

Greater Richmond Aquatic League

Board of Directors Meeting

June 6, 2022 at Wellesley

Next Board Meeting July 11, 2022 in person at Colonies

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 7:07 pm

Roll Call:

- 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 (all teams in attendance!)

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

- We will need three executive officers to be voted in at the annual meeting: Secretary, Champs Coordinator, and VP of Officials. The VP of officials needs to be a USA certified strokes and turns judge.
- Coaches meeting on Saturday went well; every team was represented. There were some issues with tests being completed. Important reminders from the meeting and for the season:
 1. Dive Certification is required for all swimmers 10 and under, and all new swimmers regardless of age. D.C. checklist (USA Swimming) is under the coaches tab on the website. At check-in, the check-in volunteer must ensure swimmers are marked properly (X and O).
 2. Special Needs: If you have a special needs swimmer who doesn't need a swim exemption, please still communicate with the other team regarding anything of which they might need to be aware (example: speech delay that makes it difficult for adults at clerk of course to understand him).
 3. Scholarship: It can go towards any education after high school (4 year, 2 year, trade school). Please share this information with your families. The application is online. Deadline for application is June 30th at 11:59pm; the form will

automatically turn off at the deadline, so can't be late. In addition to the application for swimmer, there is also a recommendation form required, which is due mid-July.

4. There will be NO VIRTUAL MEETS this year. We are a league, we want kids to have the experience of swimming against other teams, and it is extremely difficult from a logistics and administrative aspect.
5. Meets require positive check-in. Positive check-in should close 30 minutes prior to the start of the meet. Do not print anything until 30 minutes before to make sure all changes are captured.
6. Exemptions: There are 4 types on the website. All forms are on the coaches page on the website and they should be the one submitting them.
 - GRAL Swimmer/Employee: someone who did not swim at your pool last summer, but now he is a paid employee (coach or lifeguard, or any other paid position) and he is going to swim with your team.
 - Special Needs Exemption (is kind of a catch-all): if a swimmer wants to wear something different (shirt, rash guard, shorts, pants below the knee etc.), if there is a special circumstance required (outside lane, don't judge a certain thing due to physical disability, etc.). Coach must submit the exemption. NOTE: medical tape is allowed during the regular season, but is not allowed at Champs.
 - Gender Change Request: GRAL is sticking with USA Swimming rules; it is a self-declaration at registration. The form should be completed by coach OR parent. If swimmer has been in the league, we need to change their status in the computer system. If they need to wear something different, coach must also complete the exemption form. This form needs to be filled out whether or not they have swum with GRAL before because we are following USA Swimming rules, and that is what they require.
 - Relay Exemption: teams may combine two consecutive age brackets if they do not have sufficient eligible swimmers on their roster to form a single relay in one of the age brackets. Teams can also have a SV relay that is single gender if there is no swimmer of the other gender registered to the team.
7. Weather: lifeguard stops the meet if there is thunder or lightning. Both parent reps, facilities manager (if there is one), and home meet director meet to discuss postponing, rescheduling, etc. See the handbook for more information. The rain date is always the next day but if teams are rained out again then more creative solutions can be sought.
8. Recommend holding a mock meet, even during practice time if necessary, using starter, relays for littles, flyovers with 9 and up, false starts, etc.
9. No writing on the body where they touch pool furniture (on their back especially)
10. Team caps should be worn; caps can be sponsored as long as it follows USA Swimming handbook rules, but no other teams may be on caps (like Nova) or political statements.

- Meeting minutes for May 2022 meeting were accepted into the record with no objections. Motion made by Federal Club, seconded by Hanover, approved unanimously.

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

- Contact changes (board rep, parent rep, officials' coordinator, computer rep, coaches, and champs coordinator) for the website are sent to the secretary. If you send a typo in the email, that is how it will be entered into the system, so double-check the email addresses. List of officials is still sent to Christy.
- According to the handbook, each team must submit proof of insurance (often called COI—certificate of insurance) by the May meeting or the team will not be allowed to register. It needs to have GRAL listed as an additional insured. The address to use is 6106 Havenview Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23111. If that is not the address you used this year, it doesn't matter. Colonies, Dominion Club, and Raintree have not yet submitted proof of insurance. Hanover and Twin Hickory have submitted it, but it does not include GRAL as an additional insured. Mechanicsville submitted it, but it expires 6/23/22, so the new policy will need to be sent when it renews.

