



Minutes
Board of Governors/Board of Directors Meeting
September 11-15, 2019
St. Louis, Missouri

Board Members in Attendance: Jim Anderson, Morgan Fuller-Kolsrud, Megan Hansley, Ginny Jasontek, Mariya Koroleva, Michele Kraus, Linda Loehndorf, Margaret Mahoney, Sheila McNabb

Excused: Britt Rooney, Lori Zabel, Krista Karwosky

1. Called to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Linda Loehndorf. A quorum present was also declared by Linda Loehndorf.

Linda Loehndorf thanked all who came to convention and would like to take a moment to remember those we have lost this year, including Yolanda Jackson, Independent Director.

2. Approve the minutes from 2018 Board of Governors

Barbara McNamee moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Judy McGowan. **Vote: unanimous**

3. Declaration of conflict of interest of those on the Board of Directors

- Ginny Jasontek– Cincinnati YMCA Synchro Gators coach, member of the FINA Technical Artistic Swimming Committee
- Linda Loehndorf – Menomonee Falls Synchro coach
- Mariya Koroleva – Walnut Creek Aquanuts Synchro coach
- Michele Kraus – MAC Synchro Coach and MAC Synchro Masters
- Megan Hansley- Stanford University, New Canaan
- Morgan Fuller Kolsrud – Former athlete for Santa Clara Aquamaids and Stanford Synchro, Current coach for San Francisco Merionettes, Former intern for the USOPC

4. Presentation on Hammerhead Swim Caps

Adam introduced Julie Bachman, member of the advisory board for Hammerhead Swim Caps. This is one of USA Synchro's new partners in sponsorship. Hammerhead is the official swim cap for USA Synchro. The mission of the caps is to help with athlete safety by reducing the number of concussions in the pool. Ms. Bachman explained the history of the product and described the design of the product. It has a honeycomb cushioned top made of high quality XXXX and is meant for reducing the severity of injury of head collisions in the pool. She explained that the technology is still advancing, and they are.

5. Vice President, Marketing and Membership Reports – VP, Michele Kraus

- ***Awards: Presented by Judy McGowan***

- Five people pass away – Marilyn Deister, Ed Lighthall, Jeanne Ulrich, Sue Woolery, Yolanda Jackson
- Lea Bean and Judy worked on upgrading the bios for our candidates in the nominating pool for the International Hall of Fame.
- Researched information for the Women’s International Olympic Committee (IOC) awards and will be making a nomination soon.
- Discussed that in the future the descriptions for the awards will be printed in the call for nominations not just in Appendix R. The committee will also establish timelines for all the awards.
- Athlete of the year – Anita Alvarez
- Coach of year – Andrea Fuentes
- Lillian MacKellar - Sue Baross Nesbitt (announced at banquet)
- This year USA Synchro’s Communication Coordinator will send press releases to the local newspapers of our award recipients.
- The committee recommended that the recipient of the MacKellar award be acknowledged prominently on the website.
- A list of all the award winners and finalists for potential awards can be found in the Award’s Committee Report.

- ***Membership Committee – Report is online***

- ***Marketing: Presented by Michele Kraus***

- Thanked committees for all their support
- Last year’s focused on improving social media, while this year’s focus on keeping up the momentum we have achieved in our social media following.
- People from all over the world are following us on Instagram.
- Michele welcomed Emily Falkenberg, communication and marketing coordinator, to our organization. We are so happy to have her working with us.
- We have new partnerships with USA Synchro. These include; MOODMatcher Lipsticks, RX Smart Gear Jump Ropes, Hammer Head Swim Caps, Jolyn Swimwear and Apparel and Crash Course Concussion Education by Teach Aids.
- Continue to use social media to get our name out there
- Instagram followers continue to increase;
 - 2017 = 14.8K
 - 2018 = 18.8K
 - 2019 = 24.5K
- We have an engagement rate of 14.5% for our photos and videos which is an incredible number.

6. Foundation Report by Karen Rosolowski, President of Foundation

- The foundation gave a total of 46 grants this year to help in many areas of education and training including; Intro to synchro classes, coaches training classes and CCP certification, judges training and certification classes, and collegiate start-up programs. Through all these efforts, it has helped to increase the numbers of USA Synchro memberships.
- Annual Report

