Wiegand Karen McGann

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**COLLEGIATE MEETING** – Emma Willing - [willing\\_emma@wheatoncollege.edu](mailto:willing_emma@wheatoncollege.edu) – Collegiates are looking to expand programs – I am the contact in the East to help bridge the gap. Please use the sign up sheet to note all your former swimmers from the last 3 years that have moved on to college. Maybe we can use this information to help point swimmers together that may want to form a team.

February Meet – Krista –  
Prelim and Final events – combo final event  
Top 12 in finals 13 as pre swimmer, everyone does figures even those swimming in combo even though figures is not added to the combo score  
no over qualifications – road to US Nationals

## **PROPOSAL #2 – AMENDMENT TO PROPOSAL**

Swimmers ages 13-19 allowed to swim in Jr category.  
Clarification – for 13-14 age swimmers you cannot swim solos in the march meet. 50% of duet is Jr age 16 and over can swim. For teams has to be made up of 50% or more of the correct age  
50% of the swimmers on the team has to be of the correct jr age the rest of the team may be made up of 13-14 and 19 swimmers. They will be able to progress to nationals without the proper age swimmer

9 old cannot swim a solo or duet in the Jr portion of the meet.  
Combos – final event at this meet. 13 and 14 yr old are no longer allowed to swim in the combo nationally  
So then at the march meet we will not have 13- and 14 yr olds  
Jr comobo at march meet can be comprised of what swimmers 15-18  
13-14 and 19 can swim in team but not combo.....

Karen A. - I think we should let us do the same exception we allow teams.

Vote 26 for - majority

Tracy Niezel

I move that 16-18, must be 50% of duet and solos must be 15-18, if 50% of the team is 15-18 they get placement. 13-14-19's old are ok  
Combo finals only – 13-14 can't swim junior combo, you can combine with other teams to swim a jr combo  
Duets this year 1 yr exception for duets  
Less than 50% are jr they do not advance to finals

Pete – will be in charge of passing on the results to the national and we will have to note that some individuals can't swim

Laura – we can't register athletes of the wrong age through the program. Different than when entries were hand written and could forget.

Senior portion or meet – 15 and over can swim anything SR BUT you must swim tech routine. 19 yr old must swim either solo duet and tech routine. Must swim tech can't skip at all.

Placement and qualifications of scores..

Scores for qualifications for meets. Old Feb jr zone scores 60 for duet and 61 for solos

Moving forward next year plan 2016

You qualify 6 from associations , then from associations that were in finals would get bonuses

Example - Conn. Have 2 in finals then following year conn gets 8 places

2016 - jr rules the addition bonus places are based on the top 12 in finals

Diagram will be placed in suite to understand the ages and meets – see attached photos

**COMBOS** will be in all association and regional championships

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Clarification on Jr. Olympic track – only top 3 - 12 & under move from association to regionals

**INVITATIONALS** - add 16 and over events and intermediates can do trios

**TRIOS** – nationally we will keep trios for intermediates only

**ALL STAR TEAMS** – 13-15 champs at feb  
jr all star team is at march and  
12 & U at june meet

intermediate tech routines and penalties – penalty slips were for sr tech routines. Pete will get us proper forms and post to the EZ site

figure draw timing – we have currently been doing it 72hrs prior to the meet. Keep it to that.

Posting of results at meets – we will post the results on the pool deck. Pete will build a group file of coaches at meet and will email out as long as there is access. Svetlana and Pete to discuss

Membership lists to scoring chair – electronic ways to get names to scoring. Give Pete you registered list from National office and Pete will distribute all names to the association scoring chair so that we can have them out and no one will need to rekey each meet.

Awards next 2 yrs – Athletes need to give Betsy feed back regarding ideas. Athletes if you are artistic bring your ideas for custom medals.

