

## **NHSA Annual League Meeting**

### **September 6, 2014**

President Steve Van DerBeken (MST) called the meeting to order at 8:20 am with a welcome, and asked present coaches to sign in, and correct any contact information. The Secretary Report from the 2013 meeting was accepted. Judy Cook, NHSA Treasurer, explained her report, saying we stayed the same in most categories, and that the extra scholarship money was good. Our present account stands at \$26,883.92 and she mentioned not going above \$30,000 for a nonprofit. CONY voted to accept the report, which was seconded by SBGC. Report approved.

Steve (MST) stated that he had spoken to the other officers and that they all were interested to stay on, and did ask if there were any other nominees from the floor. FINS voted to keep the officers the same, which was seconded by UVAC. Current officers approved.

Old Business: Dick Cuddihee from PWSC questioned if we would be doing the Sunday extra session again this year. Steve explained to all that this was added in last season, due to the conflict with top end cuts at the 13-19 Age Group meet. This session that was added on had 200 stroke events, 400 Ind. Medley, and other events that weren't held in the regular NHSA sessions. Steve briefly explained that he and Brian Dirrane (UVAC) conducted a survey/petition to New England Swimming to get rid of the top end cuts. At the December Senior meet, Ray Grant of SSA explained the reasoning of the cut offs. New England Swimming became aware of USA Swimming and a House of Delegate vote, and teams were asked to file a voter for their team. After the top end cut times were not going to be changed, NHSA board members and meet host agreed to run this session. Steve said that with the new addition of the New England Silver meet, and whatever those cut times are going to be, we weren't sure where this would leave us. Brian of UVAC said that with the New England Senior Elite meet on the same date of this year's meet, we would likely keep the extra session, which was only 40 minutes long, and that Mary Gentry would see where it fit best in the meet. PWSC and SBGC questioned the placement of the session. FINS commented on how the session offered great events, and said he thought the placement was good for team building, and the placement really should be up to the meet host. PWCS questioned the weekend (March 6-9) the State meet was placed. Steve explained this was the best fit with 14 and Under Age Groups and Sectionals, as well as 12 and Under Champs. All coaches looked at, discussed, and went over New England Swimming meet schedule. PWSC asked about Vermont and Maine, as well as other LSC's. Paul Bennett commented that this is really the meeting as to where meets are placed.

New Business: SBGC asked about possible divisions for the league and he noticed a big drop off after teams about half way through. After a discussion and comments from coaches, Steve compared the GSSA to our league which has so many more teams, including summer only, but felt our league, with only 13 teams, wouldn't benefit from splitting up, and that the dynamic would change with divisions. Brian of ESC said how we don't even fill up many events with the older age groups, and this would even lessen the points/awards given out. RAYS said that it could turn into teams only bringing a limited number of swimmers, when the meet should be about bringing your entire team. Steve made a motion to keep the league and state meet the way it is. This was seconded by RAYS. Motion passed.

Steve went over two petitions to be given to New England Swimming. The first petition

pertained to New England Swimming's new rule of only having times in the SWIMS database count for qualifying times for New England Championship meets. Steve read the petition and asked if teams were all in agreement, as regular "dual" meet times would no longer count. The second petition pertained to New England's "Protected Meet" rule, which states that if a championship meet is held on a particular weekend, any other meets with "qualifying" swimmers couldn't attend that meet (and had to go to the championship). Also, this could, later on affect our league and sanctioning the NHSA Championship meet. All teams unanimously agreed to sign the petition. Brian of UVAC said he would be attending the New England Swimming meet the upcoming Tuesday and he had requested to be on the agenda. The league voted to appoint Brian as the NHSA representative for New England.

Open Discussion: Mike Hirst of Storm asked about the 75/25 rule to NHSA teams hosting meets, and asked if NHSA teams could always be in the 75. Mike also asked if our league was full. Steve mentioned he did get an email at 6:00 am this morning from Brendan of PRIDE. Mike Hirst asked about "associate members" who were voted in a few years back, and if they were happy staying in the TSSA. Steve said he hasn't heard of any of them having interest, other than the Gunstock Stingrays which were about 25 swimmers. Teams briefly went over their expected sizes, and UVAC made a motion to not include any new teams at this time, and was voted on and passed.

The league rule of the number swim meets attended by NHSA swimmers (3, or 2 high school swimmers) was discussed. Dropping the rule entirely was discussed, as well as just adopting USA Swimming's 120 rule. Chris Woolridge of EST said his team mostly always took NHSA teams into their entries. After a small discussion, it was agreed that the 2/3 meet would stay, but this would include any meet—not just an NHSA or Regional meet and the 120 day USA Swimming rule to be attached to a team would apply. Both requirements would have to be met to swim at NHSA Champs.

NHSA Sanctioned meets should be sent to webmaster Mike Hirst. He stated any meet run by an NHSA team was already on the website. T-Shirts were awarded to Connecticut River. A Storm coach would be the new NHSA Scholarship Essay judge.

Paul Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Brian Crawford  
NHSA Secretary

P.S.

Regarding the financial information and what is needed to have to file a tax return for a nonprofit organization as NHSA. In checking with my accountant at Leene McDonnell and Roberts: The IRS will need a tax return if our total income exceeds \$25,000 per year (The bank balance has nothing to do with triggering a tax return so we can have as big a balance as is necessary). The \$25,000 is in gross income, not in profit, which is income minus expenses.

As our only income is from the league Championship meet, we need to keep the total income for the meet less than \$25,000. (If we sense that we may exceed that then we will need to have some of the entry or other income sent to the host directly and not made out to the NHSA).