- The foundation has committed to staying on track to turn it into a business to help to fund the future of synchronized swimming.
- **Mission:** The United States Synchronized Swimming Foundation exists to support grassroots development; educational opportunities for coaches, athletes and officials; and the development of synchronized swimming in the United States.
- **Strategic Initiatives:** These have remained the same, but the order of priority has changed over the years.
 - Fundraising Development
 - Board Development and Succession
 - Communications and Marketing
 - Relationship between USSSF and USA Synchro
 - Grant Program
- **Accomplishments this year:**
 - Three new trustees
 - New website
 - On-line grant application process and trustee application process
 - More marketing and social media
 - Use of technology to manage committee work
 - Two new contracts to focus on fundraising; CFC Collective LLC and Labyrinth
 - Discussions with USA Synchro regarding joint fundraising efforts.
- **2019-2020 – Grant Recipients: a total of \$82,515**
 - USA Synchro Programs – Judging Education & Certification, Coaches Certification, Male Synchro Camp, Rising Stars Program
 - Athletes Clinic and Programs
 - Matching Grants for College
 - Coaching Certification and Education
 - Marketing and Growth Programs

7. Executive Directors Report – By Adam Andrasko

- Trying to impact change – must take a chance – thank the hiring committee for taking a chance on him –
- Three Concerns when started
 - What will the BOD be like?
 - New head coach of National team
 - The Membership – carousel of CEOs over the last years – the membership has embraced the changes. Trying to build a community where we can all reach out to Adam; he really wants to know and hear from the membership.
- Wants to simplify what can be complicated. We do this by the following:
 - Care about the athletes above all else
 - Treat members like they matter
 - Conduct premier level events
 - Provide quality educational opportunities
 - Develop the best teams in the world
- Two sides to the company running in unison

- Membership & National team: Need to be looked at separately, operate separately, but support each other equally.
- What we are getting better at
 - Athlete Safety – every area has improved and will continue to improve (i.e. background checks, Safesport)
 - Membership Experience – Communication, customer service, events, overall experience, programs – all members should feel valued.
 - Professionalism – staffing, finance, caring
- What has changed
 - Employee Structure – we now have an events manager, a communications coordinator and an education director. We also have new national team staff and a high-performance manager.
- What's next
 - New membership system
 - Better events
 - Improved national teams
 - Proposed Name change
- 2.5-million-dollar plan (now we are at 1.8 million)
 - Trying to evaluate all operating areas and stretch the money further
 - Can change the way our national teams operate – fully fund the NT athletes
 - Has a staff that is adequately paid
 - Events are adequate
 - How do we raise 700K: Grow membership, grow donors, grow sponsors, USOPC performance funding, better events business practices (housing, attendance, facility/host agreements)
- Senior National Team
 - Qualify for 2020
 - Retain athletes for 2024
 - See the future while focusing on the present

8. Treasurer's Report – By Britt Rooney

- We are transitioning to Altruic Accounting firm and more information will be posted when available.
- Report is posted online as Britt Rooney was unable to make it to convention.

9. Zone Reports

- A. ***East Zone – Jennifer Hatt*** – thank you to BOG and BOD and Adam and Linda for leading us. The East Zone was proud to host Junior Olympics at the Town of Tonawanda. It was a great success. Jennifer reported how proud she was of the zone athletes' representatives. There was a logo design contest in the zone and the winning design was placed on caps and used as a fundraiser to help support east zone athletes on the National Teams. More information is available in the report on the website.
- B. ***North Zone – Denise Shively*** – report available on website.
- C. ***South Zone – Carole Mitchell*** – report available on website. Hope everyone received the Perspective button. It is a reminder to put everything we do in perspective with what is truly important.
 - The South Zone sent a recognition in excellence in service to Jennifer Hawkins for her service to USA Synchro over the years.

- Carole provided an update on Joy Cushman that she is 95 and doing well.
 - Carole worked with the foundation to accept donations in Sydney Crew’s name, who passed away recently. As of convention \$3,740 had been raised in her name which will get her name on the donor board.
- D. **West Zone – Patricia Jones** – report available on website. Patricia recognized the award winners for the west zone and thanks the Meraquas of Irvine for hosting zones. Patricia reported that the zone had several competitors place well at the World Masters Championships which took place in South Korea.

10. Nominating Committee Report – by Anna Farmer

- BOD VP of Competitive Operations – one candidate – Chris Leahy – no nominations from the floor
 - Judy McGowan moves to elect by acclamation, seconded by Scotti Nichols. **Vote: unanimous**
- BOD Treasurer – one candidate – Jennifer Jarboe - no nominations from the floor
 - Chris Leahy moves to elect by acclamation, seconded by Barbara McNamee. **Vote: unanimous**
- BOD Membership and Marketing – two candidates – Michele Kraus and Traci Lunsford – no nominations from floor
 - Anna Farmer moves to close the nominations, seconded by Christine McMaster-Shah. **Vote: unanimous**
- Foundation Board of Trustees – Judy McGowan, Joe Alwan, Barbara McNamee – nomination from the floor: Christine McMaster-Shah
 - Scotti Nichols moves to elect these four by acclamation, seconded by Gail Emery seconded. **Vote: unanimous**

RECESS at 9:22 PM

RESUMES at 9:00 AM Saturday morning

11. VP Competitive Operations – presented by Sheila McNabb

A. Rules – presented by Irene Hawes

- i. Irene thanked her committee for all their hard work before and after convention.
- ii. A blanket motion was made to approve the rules packet as amended by Scotti Nichols and seconded by Judy McGowan. **Vote BOD: unanimous**
- iii. A blanket motion was made to approve the rules packet as amended by Megan Hansley and seconded by Ginny Jasontek. **Vote BOD: unanimous**
- iv. A call was made for any items to be pulled. Item 1 was pulled for discussion.