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

- Expenses for May: ribbons (approximately \$8,000), liability insurance, and accounting software. No revenue in May.
- Starting total in May was \$21,348.95, ending total was \$12,022.60.

VP of Officials Report: John Datovech (Ashland) officials@galva.com

- All of the training is available online on the officials page. Pay attention to which course for which you are registering (new vs. returning official). New platform seems to be going well, we appreciate the feedback we've received to make changes for next year. Since it's online, people can begin training even in the middle of the season.
- Concussion training is a one-time training, but the certificate must be sent to Christy.
- At meets, teams should not be deviating from the accepted number of officials in the handbook (4 judges on the deck, not the same person as the starter, etc.)

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

- Will be putting up a list of officials who are certified on the website. Referees are set, but others are welcome to train for any of the other positions.

- Computer: Swim Manager is really easy to use during the season, but is not so easy beforehand. Christy has to hand register each of the swimmers, then pull in all the meets prior from the last two years to get top times, and then she will download those times for all the kids on each team. For Team Manager she has to create a new database with top times. The TM manual is not on the website yet because she has to do the database work first. All of this should be done this week.
- In Swim Manager there is a way for families to sign up for volunteering slots. Contact Christy if you are having trouble.

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

- The ribbons for the year are at the back of the room, pick up the bag or bags that are labeled with your team name before you leave.
- Teams who have requested pieces of equipment, those are also at the back of the room.
- Check to see if you have enough DQ cards before your first meet and send an email to Nathan if you need some. Thin, 2-ply USA Swimming DQ cards are what you should be using, but the old 2-ply pink and white that aren't USA Swimming are also ok to use.
- Champs Medals: We changed the medals and told anyone who wanted to exchange the 2021 medals for new ones to bring them to the June meeting. Two teams brought medals to be exchanged. Make sure you have communicated this to your Champs families. You can still bring medals to be exchanged to the July meeting. If your team is waiting for missing medals from 2021, we are still waiting for the plastic boxes to arrive.
- Officials shirts are available for anyone who would like to order them. The order is due this Friday, 6/10. The link to order was sent out via email and the link is on the officials tab on the website. The shirt is optional. If not using an officials shirt, a plain white shirt is acceptable.

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

- Communication for champs will ramp up starting 7/1.
- Thursday, 7/14 Champs Meeting via zoom
 1. 6:30-7:30pm champs coordinators
 2. 7:30-8pm computer rep
 3. 8-8:30pm coaches; new coaches and coaches who didn't pass their audit the year prior must attend
- Friday, 7/22 final Champs electronic entries are due by 10pm. Sooner is always better.

- Saturday, 7/23 Champs registration in person 6-9pm, place TBD. Each team will sign up for a 15 minute slot via sign-up genius to bring all their paperwork and payment.
- Thursday July 28th t-shirt and heat sheet pick up
 - East: Atlee 6-8pm or Friday, 7/29 8:30-10am
 - West: Tuckahoe Village West 6-8pm
- Deadline for champs coordinators names to go to secretary is June 30th, but earlier is better

Old Business

- Champs Umbrella Insurance: We got two quotes for identical insurance policies, K&K was \$1000 cheaper. Milestone made motion and second from Twin Hickory to purchase the K&K insurance policy for \$2200. It has a 1 million dollar limit.
- July meeting will be in person at Colonies on Monday July 11th at 7pm. We will distribute DQ slips to any teams that might need them, as well medals that need to be exchanged.

New Business

- Age when a child can serve as a volunteer: USA swimming says it has to be an adult. Discussion of whether we want to have a different policy. Everyone agrees that 14 years old and higher can be timers if the young person is responsible. They can fulfill volunteer spots for the swim family, but also can get their hours required for school. We will need to make a handbook change in September to reflect this policy.

Adjourned 8:14 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Zubris, Secretary