

GRAL June 2024 Meeting Minutes

6/3/2024 In person at Bell Creek

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.

1. Roll Call (Michelle) and turn in registration checks (Cindy)

Present: Ashcreek, Ashland, Atlee, Battlefield Green, Bell Creek, Burkwood, Canterbury, Chestnut Oaks, Church Run, 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, Wellesley, Wembly, Wyndham

Absent: None

2. Call to Order at 1903

3. President's opening comments (Julie Zubris, Rockville, president@gralva.com)

- a. In 2025 will need Exec Board positions: VP of Champs and VP for Training and Certification. Need new people to fill those positions.
- b. Thank you to everyone who worked to get registration submitted. Remember that you can still add new swimmers throughout the season; your team will pay for them at Champs registration.
- c. Coaches meeting took place on Saturday 6/1/24. The meeting went well with all teams represented.
- d. Thank you to Roy and Debi who have been putting in countless hours for officials training and tracking. They have done a great job! The document will not be updated online real time to reflect certifications. Asking for teams to take ownership of certification lists. Official's coordinators should know who is certified and trained and be able to produce that list upon request. They should also be helping set up training for meets with the opposing teams.
- e. Len Everett scholarship applications are due by midnight June 28th; the form shuts off, so don't wait until the last minute. Personal Recommendations are due July 7th. The information is under the scholarship tab of the website and has been shared on the GRAL FB page. Please share with your families as we typically receive a small number of submissions each year!
- f. Here are some reminders as we start the season; these were also discussed at the coaches meeting.
 - Need to have positive check-in. Don't print anything until check-in is completed. Ideally the same person should complete check-in each week. Pass this info on to

team leadership. Ideally, the same person should do check-in every week to make the process easier and have a familiar face.

- Dive certifications: coaches must have paperwork with them; it's just a form that is printed off and filled out. Swimmers should be marked if necessary (with X or O) at check-in. Question on how to edit the form in the system? It is not submitted to us and although Active lets you do it, it can't be edited, so we don't recommend using that. Suggestion that some teams ask parents to do it before the kids come to the meet and then they are checked at check in.
 - Exemptions: We talked about them in detail last month. Be sure your team has submitted them. We are now 48 hours before the first swim meet and there is no guarantee we can get it done in time. Also, remember that any change from the typical bathing suit requires an exemption. Relay exemptions are if your roster does not have 4 swimmers in a particular age group or does not have both genders in an age group. It is not for situations when swimmers are not available for meets; it is based on the season roster.
 - All caps worn at GRAL meets need to either be a GRAL team cap (no year-round teams) or plain. No writing on backs or anywhere deck furniture can be damaged.
 - Weather: It is the lifeguard's responsibility to blow the whistle to clear the deck. Only four people make the decisions regarding delay/cancellation of a meet and three of them are from the home team. It is the two (home and away) parent reps, pool manager (if your manager is 16, figure out who that should be at your pool), and the meet director who make decisions. Review the weather policy and have it handy at meets to answer questions. Remember that we changed the rule this year about when meets can be postponed. New rule: Within 12 hours of a meet scheduled time, if there is agreement with the meet director and the two parent reps, teams may proactively reschedule the meet if SEVERE weather is present.
 - For volunteers, the minimum number of people needed to run a meet is in the handbook. Many teams require a certain amount of volunteering or the children in the family are not allowed to swim. It was suggested to not have a "fine" system as people will just pay to get out of the volunteering.
- g. Acceptance of May Meeting Minutes—Federal club made a motion and Bell Creek seconded and no oppositions.
4. Officer Reports
- a. Secretary (Michelle Shores, Battlefield Green, secretary@gralva.com) All teams have either turned in the COI or are in the process of having their certificate corrected. The insurance carrier has to have GRAL listed as additional insured in order for the meet to be held at the pool. Michelle shared that the contact list has been updated to reflect all parent reps instead of GRAL reps. See Board page on website.
 - b. Treasurer (Cindy Anderson, Raintree, treasurer@gralva.com)

