

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

May 1st, 2023, via Teams

Next Board Meeting Monday June 5, 2023, at Ashcreek Clubhouse

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 7:04 pm

Roll Call:

- Present: Ashcreek, Ashland, Atlee, Burkwood, Canterbury, Chestnut Oaks, Church Run, Colonies, 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: Battlefield Green, Bell Creek, Dominion Club

President Report: Kristin Brittle (Atlee) president@gralva.com

- Absent, given by Julie
- Thank you to the teams that shared at the Parent Rep Best Practices call last Monday. It was great interaction, and we are using the materials to create a "Resources" tab on the website.
- Motion by Federal Club to accept April meeting minutes into the record, second by Hanover; approved unanimously.

Secretary Report: Julie Zubris (Rockville) secretary@gralva.com

- Anything that is password protected on the GRAL website uses the password leneverett.
- Contact changes should be sent to secretary. We keep a record of GRAL Board rep, Parent rep, Officials coordinator, Computer Rep, Champs coordinator, and coaches. If it is a list of your COACHES, send it to Christy. All other contacts are sent to secretary.
- Certificate of Insurance for your pool is due by May 30th. Wait to send it until you renew for the 2023 season.

Treasurer Report: Debi Knott (Wembly) treasurer@gralva.com

- Started at approximately \$27,000 and are now at \$24,205.84. Expenses have been medals (\$2400), D&O insurance (\$873), and ribbons (\$5000). Incoming revenue of \$5600 was from dues. Things will start changing more next month.

VP of Officials Report: Roy Sabo (Milestone) officials@gralva.com

- All referees, new and returning, MUST attend one of the following roundtable virtual meetings. The login info for the meetings is on the website on the officials page.
 - Wednesday, May 10, 7-7:45pm
 - Saturday, May 13, 3-3:45pm
 - Monday, May 15, 8-8:45pm
 - Thursday, May 25, 7:30-8:15pm
 - Saturday, June 10, 11-11:45am
- **New** S&T officials need to attend an in person training. GRAL is also **STRONGLY** encouraging S&T officials trained after Covid to attend, but it is not required. We still need a couple locations to hold these trainings, so please volunteer if you are able. We will need a television. Training dates:
 - Wednesday, May 17, 7-9pm (hopefully at Milestone)
 - Saturday, May 21, 1-3pm (ARA sanctioned, but different location on Parham Road)
 - Thursday June 8, 7-9pm (location TBD)
 - Sunday, June 11, 2-4pm (location TBD)
- Referees take the S&T training online, they do not need to attend the in person meeting.
- If a new S&T person does training online, it will not count. They must attend an in-person session.
- Please refer to the training schedule online as it is the most accurate. There was a typo in a previous version.
- Apparel: USA Swimming regulations for apparel are gender specific. Boys are knee to waist or speedo brief—covers bottom but not top. Girls can't wear two piece bathing suits, but they wear something that covers the top and bottom. For any deviations that are desired (for modesty, gender reasons, etc.), all that needs to be done on your end is to have the coach apply for an exemption. Submit the paperwork early, before the season.
- Watches are legal as long as they are not used to track time (no stopwatch functionality). However, other jewelry is not legal, such as rings, necklaces, etc.
- Body writing (in Sharpie marker) is not approved except for on the hand/forearm to write events and shoulder for X and O for dive certification. Any other writing is not allowed regardless of where on the body. This is a sportsmanship issue as well as to protect pool furniture. Some teams use tattooing as a fundraising mechanism. As long as they are respectful, those are fine.
- Concussion training is required for starter, strokes and turns, ref, and coaches. It is a once and done training. There are two links posted on the website, both on

the coaches and officials page, and people can choose which training to complete.

Computer/Webmaster Report: Christy Evanko webmaster@galva.com and christy@galva.com

- Coaches test will be coming out soon. There is a glitch with the testing system, we can't get Roy into it. As soon as the test is up, Christy will send out an email letting everyone know.
- The rest of the trainings will also be released as soon as the system is figured out.
- For the first swim meet, if you have not already talked with the other team to nail down a date, you need to do that ASAP and then send the exact date to Christy. She needs to know for the following meets: Burkwood/Canterbury, Ashland/Church Run, Raintree/Colonies, Fox Hall/Twin Hickory, Ashcreek/Kings Charter, Pebble Creek/Mechanicsville, and Bell Creek/Hanover
- If your team has hired coaches and you would like to have the job listing on the website taken down, let Christy know.
- Referee ready list has been posted to the GRAL website if you are wondering who on your team is able to be able to train as ref (requirement of 8 shifts as a S&T with GRAL).
- What is not on the website is the list of officials who are certified because no one has taken a test yet, once people start taking their tests it will be updated
- Registration must be submitted online by midnight, Thursday June 1st. It can be submitted earlier. It is computer registration. For Swim Manager teams it is really easy to do registration, you just fill out a form and attest that you have X number of swimmers and they are all members in good standing (full access to the pool at all times and have paid dues). If your team does not have SM, and is a Team Manager team, it is a little more complicated. Christy will send you the database and you send the TM database back to Christy. Two sets of instructions will be on computer rep page on the website for both TM and SM teams on how to do online registration. Your team can add swimmers later; you will pay for them at Champs registration. We don't give refunds for registration and the fee is \$7.00 per swimmer.