VOTES ON ITEMS	
Item 2	Recommended for approval BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain:
Item 3	Recommended for approval BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
Item 5	Recommended for approval BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Item 6	Recommended for approval BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
Item 7	Recommended for approval BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
Item 8	Recommended for approval BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
Item 4	Recommended for rejection BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
Item 9	Recommended for rejection BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
Item 10	Recommended for approval as amended BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
Item 12	Recommended for rejection as amended BOD vote on Amendment: In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1
Items pulled for discussion	
Item 1	<p>ITEM 1 CP 4.1.2.4 An athlete who is 18 through US Junior Nationals but turns 19 later that year may compete in the Junior team event and Combination events through US Junior National Championship. <i>Rationale: This proposal allows high-school seniors (or any older athlete) who are still 18 but have a late birthday to continue competing with their teams for their senior year. The proposal will especially benefit seniors with plans to swim in college because they can continue to train on a team. Due to the specific wording, there is no possibility of collegiate swimmers or older high-school athletes competing in the junior age group and creating unfair advantages. This proposal only effects a specific set of senior athletes. The other age groups do not have to worry about confusion and changes.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, at 2019 US Nationals, there were:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 swimmers were over 19 (one collegiate) • 13 swimmers were aged 19 • 78 total swimmers - 62 are Junior Aged <p>Discussion from BOG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidi Lurenz – speaking against – would like to see a senior division maintained for competition and it will be difficult to track the ones who are 19. • Denise Shively – speaking against – we often piece meal our rules without thinking about how it affects competitive operations. • Candy Hipp – speaking for – hurts swimmers early in the season to divide teams with juniors and seniors who are swimming together. Some teams need the extra girls to make a full team.

- Svetlana Malinovskaya – speaking for – if only have one senior turning 19 in December can swim in Junior Olympics at the end of the season but cannot swim in the Junior Nationals meet earlier in the season. This doesn't make sense and hurts teams.
- Catherine Moss – speaking for – disruptive for juniors to have to move up to senior elements to keep team together when the juniors want to swim with a senior.
- Lorette Haynes – speaking for – we are losing our junior/senior level athletes at an alarming rate by forcing girls to end during their senior year when the only meet to swim with other girls is Junior Olympics is difficult. We don't have enough older swimmers to fill our depth.
- Becky Meitin – speaking against – doing this right now, afraid will impact the competitions we have set up for this year.
- Sienna Learner (athlete) – speaking for – even though don't have to do the tech for senior, we will then lose practice on junior tech while prepping for senior free. Ideally, we don't want to split up the team.
- Emily (athlete) - speaking for – from small team doesn't feel fair to have athletes trying to do senior elements when they are junior level swimmers.

BOG vote on Item 1:

Adults In favor: 36	Athletes in favor: 36
Adults Opposed: 22	Athletes Opposed: 0
Adults Abstain: 5	Athletes Abstain: 1

BOG recommends approval of Item #1

Discussion from BOD:

- Sheila McNabb – speaking against – for 2020 we've already contracted for the US Senior Nationals in March in Mesa, to change this would end up with almost no one going to the senior meet in 2020. This would have a negative impact on our senior event.
- Ginny Jasontek – questions – if in Junior Olympics you can swim the entire year as a 19-year-old, why are we changing this for Junior Nationals. Answer, because we are following FINA rules year of birth for Junior Nationals.
- Linda Loehndorf – speaking against – as discussed in the meeting on Wednesday, many teams have already made their plans for the year, to change now would impact those teams negatively and would negatively impact the organization and the end of our senior meet.
- Jim Anderson – Pointed out that none of the athletes voted against the item. Is there a way to balance implementation problems so that it considers the vote of the athletes and what works for the organization?
- Mariya Koroleva – how can we make this work for both athletes and the organization
- Linda Loehndorf – would like to put this item back to competitive operations to look at formats for national meets on a whole. Give to a committee to look at

