

# GASL Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2021

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## 1. Old Business

- a. Jake Miller opened the meeting and noted that we had previously decided to make plans to swim virtual meets this season and that we would revisit the situation in May. He indicated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss how we plan to run the 2021 season and to review the proposed COVID protocols.
- b. Team Changes: AST has disbanded and decided to merge with Truxton Park, which leaves an opening for another team. AST was in the D Division, which leaves a gap, but since we are only swimming four meets this season, no changes will need to be made to the schedule to fill the gap. Southdown, which is located in Edgewater, MD, has expressed interest in joining the league in 2022. They currently compete in the Central Maryland Swim League (CMSL), and are looking to switch to a more local league. Their team is around 80 swimmers, and they have a five-lane 25-yard pool. CMSL did not have a season in 2020, but Southdown held its own meets.
- c. 2021 Season: Jake Miller suggested that we take a vote to determine if we should try to have a season this Summer. *Motion: Proceed as if we are going to have a the 2021 Season. Motion was seconded. RESULT: All teams voted Yes by voice vote and motion carried.* A discussion was held on how we wanted to compete for the 2021 Season and several options were discussed. One option was to have no divisions, allow every team to swim against all of the other teams each week, rank the teams and give ribbons to adjacent teams. Another option was to maintain the dual meet schedule, which could more easily be converted to in-person meets if the COVID protocols were relaxed. *Motion: Keep the dual meet schedule with the same divisions, and convert times as needed based on pool length per GASL rules. Motion was seconded. RESULT: All teams voted Yes by voice vote and motion carried.*
- d. 2021 Ribbons: A suggestion was made to have each team handle their own ribbons in a way that they can be distributed in a safe manner. *Motion: Include ribbons in the 2021 Season with each team responsible for printing and distributing their own ribbons. Motion was seconded. RESULT: A majority of teams voted Yes by voice vote and motion carried.*
- e. 2021 Championship Meets: Swimmers will still need to commit to a maximum of three ribbon-eligible Championship Meet events. A discussion was held about the best way to conduct the Championship Meets, and several options were suggested. Option A: Provide awards based on the best time during season for the three events selected by each swimmer. Option B: Only compete against teams in your own Division. Option C: Swim three virtual championship meet the last week of the season with swimmers qualifying for them as they would in a normal season, conduct seed meetings as usual, and have each team swim their events sometime

during the week with the top twelve times in each event receiving awards for the season. *Motion: Conduct Championship Meets in accordance with Option C for the 2021 Season. Motion was seconded. RESULT: All teams voted Yes by voice vote and motion carried.*

- f. Time Conversion: A discussion was held about the best approach to convert times for the different pool lengths during a 2021 virtual season. The following pool lengths were confirmed for each club:
  - i. 25-Yard Pools: Admiral Heights, Cape St. Claire, Chase Creek, Evergreen, Hillsmere, Indian Landing, Mayo, Severn River, Truxton, and Ulmstead.
  - ii. 25-Meter Pools: Bay Hills, Bay Ridge, Davidsonville, Harting Farm, Hunt Meadow, South River, and Walden.
  - iii. 20-Yard Pools: Downs and Indian Hills.
- g. A suggestion was made to analyze the last three years of meet results, and make time conversions based on the data available to us, including dive versus no-dive starts. *Motion: Analyze the last three years of meet results data available and make recommendations at the next GASL Meeting for time conversions, including dive versus no-dive starts. Motion was seconded. RESULT: All teams voted Yes by voice vote and motion carried.*
- h. COVID Protocols: Conducted a review of the COVID protocol documents that were prepared by the COVID Protocol Committee. They used the protocols that USA Swimming and Maryland Swimming are currently using and made adjustments as appropriate for GASL. AAU insurance requires GASL to follow CDC, State, and local regulations, and USA Swimming coaches must follow USA Swimming guidelines and not other regulations. The League has previously agreed to follow USA Swimming guidelines with respect to COVID protocols. The recommended protocol does not allow parents on the deck so swimmers would need to be more self-sufficient. Adjustments can be made later if USA Swimming relaxes its COVID protocols. We reviewed each of the elements of the Guidance for Swimmers and Coaches. Several teams indicated that they would like to have more time to analyze the protocols being proposed and review them with their pool boards before approving them. *Motion: Table the discussion, post the COVID protocol document on Google docs for comments, call for virtual vote within the next week on each of the changes proposed, and make an exception to GASL by-Laws to allow this virtual vote to happen. Motion was seconded. RESULT: All teams voted Yes by voice vote and motion carried.* Truxton indicated that they must also follow local government protocols since they are using a public pool, and they requested some additional time to provide feedback on the protocols. *Motion: Allow for additional review time for teams impacted by local government reviews. Motion was seconded. RESULT: All teams voted Yes by voice vote and motion carried.*

## **2. New Business**

- a. Next GASL Meeting will be held on April 14, 2021, via WebEx to approve the final COVID protocol, and determine how best to handle 19-year-old swimmers, virtual meet line-up exchanges, and six-and-under swimmers.