

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

April 6, 2026 Virtual

Next Board Meeting Monday, May 4th at 7pm (Location: Bell Creek, 001 Brigadier Rd, Mechanicsville, VA 23116, USA)

The Greater Richmond Aquatic League (GRAL) is an organization of swimmers, coaches, and parents whose aim is to promote and participate in the sport of summer swimming. GRAL provides an opportunity for young people to compete against others of similar ability in an atmosphere of fair play, good sportsmanship, and safety.

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Roll Call:

- Present: AshCreek, Ashland, Atlee, Battlefield Green, Bell Creek, Canterbury, Chestnut Oaks, Colonies, Dominion Club, Federal Club, Fox Hall, Goochland, Hanover, Hungary Creek, Kings Charter, Mechanicsville, Milestone, Old Church, Pebble Creek, Raintree, Rockville Dolphin Club, Tuckahoe Village West, Twin Hickory, Wyndham
- Absent: Burkwood, Church Run, Wellesley, Wembly

President Report: Roy Sabo (Milestone) president@gralva.com

- March meeting minutes approved without objection
- GRAL remains in need of a Secretary
- Coach advertising: please let us know when you close searches so that we can update website
- Please update the team roles in SwimTopia ASAP (e.g., board rep, parent rep, Champs coordinator, head coach, assistant coaches, officials coordinator, etc.)
- Coach's Meeting will be held Saturday, May 30, at 9 am (location to be determined)
- Registration: recall that if an athlete is listed on your team's Swimtopia Account, your team is responsible for the registration fee, regardless of whether they are competing in GRAL

Secretary Report: vacant

Treasurer Report: Cindy Anderson (Raintree) treasurer@gralva.com

- One team has yet to mail registration checks (\$200; made out to GRAL or Greater Richmond Aquatic League) to Cindy Anderson, 2108 Willowick Lane, Henrico, VA 23238.

VP of Officials Report: Tom Connolly (Pebble Creek) officials@gralva.com

- Starting this year, officials currently certified through the high school swim associations (NFHS Swimming) will only be required to take the GRAL test to gain GRAL certification and will not have to shadow during the season.
- Stroke & Turn Virtual Training Dates
 - 4/26 @ 6pm
 - 5/17 @ 7pm
 - 5/31 @ 6pm
- Referee Roundtable (Virtual) Dates
 - 5/26 @ 6pm
 - TBD
- Please continue recruiting for officials and certified positions.

VP of Training and Certification: Steve Harness (Bell Creek) training@gralva.com

- Online trainings are open for all positions except Stroke and Turns and Referees (as these require prior training attendance)
- Email VP of Training and Certification if you have questions about Concussion Training

VP of Equipment Report: Moira Sweazey (Hanover) equipment@gralva.com

- Will coordinate with teams for ribbon delivery; otherwise teams will receive ribbons at June Board Meeting

VP of Technology Report: Mark Rakes (Colonies) technology@gralva.com

- Keep officials and officers up-to-date on SwimTopia

VP of Champs Report: Heather Jensen (Church Run) champs@gralva.com

- Please assign your Champs coordinator now, as we will begin planning for Champs much earlier than in past seasons
- Champs Planning Schedule
 - 4/18: Email to teams outlining planning schedule and process
 - 5/20: Champs kick-off meeting (virtual) for champs coordinators and other volunteers
 - 6/16: Champs follow-up meeting (virtual)
- Number of Coaches on Deck at Champs
 - Instead of using roster sizes to determine # of coaches, # of champs qualified swimmers will be used
 - No objections
 - Rational: to limit the # of people on the swim deck at one time

- Question: how would swimmer-coaches be classified
 - Would be classified as coach on Saturday
 - Would be classified as swimmer on Sunday if they are competing; otherwise they are classified as coach
- Year-Round-Swimming Booths at Champ
 - Last year coaches / volunteers would come to swim deck, adding to the (already large) # of swimmers on deck
 - Proposal: Charge teams for a coach's pass to have a booth at Champs
 - \$25 → Single (transferable) coach's pass (i.e. one coach on deck at a time)
 - \$50 → Two (transferable coach's passes (i.e. two coaches on deck at a time)
 - Etc.
 - No objections
- Increase Advertising Fees
 - Change from \$30 to \$35 for half-page adds
 - Change from \$40 to \$45 for full-page adds
 - No objections
 - Question: will event fees increase?
 - We will confirm champs fees in the May or June meeting

Computer Coordinator Report: Ralph Jones ralph@gralva.com

- No updates

Old Business:

- None

New Business

- Upcoming Board Meetings
 - (1) Monday, May 4th (Location, Bell Creek)
 - (2) Monday, June 1st (Location TBD)
 - (3) Monday, July 6th (Location TBD)

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- Question: What are the rules on tech suits?
 - GRAL follows USA swimming rules
 - Tech Suits are not permitted for swimmers 12 years-of-age and under

Motion to adjourn by MS, seconded by both numerous teams.

Respectfully submitted by Roy Sabo, President (acting as Secretary)