	<p>this fall so that meets can be booked for 2021 and 2022 that match the new structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Mahoney – can we amend the item for a later implementation date. • Megan Robins – by putting Junior and senior meet together would require us to have athletes swimming senior tech elements. • Michele Kraus – the goal should be that more athletes have more opportunities, and it feels that there are logistical problems to this rule. Can we find different ways to address the issues of keeping our 19-21-year-old athletes? <p>Motion: by Jim Anderson to send back to committee. Second by Ginny Jasontek.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Mahoney amends to add a deadline of Nov 15th for the committee. Seconded by Michele Kraus. <p>Motion: by Margaret to table until after the history committee report. Seconded by Ginny Jasontek.</p> <p>BOD vote to table the item: In favor: 9 Opposed: 0</p> <p>CONTINUED AFTER LUNCH</p> <p>Mariya spoke to the athletes during the break and she stated that she wanted to echo the statement of the athletes that they want the change; however, they realized that for 2020 there are too many logistical problems. The athletes emphasized that it is very important topic for them and want to find a way to make it work in the future.</p> <p>Current motion in favor of sending to championship management to rules on Nov 15th then to BOD committee with deadline</p> <p>BOD vote on sending the item back to committee: In favor: 8 opposed: 0 Abstained: 1</p>
--	---

- B. **Meet Management – Presented by Sheila McNabb** – the report is online
- C. **Collegiate – Presented by Holly Vargo-Brown** – the report is online
- D. **Masters – Presented by Beth Borland** – the report is online
- E. **Figures – Presented by Sheila McNabb** – the report is online

12. Governance – Scotti Nichols

- A. Scotti thanked her committee for a lot of very thoughtful discussion on items that were submitted late. The report is online.
- B. Scotti presented the following items were recommended for approval: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23**
- C. Scotti presented the following items were recommended for rejection: **9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 22**
- D. A blanket motion was made to approve the governance report by Judy McGowan and seconded by Barbara McNamee.
- E. Scotti asked for any items to be pulled: **22, 20, 21**
- F. A motion to approve the remaining report with items recommended for approval and rejection with the exception of the pulled items was made and seconded.
 - a. **This passed unanimously with BOG**

b. This passed unanimously with the BOD

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PULLED FOR DISCUSSION	
Item 22	<p>Item 22 Discussion about registration start date to be moved from October 1st to August 1st– this item was rejected in committee.</p> <p>Discussion from BOG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris Leahy – speaking against rejection - this would help the national office staff get the registration started earlier.• Julie Thaden – speaking against rejection – many clubs do start in August and currently we have to get the trial membership, this proposal to start on August 1st would alleviate this problem.• Barbara McNamee – point of information – what are the legal implications of making this change? Scotti Nicols supplied that it is a membership year, not a fiscal year, so there are none.• Cheryl Cook – point of information - how would this affect collegiate athletes who are not back in school but swimming for home club, how would they be covered. Anna Farmer stated that you can have an athlete on two teams at one time if they are collegiate athletes.• Patricia Jones – speaking for rejection – will there be a lapse from July 31st into August if teams don't start until middle of August? Adam Andrasko replied that insurance will not lapse because that is held by USSSS, your certificate of insurance will lapse, and then you request your new certificate.• Dale Mohammed - speaking for rejection - if change our membership now summer programs go through August will have to have two memberships – one for July and one for August so will hurt new members.• Scotti Nicols stated that the committee is looking to reject this for further study.• Judy McGowan – speaking against rejection – currently there are problems with the October 1st registration. This seems like it is a more orderly date.• Anna (athlete) – speaking for the rejection – feels it is wise to have it pulled for further study.• Sue Nesbitt – clarification – speaking for rejection – if you have an athlete just starting, you can register in august and will be added on to the yearly – suggest that maybe September 1st is better but add back in the 30 day grace period on both sides. <p>Motion: by Sue Nesbitt to change to September 1st and add in the 30-day grace period on either side. Seconded by Cheryl Cook</p> <p>Motion: by Barbara McNamee to table discussion until after lunch. Seconded by Judy McGowan.</p> <p>BOG vote to table until after lunch: Passed</p> <p>CONTINUED AFTER LUNCH</p> <p>1.05A – Membership in the corporation shall begin on the first day of September and shall run for a period of 1 year. Members joining within one month of the end of one term shall be fully paid through the next succeeding term.</p>