VP of Equipment Report: Nathan Mondragon (Goochland) equipment@galva.com

- Has reached out to six teams with large amounts of inventory to get those ribbons back in order to redistribute them.

VP of Champs Report: Allison Unowitz (Tuckahoe Village West) champs@galva.com.

- Sunday, July 30th (12 and under) and Monday July 31st (13 and over)

- Start thinking about your CHAMPS coordinator for the 2023 season. They will be in charge of communicating all CHAMPS related information to the team. Please send your CHAMPS coordinator contact information to Julie at Secretary@gralva.com. We will need this information by Friday, June 16th.

Old Business:

- Exemptions: There are 3 different types. Each exemption has its own form on the coaches page on the website. The coach is the one who fills out the form for the special needs and relay exemptions. They need to be resubmitted every year. On the Board page under password protection there will be a list of who has exemptions. The forms will be posted online soon. Swimmer cannot compete until it is approved, so do it as soon as possible (a week is optimum lead time). Coaches should always tell ref beforehand if there are any exemptions and it is often included in the parent rep letter.
 1. Employee exemptions: If you have a new swimmer to your team that is moving from another GRAL team, and they are members through employment then you are required to submit an Employee Exemption form online. This does NOT apply to an employee who has been a member family and has swum with your team in previous years. As we start the season, please remember to submit employee exemptions as early as possible; they are required before the 1st meet. The form will be posted online soon.
 2. Special Needs exemption: examples include accommodations for someone with a hearing issue (for the start), a child unable to swim a 50 once they are 8 due to some type of physical issue, a swimmer missing a limb, swimmer needs an outside lane, etc. This also includes requests for different clothing than the typical USA swimming approved bathing suit (wants to wear swim shirt, etc.). See the officials report for more details on the clothing.
 3. Relay exemption: If a team does not have enough boys or girls on roster in a certain age group to have a legal relay, they can request an exemption for kids to swim up in age or have a relay of all the same gender. This is not based on swimmers who will be in attendance at a meet, it is based on the roster.

New Business

- Len Everett scholarship application will be due at midnight June 30th; the form shuts off, so don't wait until the last minute. Recommendations are due July 14th. This is a \$500 scholarship for a high school graduating senior who will be attending college, university, or trade school. Typically there are two awards chosen per division. The form will go up on the general page of the website soon. Please share with your families as we receive a small number of submissions each year.
- The Coaches Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 3rd at 9am at the Atlee Rec Clubhouse. Each team must be represented. We ask that all Head Coaches and

new coaches attend the meeting. We will be breaking into divisions so coaches can meet one another before the season begins.

- The Coaches are required to pass the Coaches test each season. Only coaches that have passed the test by midnight on June 2nd are eligible for a deck pass at Champs. Once the Coaches test is ready, we will share a link to access it. Just like last year, the Coaches will create an account and take the test online. They can do it as a group, and it is open book, but everyone needs to submit it. Generally, junior coaches (unpaid) do not take the test. Note that taking the test does not guarantee a deck pass for Champs as it is dependent on the number of swimmers.
- Board meeting dates for 2023
 - Monday, June 5th at Ashcreek Clubhouse (registration monies are due, ribbons and DQ cards are distributed)
 - Monday, 7/10 at Colonies
 - Sunday, September 17th—annual meeting (in-person)
- Meet Dates:
 - June 12th-17th--both teams to agree on the date: If you have not already talked with the other team to nail down a date, you need to do that ASAP and then send the exact date to Christy.
 - Wednesday, June 21st
 - Wednesday, June 28th
 - Wednesday, July 5th
 - Wednesday, July 12th
 - TUESDAY, July 18th

Good of the league:

- Ashley from Kings Charter: They are a neighborhood team and the HOA separated from them a few years ago. They are toying with the idea of filing to become a nonprofit. Are any other teams nonprofits as well? They would file as a 501c7, would need articles of incorporation and to register with the SCC, etc. Christy has nonprofit experience and is willing to help with that. TVWRA and Ashcreek are also both nonprofit organizations.

Motion to adjourn by Canterbury, second by Atlee.

Adjourned 7:53 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Zubris, Secretary