## **Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**JUDGES MEETING** – Kim Kohut – All Zone judges will be able to take the National Level 4F – Figures Judges test at our Zone Jr/Sr meet in March then practice judge at the 13-15 portion of US Nationals

**AWARDS**, order for 2 years? design? Neck ribbons?  
Betsy – awards same medal different neck ribbons – athletes decided  
Highpoint Trophies – same style trophy

**MOTION** To buy 2 new trophies for the Championships to replace the old.

Tracy, 2nd Eugenia

**APPROVED**

Regional meets - need criteria, rules, as part of zone handbook

Regionals guidelines – should we have it written somewhere,

Betsy – National rule specified association to regionals – as long as the regions don't have an exception to the nationals rules then it should have been the same.

Diana – will there be an issue this year?

Karen - we made an exception for awards

Diana – anyone out of association should not be a 10 & under only 12 & under

According to our national rules

**MOTION to approve Nominating committee – Tracy Nietzel – Karen McGann**

**Krista Bessinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Eugenia Gillan**

**APPROVED**

Diana – recognizing Bob Wiegand and Krista Bessinger for all their time and dedication to the Zone.  
Presentation of cake for Kim's birthday

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**East Zone Meet Structure** - Krista – 13-15 champs and jr/sr meet  
Reference to charts on the wall of suite. See attached

**13-15yr East Zone Championship (February Feb 20-21-22 at Schenectady High School - 1445 The Plaza, Schenectady, NY 12308 )**  
Open to all 13-15 yr old swimmers – NO EXCEPTIONS  
No score necessary  
Events: Solo, Duet, Team and Combo  
Figures - Everyone does 13-15 figures  
Top 12 swim in finals, 13 pre swims  
Combo – Final event only

**MOTION to approve the 13-15 champ**  
**Eugenia Gillan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Zsuzsa Belházy-Kovacs**  
**APPROVED**

**Junior East Zone Championship (March 13-14-15, New Canaan, CT)**  
Open to All 15-18yr olds\* - see exceptions for duet, team and combo  
Events: Solo score of 61.00\*\*, Duet score of 60.00\*\*, Team and Combo OPEN  
Figures – Everyone does Junior figures  
Top 12 swim in finals, 13 pre swims  
Combo – Final event only  
\*Exceptions

**Duets - THIS YEAR ONLY** – 2014-2015 season - 13-14 yr olds can swim with 15-18 yr old.  
Team is OPEN. Team can have 13-14-and 19yr olds BUT must have 50% rule (50% being ages 15-18yr old). Any teams with less than 50% rule must swim honorary and can advance to finals.

Combo is OPEN. Combo can have 13-14-and 19yr olds BUT must have 50% rule (50% being ages 13-18yr old). Any combos with less than 50% rule must swim honorary and can advance to finals.

\*\*Score achieved at Association, Regional, Zone or National Championship within the last 2 yrs.  
See handbook.

**MOTION to approve Junior East Zone as listed above**  
**Karen Alvarez 2<sup>nd</sup> Anna Montgomery**  
**APPROVED**

**Senior East Zone Championship (March 13-14-15, New Canaan, CT)**  
Events: Senior Solo, duet, team - TECH AND FREE  
NO FIGURES  
Combo is final only event  
Open - no score needed to get in  
Anyone wanting to swim in jr and sr must swim 2xs  
If you chose the senior and swim at senior nationals you will be disqualified for junior Olympics  
Discussion - Pete – final event for solos needs to be decided prior to the meet

**MOTION to approve Senior East Zone as listed above**  
**Eugenia Gillan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Zsuzsa Belházy-Kovacs**  
**APPROVED**

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## **East Zone March Invitational –**

Open to all Intermediates, 12 & Under Age Group, 13-15 Age Group\*, 16 & Over Age Group\*  
Over qualifications – Any 13-15 who swam in the 13-15 Champions are over qualified for the invitational.