	<p>Motion: Sue Nesbitt moved to accept the new wording. Seconded by Shannon Korpela.</p> <p>Discussion from BOG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurette Longmire – speaking against the motion – in committee deleted the second sentence because it might be a custom expense; therefore, better to stay in fiscal year. • Julie Thaden – speaking for the motion. • Stephanie Sanchez – speaking against the motion – governance committee said it affects the masters and school schedules – we need to get more data, if we keep as October for this year and then we can look at data for another change in the future. • Candy Hipp – speaking for the motion. • Crystal Leah Black – speaking for the motion. • Laurette Longmire – point of clarification – trial memberships can be renewed up to several times. • Shannon Korpela – point of clarification – trial memberships can be renewed as much as you want. <p><u>BOG vote on Item 22 as Amended:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Adults In favor: 41</td> <td>Athletes in favor: 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adults Opposed: 4</td> <td>Athletes Opposed: 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adults Abstain: 8</td> <td>Athletes Abstain: 6</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>BOG recommends approval of Item #22 as amended.</i></p> <p>Discussion from BOD:</p> <p>Adam Andrasko stated that the original discussion to change was due to many clubs starting now in August.</p> <p>Motion: Margaret Mahoney moves to make an amendment with the following wording: “Membership in the corporation shall begin on the first day of September and shall run for a period of 1 year. Registration with the corporation may occur up to 30 days prior or any time after September 1st.” Seconded by Michele Kraus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracy Lunsford asked if it will cost more to set it up for 13 or 14 months? Adam Andrasko replied that essentially it will not, but maybe a small cost. <p>Vote on Item 22 as amended by Margaret Mahoney; In favor 8, opposed 0, abstained 1</p> <p>Item 22 passes as amended.</p>	Adults In favor: 41	Athletes in favor: 24	Adults Opposed: 4	Athletes Opposed: 0	Adults Abstain: 8	Athletes Abstain: 6
Adults In favor: 41	Athletes in favor: 24						
Adults Opposed: 4	Athletes Opposed: 0						
Adults Abstain: 8	Athletes Abstain: 6						
<p>Items 20</p>	<p>Item 20 discussion about wording for transferring between clubs and between unaffiliated status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently if you transfer from club to unaffiliated you do not have to wait 120 days. This should be changed to match the 120-day requirement if an athlete changes from one club to another. There is an issue that notification is lacking between athletes that have unaffiliated status at any point. Process to notify admin chairs, clubs, and National office is should be uniformly applied. Additionally, there is a chance that if an athlete moves from a club to unaffiliated there might be fees left with the old club that would remain unpaid. This does not happen when going from club to club 						

Vote from BOG – recommended for approval: passes

Discussion from BOD

- Margaret Mahoney stated that the wording implies that it will require 120 days between both transfers making it 240 days.

Motion: Margaret Mahoney moved to send back to committee to work on wording.
Seconded Michele Kraus

Vote from BOG – to send back to committee: passes

CONTINUED AFTER LUNCH

Item 20 – Proposal to revise Admin rule 21.01 from Membership Committee

Add new E. and F.

- 21.01 Affiliation and Transfers:** For an athlete to represent a synchronized swimming club, the club must be a member of the Corporation. See USSS Code, Article 1, Section 1.02 A.
- A. An athlete may represent any club that is a member of the Corporation, without regard to residency.
 - B. An athlete may compete in the Championships of only one (1) LSSC, Region, and Zone each year.
 - C. An athlete representing one (1) club may also represent a junior or senior high school, a college, or a university.
 - D. To transfer representation from one (1) club to another, an athlete must serve one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days without having represented any club in competition. The athlete must complete and submit to the USSS National Office a fee and transfer form indicating the date of last competition in an affiliated status. This rule shall not apply to athletes who transfer from a junior/senior high school, college or university program to a club program after their respective seasons are completed. See Appendix J.
 - E. **To transfer from Unaffiliated status to club representation, an athlete must serve one hundred and twenty (120) days without having represented any club in competition. The athlete must complete and submit to the USSS National Office a fee and transfer form indicating the date of last competition in an affiliated status. This rule shall not apply to athletes who transfer from a junior/senior high school, college or university program to a club program after their respective seasons are completed. See Appendix J.**
 - F. **To transfer representation from one (1) club to Unaffiliated status, an athlete must complete and submit to the USSS National Office a fee and transfer form indicating the date of last competition in an affiliated status. This rule shall not apply to athletes who transfer from a junior/senior high school, college or university program to a club program after their respective seasons are completed. See Appendix J.**
 - G. The requirement in Section 21.01 D **and E** above is waived when the club with whom the athlete is affiliated has dissolved.

