



## **Eastern Zone Swimming Athlete's Meeting -- Minutes**

Sunday, November 1, 2020

6:00pm EST via Zoom

**Present:** Aaron Zhu(EZ Sr Athlete Director), Gavin Formon(EZ Jr Athlete Director), Jack Swanson(AEC Leadership Chair), Marco Greico(AD, National), Nicholas Poulos(MD, National), Jack Foley(NJ, National), Abigael O'Donnell(AD), Emma Lindecke(AD), Topher Bishop(AMS), Meredith Reese(AMS), Ria Dietz(AMS), Sofia Pejicic(MA), Christina Cappola(MA), Sarah Nelson(MD), Ali Bragg(ME), Kristy Barry(ME), Thomas Cho(METRO), Samantha Brabeck(NE), Suzanne Sokolowski(NI), Alexandra Switalski(NI), TJ Walsh(NJ), Tamsin Formon(NJ), Wesley Tseng(NJ), Jack McCann(VA)

**Absent:** CT and PVS

### **I. Call to order**

Meeting was called to order by Aaron Zhu at 6:03pm. Aaron and Gavin introduced themselves and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Role call was taken via google forum.

### **II. Athlete Rep Contact List Update**

The Eastern Zone Athlete Rep Contact list was updated and will be sent to the AEC. If you have any updates to it please contact Aaron or Gavin. Aaron then recognized Jack Swanson-Guest (AEC Leadership Chair) who provided an update on national committee appointments. Notifications should be released in December, those who do not receive a placement should apply again next year. There were more applicants than positions available, Jack also explained some of the factors that go into the decision process.

### **III. Eastern Zone DEI Committee**

The Eastern Zone DEI Committee is looking for athlete representatives to fill open positions on the committee. If interested please reach out to Aaron or Gavin.

### **IV. Social Media Takeovers**

The Eastern Zone instagram account will have takeovers starting next week. The general consensus was to do the takeovers on Wednesdays. The takeovers will start with Aaron and Gavin and then go in alphabetical order of LSC. National Athlete Representatives will be included in this as well if desired. A reminder was made to be appropriate while doing the takeover. This is an opportunity to spotlight the Athlete Representatives within the Eastern Zone. Aaron and Gavin will be in touch with specific information when it is your LSC's turn.

## **V. Eastern Zone Sectional/Championship Meet update**

Aaron and Gavin presented questions from the EZ Tech Planning committee for the Athlete Rep's in the Zone. The purpose of these questions was to get an idea of where each LSC is at. Gavin asked each LSC to provide an update on where they are at with practices and meets.

### **Reports-**

**Adirondack:** Most teams not practicing. No Meets

**Allegheny Mountain:** Most teams have their High School aged athletes practicing. There are some gaps with the younger swimmers but the majority of swimmers are back in the water.

**Connecticut:** No Report

**Maine:** Most teams are practicing. There are few meets being sanctioned.

**Maryland:** Majority of teams back practicing. There are a few meets being sanctioned.

**Middle Atlantic:** Since the LSC is very large, there are teams in all different stages. Several teams have their athletes in the water but many teams are struggling.

**Metro:** Most teams(at least the bigger ones) are practicing. There are a few meets being sanctioned.

**New England:** Like Middle Atlantic, very large LSC so teams are in different stages. Most teams are back in the water but with limited hours. There are a few meets being sanctioned.

**New Jersey:** Most teams are practicing. There are a few meets being sanctioned.

**Niagara:** Majority of teams are back practicing. There are a few meets being sanctioned.

**Potomac Valley Swimming:** No Report

**Virginia:** Most teams are back in the pool. Many meets have been sanctioned.

Discussion followed on the question of how the meet formats should be adjusted to better fit the situation each LSC is in. There were points made that if meets are held, it will likely have to be for LSC's that have teams practicing. There was support in regard to extending the qualification period with the stipulation that it wouldn't oversubscribe the meet and create a safety concern. There was a general consensus that something needs to be adjusted since most swimmers in the Zone are nowhere near top race shape currently. There was also support on the idea of adding different events to the meets(I.E 50's) in order to boost enthusiasm. Everyone agreed that it is a big challenge to plan a meet right now since every LSC has teams in different stages. Aaron and Gavin also presented ideas to make the meet atmosphere more exciting and will continue to explore different ideas and options.

## **VI. DEI initiative Update**

Aaron and Gavin provided an update on the initiative to add DEI Chairs as voting members of LSC BOD's. Currently, 10 out of the 12 LSC's in the Eastern Zone have their DEI Chair as a voting member. The last two LSC's are working on getting on board, Aaron and Gavin will be reaching out to offer assistance to those two LSC's. Eastern Zone is currently leading in this initiative.

**VII. Old Business**

No Old Business

**VII. Next Meeting**

The date and time of the next meeting will be set and distributed soon.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Aaron Zhu at 6:39PM ET

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marco Greico (AD)

/MJG