- Absent, report given by Julie.
 - The storage rental fee and the MoneyMinder (finances tracker) renewal were paid in May.
 - The taxes were filed May 10th.
 - The CHAMPS insurance will be paid this month.
 - The bank balance as of 5/31 is \$27,033.
- c. Officials (Roy Sabo, Milestone, officials@gralva.com) Debi and Roy are sharing duties for the officials training. Great attendance at all sessions. New referee training was completed successfully. Five new S&T sessions done. Later today or early tomorrow an email will be sent out to team officials coordinators clarifying their role. Team certification completion updates on the website are not feasible. This is really something that needs to be taken over by team officials coordinators. As new officials are getting trained, they should be sending the confirmation email on to the team officials coordinator to track. As far as coaches tests, the head coach should be tracking if the assistant coaches have completed the test. Every team has submitted an officials coordinator's contact info. But at some point, if you don't have one, that info will get sent to you (GRAL reps). The officials coordinator should be able to identify who needs to be shadow at meets and home and away teams should work together to ensure the shadowing is happening. The parent rep welcome letter template has a section that asks if any officials need to shadow. Organizing the training walks is the job of the team officials coordinator and NOT the referee.
- d. Computer (Christy Evanko and Ralph Jones, computer@gralva.com) Meets have been sent out to all computer reps. You may add additional swimmers, but they must be a member in good standing at each club. The additional swimmer form needs to go to the other team's coach and computer rep as well as Christy/Ralph. If it is not sent 24 hours before the meet, the swimmer cannot swim in the meet. The form is in the computer section of the website. If the swimmer is brand new, there are no top times. If you have 9-year olds with no top times, it is likely because they have moved up a swimming division and will not have times (because they only swam 25s in the past). For computer reps, please send the results as soon as the meet is done. The ref sends in the meet cover sheet.
- e. Equipment (Moirá Sweazey, Hanover, equipment@gralva.com) Bags with goodies (ribbons/DQ cards, etc.) are located in the back of the room. The divisions have appropriate number based on the size of the teams. Home teams use ribbons for both teams. Ribbons come packaged in 25 (sometimes 50), don't open them all at once.
- f. Champs—July 20th and 21st CHAMPS@gralva.com This is a meter year
All the dates are earlier this year. CHAMPS contacts needed for teams by 6/20.
- Sunday 7/7- Mandatory Champs informational VIRTUAL MEETING to review policies/procedures and answer any questions you may have. A representative from each team must be present. Champs coordinator MUST attend, as well as Computer Reps who are responsible for Champs entries and coaches that will be on deck and/or working on entries. Schedule for the meeting is:

-6:30PM-7:15PM - CHAMPS COORDINATOR

-7:15PM-7:45PM - COMPUTER REPS

-7:45PM-8:15PM COACHES

- Deadline 7/7-Senior swimmers will be highlighted in the heat sheet and their info is needed. We recognize ALL senior swimmers in the program, whether they go to Champs or not.
- This year we will have an earlier deadline for heat sheet and t-shirt orders to help with logistics. For swimmers who qualify in meet 6, we will be increasing the number of heat sheets and shirts to have on hand at Champs in case people want them.
- 7/12/24 at 1159 is CHAMPS electronic entries deadline. 90 second video due.
- Registration is 7/13/24 in person at ATLEE 6-9pm and each team will sign up for their time. If you want your team to hang your banner at champs bring it to this date!
- Six teams are missing a CHAMPS coordinator. Please ensure your team has completed the contact form for your CHAMPS coordinator by 6/20.
- CHAMPS pickup is Thursday 7/18 at Rockville and Atlee. Both locations will be open for pickups. 7/20 and 7/21 is CHAMPS.

5. Old Business—None

6. New Business- It's our 50th birthday this year! Hungary Creek started the league! Do you know anyone that was involved in GRAL from 1974-80s? Email the board with their contact info!

a. 2024 GRAL meeting dates

- Monday, July 8th (in-person, location -The Colonies)
- Sunday, September 15th—annual meeting (in-person, location TBD)

a. Meet Dates

- Wednesday, June 5th
- Wednesday, June 12th
- TUESDAY, June 18th (rain date 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 rain date)
- TUESDAY, July 9th (rain date Wednesday 7/10)

b. Important Champs dates

- Champs July 20th and 21st
- Champs Coordinators contact info submitted by 6/20
- Champs meeting for coordinators and coaches Sunday 7/7 (virtual)
- Electronic entries due by 11:59pm 7/12
- In-person registration, evening 7/13

7. Good of the league

8. Adjourn- motion made by federal club and Wembley seconded