	<p>Motion: by Barbara McNamee to accept the new wording. Second by Christine McMaster-Shah</p> <p>Discussion from BOG</p> <p>Motion: by Irene Hawes to change to “<u>Must have served</u>” 120 days. Seconded by Christine McMaster Shah</p> <p>Discussion from BOG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traci Lunsford – point of clarification – in 120 days you can join and practice with another club just not compete. <p>Vote from BOG on the amendment: passes</p> <p>Motion: Irene Hawes moves to accept motion as amendment. Seconded by Shannon Korpela</p> <p>Vote from BOG to accept motion as amended: passes</p> <p>Motion: Sheila McNabb moves to accept motion as amendment. Seconded by Ginny Jasontek</p> <p>Vote from BOD to accept motion as amended: passes</p>
<p>Items 21</p>	<p>Item 21</p> <p>Motion: Betty Hazle moves to send this back to committee with item 20. Seconded by Chris Leahy.</p> <p>Vote from BOG to send back to committee: passes</p> <p>CONTINUED AFTER LUNCH</p> <p>New wording supplied:</p> <p>ITEM 21 – Proposal to revise Appendix J:</p> <p><u>1.02 Notification of Intent to Transfer</u></p> <p><u>A. Transfer Options</u></p> <p><u>1. Club to club: Within 10 days of decision to transfer, the athlete (or his/her parents/guardians or custodians, if athlete is a minor) shall complete the Athlete Transfer Request Form (Sections 1 and 2) and submit to the club representative where he/she is currently registered.</u></p> <p><u>2. Club to unaffiliated status: Within 10 days of decision to transfer, the athlete (or his/her parents/guardians or custodians, if athlete is a minor) shall complete the Athlete Transfer Request Form (Sections 1 and 2) and submit to the club representative where he/she is currently registered.</u></p> <p><u>3. Unaffiliated status to club: Within 10 days of decision to transfer, the athlete (or his/her parents/guardians or custodians, if athlete is a minor) shall complete the Athlete Transfer Request Form (Sections 1 and 2) and submit to the club to which he/she intends to transfer.</u></p> <p><u>1.03 Athlete Transfer Request Form and fee:</u></p>

- A. Club to club: Upon receipt, the current club, where the athlete is registered must complete Section 3 and send to:**
- 1. The club representative of the prospective new club;**
 - 2. The Administrative Chair of the USSS Association where the athlete is currently registered;**
 - 3. The Administrative Chair of the USSS Association of the prospective new club, if different from that in A.2 above; and**
 - 4. The USSS National Office.**
- B. Club to unaffiliated: Upon receipt, the current club, where the athlete is registered must complete Section 3 and send to:**
- 1. The Administrative Chair of the USSS Association where the athlete is currently registered, and**
 - 2. The USSS National Office.**
- C. Unaffiliated to club: The athlete must submit the Athlete Transfer Request Form to:**
- 1. The club representative of the club to which he/she intends to join; and**
 - 2. The USSS National Office.**
- D. A fee of \$25.00 must accompany the Athlete Transfer Request Form and is payable to USSS.**

Motion: by Judy McGowan to accept new wording as presented. Seconded by Barbara McNamee.

Vote from BOG to accept item 21 as amended: passes

Motion: by Ginny Jasontek to accept new wording as presented. Seconded by Sheila McNabb

Discussion from BOG

Motion: by Margaret Mahoney to amend to add 1.03 C 2 – “the administrative chair of the USSS Association of the prospective new club.” Seconded by Ginny Jasontek.

Vote on amendment: rejected

Motion: by Margaret Mahoney approve the concept and deal with wording as housekeeping. Seconded by Megan Hansley.

Vote from BOD to accept the amendment in concept and to work on the wording; passes

13. Athletes Report

A. Mariya Koroleva – AEC President

- Report will be on website. Thanks to all the athletes who are here for taking an interest and coming to convention. Thanks to adults for supporting the athletes.
- Things we’ve done this year.
 - Worked with Betty about changes to bylaws to BOD which will comply with the USOPC audit. Another change was in how the athlete representative positions were voted on;

previously it was at convention, but many did not attend. Now it will be completed by an email vote.

- Much time was spent clarifying what the requirements were for each committee, who is eligible to that we adhere to USOPC and USSS by-laws
- Compiled database of eligible athletes.
- For next year, there will be a large push to communicate with athletes and committees better to help keep everyone on track and make sure athletes are participating.
- Here are the newly elected Officers
 - Athlete at Large – Megan Robins
 - VP Membership and Marketing – Leah Ryzenman
 - VP Competitive Operations – Heather Ding
 - USOPC-AAC Alternate – Olivia Eckberg

B. Morgan Fuller – USOC Athletes’ Advisory Council Representative

- AEC is working on providing feedback to USOPC on bylaws.
- USA Synchro is still participating in the elite athlete survey.
- USOPC is working to establish a mental health taskforce.
- USOPC looking to provide guideline for activism at the Pan Am games.
- AEC with USOPC and other stakeholders working with Congress to have USOC follow changes made over the last few years.

Announcement from the President:

- Future of convention: It will continue for two years in the current format (2021-2022). After that it will change and likely be held for all aquatic sports together every 2 years. Adam Andrasko stated that we have two years to look at what we want to do as an organization. He is looking for input and ideas from the members. Mariya will be surveying the athletes on their thoughts.

14. VP Olympic International – Ginny Jasontek

Thank and praise our current National Team coaches, managers, athletes and support staff.

