

GRAL February 2024 Meeting Minutes
February 12th, 2024 at Battlefield Green

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call, accepted yearly dues- All present except Burkwood and Dominion Club
3. President's opening comments (Julie Zubris)
 - a. Website and Google contact form- the website was switched over today. Some minutes were not available, but it should be fixed now.
 - b. GRAL Contacts- make sure the contact forms have been done. We need the GRAL board rep (not pool president, etc.), coaches, parent reps, Officials coordinator, computer rep and CHAMPS coordinator. Question if the people that are doing multiple roles going to get multiple emails? Answer--No. Question what kind of computer a team should buy? Answer--No Apple or MACs
 - c. Computer Coordinator position- Zero interest in this position, Christy has agreed to come back for this final year. Ralph Jones is retiring from his full time job this spring and he will be training this year and taking the role next year. Christy and Ralph will work together to figure out how they will divide the role for 2024.
 - d. VP of Champs--still don't have anyone for the position. Kristin is staying on to do the CHAMPS, but we need someone this summer to agree to come and be trained so they can take over in 2025.
 - e. Reminder to not expect meet results before 48 hours.
4. Acceptance of Annual Meeting Minutes from September. Motion from Federal Club. Pebble Creek second. Unanimous approval.
5. Officer Reports
 - a. Secretary (Michelle Shores)--updates to the contact form.
 - b. Treasurer (Cindy Anderson)--budget was supposed to be sent out, but was not. Budget will be sent out after the meeting. We will have a deficit after the regular season, but make up for it during Champs. Income of \$6350. Net of \$2000. Current bank account at \$40,609. Very little wiggle room on the budget. Email will be sent out with the budget as well as a form to vote to approve.
 - c. Officials (Roy Sabo)--Teams should be looking at open positions. How many officials do you have? Do you need more? The number for the team should double the people that are needed to host a meet. 8 judges per meet. Teams at max can have 3 starters and 3 refs. Training won't be open until closer to the start of the season, likely in May. Dates for trainings will be announced a month or so in advance. Season is earlier this year, so training will be a little earlier. There may be one in-season training session, but overall we try to avoid in season trainings.
 - d. Computer -No updates

- e. Equipment (Moira Sweazey)--introduced herself since she was absent at the last meeting. Ribbons/DQ cards, etc. will be distributed at the May or June in person meeting or possibly if Moira can contact each rep on her own time to drop off their items..
- f. Champs—July 20th and 21st Still need a person to be the CHAMPS coordinator. The role is intense the month before CHAMPS but nothing else the remaining part of the year. It's an easy job to take on as everything is already created. Canterbury is concerned because Champs will conflict with a meet that their coaches will be attending as swimmers. We contracted with SwimRVA over 2 years ago for 2024 season. Unfortunately, we have to book Champs years in advance and we can not choose dates based on other meets, and those meets don't release their dates until well after GRAL has already signed contracts for Champs.

6. Old Business

- a. Sandbag Rule—suggestion for swimmers to “swim up”. Courtney, coach from Old Church is here to discuss the rule. Her comments: Be as inclusive as possible at GRAL. Level the playing field. If a swimmer is good at one stroke, they may not be good at all strokes. Times from the previous year should be included. Only those that made time should be able to swim in them. Sandbag rule is not inclusive for year round swimmers.
 - Discussion back and forth among reps. Kristin and Roy explained the rationale for the rules. Swimmers would “sandbag” by swimming slow on purpose in the regular season and they would get high in points at Champs.
 - Pebble creek made a motion to allow swimmers to swim up (option 4 from January minutes). Seconds from Milestone and Wembly. 14 yes, not a quorum to pass.
 - Colonies made a motion for swimmers to swim up AND not to include last year's Champs time in the seed time (option 5 from January minutes). Second from Foxhall. 5 voted in favor, did not pass.
 - Motion to re-vote for option 4. 18 in favor, did not pass.
 - Atlee motioned to table until next month, a second from Bell Creek. All in favor.
 - Pebble Creek asked to revisit the motion for option 4 after Old Church indicated they would change their vote. Received a second. 19 teams in favor; the motion was approved.
- b. Divisions—suggestion has been made to change every two years instead of every year. This would eliminate the problem of the teams hosting or being away at other teams multiple years in a row. Discussion among Board reps about possible consequences—lack of competition or fairness in divisions possible the 2nd year. This is because divisions change every year based on the standard deviation using the teams accrued points and their number of swimmers in order to have the most

competitive divisions possible. No motion was made; the rule will stay the same. Divisions will change every year and teams may have to host the same team or go to the same away pool multiple years in a row.

- c. Weather policy The Dominion Club made a motion in absentia to section v3b of the weather policy to insert new weather guidelines. "If severe weather conditions are present or expected are forecasted 12 hours before which could potentially delay the start of the meet past 8 PM, the Parent Representatives from both teams in conjunction with the home teams Meet Director, may proactively reschedule the meet to the designated rain date." Discussion that there needs to be a time frame and Board reps agreed that cancelations should only occur within 12 hours of the scheduled meet start time. Federal Club motioned and TVW seconded to adopt this new weather policy. 21 voted yes; the motion passed.

7. New Business

- a. Matt Tonga, a GRAL coach, came to speak about Comfort Zone Camp. He's been part of GRAL since 1994 as a swimmer and now coach. His mom passed away when he was 15. He went to Comfort Zone Camp and it was free of charge. He is looking for ways to give back. Hungary Creek (his team) is doing a swimathon and he suggested there could be collaboration with other teams in GRAL. HC will host their event instead of doing practice one night. Any team interested may email Matt to get the link and check out the Comfort Zone story. Ashcreek asked if they could do their own at a different date from Hungary Creek and that is possible. Their plan is to do a one time donation and not do it per number of laps swum. Individual swimmers can also join at Hungary Creek if their team doesn't want to participate.
- b. 2024 GRAL meeting dates
 - Monday, March 4th Tom from Pebble Creek can create a zoom meeting for the league.
 - Monday, April 8th (virtual)
 - Monday, May 6th (in-person)
 - Monday, June 3rd (in-person, registration monies are due, ribbons are distributed)
 - Monday, July 8th (in-person)
 - Sunday, September 15th—annual meeting (in-person)
- c. Meet dates
 - Wednesday, June 5th
 - Wednesday, June 12th
 - TUESDAY, June 18th (raindate Thursday 6/20 due to Juneteenth)
 - Wednesday, June 26th
 - Tuesday July 2nd or Wednesday July 3rd (consider Tuesday because of July 4th holiday and need for a raindate)
 - TUESDAY, July 9th (raindate Wednesday 7/10)
- d. Important Champs dates
 - Champs July 20th and 21st
 - Champs Coordinators contact info submitted 6/20

- Champs meeting for coordinators and coaches Sunday 7/7 (virtual)
 - Electronic entries due by 11:59pm 7/12
 - In-person registration 7/13
- e. Other important dates for the season
- Registration due from teams by 11:59pm Friday May 24 (that is Memorial Day weekend, so plan accordingly)
 - Registration paid at June Board meeting (6/3)—\$7 a swimmer
 - Coaches test due by 11:59pm Friday May 31st
 - Coaches meeting Saturday, 6/1 at 9am—in person at Atlee

8. Good of the league

9. Adjourn- TFC motioned, was seconded.

Michelle Shores, GRAL Secretary