16 & over who participated in the jr/sr zone championship

Open to all

12 and under solo duet team figures

intermediate – solo duet trio team- figures

13-15 solo duet team figures

16&Over – solo duet team no figures

## **Motion to approve invitational as listed above**

**Eugenia Gillan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kim Kohut**

**APPROVED**

## **East Zone Age Group Championship - June meet – discussion**

Open to top 3 who have qualified through their Regional Championship

removing trios from all age group

12 and under age group - solo duet team figures

Intermediate – 10 & Under, 11-12, 13 & Over - solo duet trio team- figures

13&Over Age Group – solo duet team - no figures – OPEN

over qualifications if you have qualified for junior Olympics, you cannot compete in this meet

## **Motion to approve Zone Age Group Championship - June meet – as listed**

**Eugenia Gillan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Marta Foster**

**APPROVED**

## **DISCUSSION** on awards for 10 & Under and 12 & Unders

Betsy McGeoch – Stating Cp3.5.6.1 – regional rule

12& Under, 13-15, 16-17, 18-19

Krista Bessinger - You cannot have a championship meet – whether it be association, regional or zone without following the US national rule. We were wrong in altering rules in previous years.

each zone should qualify 12 routines in each division

3 spots – then 3 spots honorary awards

speaking in favor of current 12 & Under only –

Eugenia - Stick with 12&under and keep simple so not to confuse parents

Against - Karen Alvarez - then I can then move 10&under age group team to intermediate so they can win.

For - Zsuzsa Belházy-Kovacs – agree with Eugenia – it is ok to not be on top and get awards  
bottom line coaching decision.

Education revisited

Sheila Wright – coaches, important to have level 3 and all safety requirements nationally

Age group or zone – level 2

Novice and intermediate – level 1

Contact office to set up ccp level 2 courses

Coaches college has no level requirements

Go to education and check your credentials - if you need to update between now and 1<sup>st</sup> meet  
be sure to have proof of credentials

**SAFE SPORT** – starting in 2015 online class and will have to update every 4yrs

<http://safesport.org/>

us swim bullying policy has good reference policy

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**SILVER CLINIC** – December 13-14-15 - no Sue Nesbitt available John Ortiz available  
Looking at Jan 10-11 dates with Sue Nesbitt  
days that swimmers come – 13 and up Saturday and 12 and under swimming Sunday  
intermediates are to be removed from silver  
swimmers must have swum for at least 1 year in either age group or intermediate but swimming age group this year.  
Intermediates - expectation that each region holds a bronze clinic and they can train there  
discussed how many people we have in session  
60 – 4 swimmers per club per age group with alternates  
13-15s swim age group – brand new team may want to put them in the 12 and under session  
we may have scoring and judges clinic since we will not be doing lake placid sine the only date available is the weekend before Xmas and no dates yet in January  
unfortunately, lake placid is being taken with coaches college  
please get back to Sheila regarding interest in scoring and judges  
Kim judges cannot be done in one day at least day and half  
Pete we can do scoring in one day and can do 2 days back to back if enough interest

Kim choreography clinic who is going? Myriam to select and zone to select a few  
Fina clinic – last week in October Monday Oct 27<sup>th</sup> through Friday Oct 31st

Krista – problem 13-15 champs and trials  
Tracy looking into weekend before or after the 2/13-14-15. Getting answer as soon as possible  
Still going with Adirondacks with Sculpins

February

March 13-14-15 - Jr/Sr Zones New Canaan, Conn.

March 20-21-22 - Invitational Gotham and Buffalo

June 5-6-7 - EZ Intermediate and Age Group Champs - Hamden, Conn.

All Star swimmers to lake placid – coaches college  
Myriam will only be coaching at north and east college  
12 athletes and 3 coaches – cost \$250/per person

**MOTION to East Zone to pay 50% of the cost both athlete coach and managers \$125 total per person.**  
Tracy Neitzel 2<sup>nd</sup> Krista Bessinger  
**APPROVED**

12&unders age up – mary ellen has to be 11  
Athletes for coaches' college

12/U - Jenna Chen NCA, Nina Robbe NCA, Olivia Li NCA

13/15 - Ashley Latchford BSK, Ruby Ramati ANA, Cassie Neeley BSK, Lindi Schroeder OPT

Jr - Caitlyn Klauer OPT, Alex McGee TTA, Alex Poteet NCA, Melissa Zhang OPT

Sr - Renee Collett NCA

Athletes vote on medals – new medal – neck ribbon stays as last year.

**MOTION to adjourn**  
**Eugenia Gillian, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anna Montgomery**