A. National Team Program – Presented by Ginny Jasontek

- Please read report online.
- Made some big strides this year.
 - 2019 was a very important moment for the US team. We had a new look, new coach, and had the opportunity to try something different and it worked. The complements and comments are worth 1M dollars. We got the acknowledgement from others in the world and this is a big step forward just for getting noticed.
 - We also did a good job with our other National Teams at UANA, and in Slovakia. Ginny congratulated these teams.
 - The climb back up to the podium is steep and takes time. Andrea Fuentes talked about the reality of where we are at and how much improvement it’s going to take to get to our goal. We are on the right road.

B. FINA – Presented by Ginny Jasontek – reports are online

- Mixed duet is here to stay so we should embrace it. We need to forge a plan to increase the number of males in America. She would like to hear ideas from the membership. Is being looked at for inclusion in the 2024 Olympics.

- Other event on the horizon is the highlight routine which is a very acrobatic and audience pleasing routine. It is looking to be considered as an Olympic event. Encouraging coaches to look at adding this event.
- FINA pathway to judges has now changed and has Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Training for judges. A lot of work has been done on this.
- Ginny recognized the FINA judges and Tammy McGregor for her work on the FINA coaches committee.
- National Team committee met on selection procedures and are still finalizing this year's procedures. Ginny confirmed that if the UANA 12&U competition is in the Caribbean then our 12&U National Team will attend. For 13-15 National Team we have options to send them to the Comen Cup and UANA. This is the year for Junior Worlds which our Junior team will attend in Canada. Senior team will go to as many World series competitions as possible. Olympic qualification will be in Tokyo, Japan. Please send notes to team, show team pride to our National Teams. The journey will begin earlier with World Series competitions.
- There will be a huge change in the judging system. In 2021, there will be a pre-assessment of difficulty by experts. Being led by Spain and Russia. Additionally, there will be a synchronization panel that only judges synchronization separate from execution. Three buttons to push (minor, major, catastrophic).
- Ginny praised the work of Shari Darst who has been so helpful in selection procedures. New details, dates and procedures will be coming out the end of October.

RECESS for morning at 11:15

RESUMES at 1:35

15. History Committee –Lea Bean – the report is online

- A. Lea presented a costume show with bathing suits from national and international champions from 1953-2004. Current athletes in the room modeled the suits while Lea provided information on each one. The show was well received.

16. Return to Rules and Governance

- Refer to Section 11 for continued discussion on Rules Item 1
- Refer to section 12 for continued discussion on Governance Items 22, 20, 21

17. Return to VP Olympic International

- C. ***International Relations – Presented by Betty Hazle*** – the report online
- Thanked Britt Rooney for her 7 years of service as a FINA Judge must retire due to age
 - Congratulations to the three FINA hopefuls; Eugenia Gillan, Krista Karwosky, Svetlana Malinovskaya for going to the advanced judging school and passing with flying colors.
 - Congratulations to Irene Hawes and Cheryl Russell for judging at the Pan American Games.
 - Irene Hawes was selected by FINA to evaluate at the 13-15 World Championships.
 - Barbara McNamee was selected by FINA to be chief recorder at the FINA World Masters.
 - A huge thank you for service and guidance by Charlotte Davis for being on the UANA technical committee for 16 years.
 - Congratulations to Denise Shively who will be replacing Charlotte Davis on the UANA technical committee.

- Congratulations to Ginny Jasontek for being assigned to be on the UANA executive committee and will be assigned by UANA to be the liaison to Artistic Swimming.
- Betty took time this year to update the Club Option Appendix in the Rulebook. These were minor changes and housekeeping issues.
 - Section 1.03 – add the following: “must be members of USSS and have must have a current background check and Safesport training.”
 - **Motion:** by Judy McGowan to accept new wording as presented. Seconded by Scotti Nichols.
 - **Vote from BOG to accept new wording: passes**
 - **Motion:** by Ginny Jasontek to accept new wording as presented. Seconded by Sheila McNabb
 - **Vote from BOD to accept new wording: passes**
 - Section 1.05 – Non-refundable section – Betty added a deadline to background checks and submitting names of delegation to Betty two weeks prior.
 - **Motion:** by Scotti Nichols to accept new wording as presented. Seconded by Judy McGowan.
 - **Vote from BOG to accept new wording: passes**
 - **Motion:** by Ginny Jasontek to accept new wording as presented. Seconded by Sheila McNabb
 - **Vote from BOD to accept new wording: passes**
 - Announcements:
 - Club options due by January 17th but accepted all year long.
 - Exciting club option opportunities
 - Oceania Championships: In Suva Fiji – June 15-21
 - UANA Championship: In Caribbean TBD – Date TBD

D. UANA – Presented by Betty Hazle – the report is online

- New president – Marine Croes from Aruba

18. VP Education and Certification – Shari Darst

A. *LTAD* – presented by Shari Darst – the report is online

- LTAD – Some upcoming changes
 - Changes to Level 3 include an updated bridge test.
 - At this time, we are not going to move 13-15 to level 5, will stay at level 4 unless swimming on a junior or senior team.
 - It is being looked at to change level 3 routine to a two-lap routine
 - There will be a change in the manual that you can be both competitive or recreation level swimmer to complete testing so that intermediates can start testing.
 - Are working on getting wording for non-coach professionals to be able to get level testing certification (NOT have to be coach or judge) but will still have to meet other requirements, pass test and have background check.

B. *Coaches Board*

- Discussion about a new level 1 CCP but no specifics yet. This is designed to allow athletes or individuals to be able to be a level 1 CCP and allow certain individuals (potentially collegiate athletes) that could be only a level 1 CCP to coach at Junior Olympics without level 2 CCP.
- Level 1 was updated last year and is online for \$105.

- Level 2 is going to an online course for \$250.
- Level 3 going to a bigger online course with a total of 40-50 videos (2 min) each and several questions for \$105.
- Expiration dates: many coaches will expire this year. If says 2020 then means Dec 31st of 2020.
 - To extend your certification, going to coaches college in 2019 will extend out 4 years to 2023.
 - If you wait to renew in 2020, then it will extend until 2024.
 - If you are unable to go to coaches college, then retaking level 1, 2 or 3 will also extend out 4 years.

C. Officials – presented by Shari Darst

- Received foundation grant to help people become zone and national judges. There will now be a designated person to help monitor the certification process at the national meets.
- Shannon Korpela announced that we have five new national judges; Kimmy Lurenz, Karen Rosolowski, Erica Rasmussen, Lucia Shepard, Anna Yesipova.

19. Election Results

- Congratulations to Michele Kraus on her re-election of VP of Marketing and Member Services

20. Old Business None

21. New Business

- Potential for name change to artistic swimming
 - Adam Andrasko addressed that there will be outreach and communications to have people provide any feedback on the decision to change our name in the US. He stated that the decision has not been made yet. Things we should consider:
 - Does a name change dramatically impact our brand? Considerations are that neither the word synchronized nor the word artistic represent our sport. The key is to brand our message well. Those that are not connected to our sport now, will probably not be impacted either positively or negatively. However, in the Olympic year those new to the sport will be searching for Artistic Swimming as that is what it will be called on televised coverage. Changing our name will help alleviate confusion, provide upcoming promotional opportunities, and can help with our membership campaign.
 - International federations have moved to Artistic Swimming already. We should have synergy to match our national teams and international events to line up with FINA.
 - Further discussion included changing our name to Synchronized Artistic Swimming, whether our legal name would stay the same just the branding would change, whether there would be money from the national office to help clubs with rebranding. Adam addressed all these concerns that further study must be done on all fronts.
 - **Motion:** by Judy McGowan to have the CEO do a research project with USOPC. Seconded by Betty Hazle.
 - **Vote from BOG to have research done on the name change: passes**
 - Adam stated that he is looking at a March 1st, 2020 deadline to have decided on the name change. This is at the start of World Series Events and prior to the Olympics. He also stated

- that he was part of a successful rebrand at USA Field Hockey and already has ideas on how to go about market research.
- Ginny Jasontek provide information from FINA's point of view. They have not approached the countries to have to changes the name domestically, but if you host a FINA meet you must use Artistic Swimming. FINA has stated that they don't view the word Artistic as weak and have asked the countries to view and live in a new way as a sport that accepts both athleticism and artistry. The decision has been made and it will not change. Ginny is nervous about adding third name to the mix for example Synchronized Artistic Swimming. We should either stick with Synchronized Swimming or change to Artistic Swimming, but do not add a third option.
 - Athletes expressed that they are in favor of name change as a way to rebrand ourselves, get new coverage and emphasize our athleticism.
 - Ginny stated that artistry is valued and it doesn't diminish the athleticism that we have. We must have a change in our hearts and minds to support the strength of the word artistic.

22. Closing Remarks

- Linda Loehndorf thanked Sheila McNabb as she leaves competitive operations vice president position as she has done a tremendous amount of work for us over the years.
- Linda also thanked Britt Rooney as she leaves the treasurer position for all her efforts over the years as well.
- Linda thanked all the BOD, our new CEO and all the office staff and national team coaching staff. She is very pleased with how our organization is moving along.
- Linda thanked all the membership for their continued support.
- Judy McGowan expressed appreciation to all the professional staff.
- Karen Rosolowski thanked everyone for support of the foundation which raised \$25,000 at the Foundation Dinner.
- Carole Mitchell thanked Dawn Bean on behalf of all of us for everything she has done for this sport.

23. Adjournment

- Judy McGowan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chris Leahy. **Vote: unanimous.**

Time of Adjournment –4:30 PM