

**TISCA Fall Business Meeting
September 10, 2024
7 PM CST / 8 PM EST via Google Meet**

Agenda:

1. Reading, correction, & adoption of minutes from Annual Meeting 2024

Spring 2024 Annual minutes are adopted without correction.

2. Reports of Officers:

a. President (Pat Killian):

New Safety Training Requirement - TN Code § 49-6-3601:

All coaches, whether employed by the LEA or public charter school or a volunteer, shall:

- (A) Annually complete the concussion recognition and head injury safety education course program required under § 68-55-502;*
- (B) Annually complete the sudden cardiac arrest education program required under § 68-6-103;*
- (C) Receive training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).*

This could be through NFHS, CPR, American Heart Association; coaches need to keep this on file but do not need to send them to TISCA. Coaches with lifeguard certification may have this already through that training. Some athletic trainers and nursing staffs at schools/districts are administering training (but not *certification*) through schools.

A New NFHS Rule Interpretation:

SITUATION 1:

Three swimmers have identical times at the completion of prelims in the 200-yard individual medley, causing a three-way tie for eighth place in a championship meet where 16 places are scored. The referee must conduct a swim-off to resolve the tie, per Rule 5-4- 3. In order to save time, the swimmers and coaches agree with the referee that the swim-off will consist of a 50-yard butterfly race for the three swimmers.

RULING: Illegal. NFHS rules define a swim-off as an extension of the qualifying process for a specific event; this would require that the swim-off stroke/ distance must be the same as the specific event being contested.

*New TISCA Programs, Policies, & Procedures document is online now on the TISCA documents page. This is a handy one-sheet that should stay the same year-to-year and is a good resource for new coaches, and rather than waiting for the meet information, it's a good place to start.

b. Vice-President (Joe Peeden): So far Transfers are going smoothly. Everything submitted before August 8 need to be updated as approved. Look for transfers to come in a lot over the next couple of weeks.

c. Membership Chair (April Parker): Registration forms are posted on the tisca page. Please register even if you don't yet have state qualifiers so we can keep you up to date, please complete the registration form and we'll keep you up to date on TISCA matters and have your contact information in the system. Registration entails:

- an online form
- team roster
- payment (\$85 before November 1; \$110 after November 1; must be submitted before the state meet entry deadline).

All missed times need to clear up their missed cut fines before registration for this year.

d. Treasurer (April Parker):

2023-2024 Budget Report:
Income from dues: \$14,195.00
Expenses: \$8,369.41

Expenses included state awards, annual meeting rental & lunch, operating costs

Current Balance is \$38,463.99

Membership fees haven't increased b/c our cushion over the years has stayed steady. We have a couple of ways to spend this money that we'll get to soon.

e. Secretary (Justin Karpinos): The documents (minutes from spring 2024 and Board minutes from August) are online <https://www.tisca.net/page/documents>.

3. Reminder: New State Meet rules:

1. Qualifying standards for the State Meet will be calculated from the average of 56th place at the previous three State Meets.
2. "A" relays must consist of at least three (3) members entered in at least one swimming event. Teams may enter a maximum of one (1) Relay Only swimmer per gender into the meet. That swimmer is only allowed to compete on the team's "A" relays. Failure of a relay-only swimmer to compete on at least one relay at the meet will result in a \$100 fine to the team, and the team will be prohibited from entering any relay only swimmers in the next State Championship Meet.
3. If a team fails to provide proof of time in two consecutive seasons, then the team must pre-verify qualifying times for the following State Meet.
The board is taking Rule #3 retroactively. We will be reaching out to teams directly who this applies to so we can let you know that your team entries will need to be pre-verified.

Other Notes for 2024-2025 State Meet:

- February 7-8, Allan Jones Aquatic Center, Knoxville
- New cuts online (TISCA.net → "State Meet" → "Qualifying Standards")
- Increased fee: \$35/athlete, spectator TBD
- *Reminder:* 1 coach's wristband per 8 athletes, max 3 credentials per team. Dive coaches are handled separately.

4. Proposals: Budget Items for the '24-'25 Season.

At the last annual meeting, we agreed to vote on a set of proposals for the '24-'25 season at this fall meeting. We will discuss & vote on the following (note: proposals can be amended in the course of discussion):

1. **Proposed:** Provide live streaming of the State Meet. Fund up to \$5000 and create a committee to investigate best options.
2. **Proposed:** Hire a DJ for finals sessions of the State Meet. Fund up to \$5000 and create a committee to investigate best options.
3. **Proposed:** Establish two \$500 scholarships, one male and one female, to be awarded by the TISCA board with the following criteria: (a) must have a GPA of at least 3.0; (b) must be a high school swimmer/diver for at least two years; (c) must submit a one-page essay on how they have contributed to swimming/diving in the State of TN.

Discussion.

Stan Corcoran: support of the scholarship, but the 3.0 GPA feels too low. Wonders about whether competing at state should be a requirement.

Kelli Broussard: \$5K figure on a DJ is a LOT.

Tim Jones: Divers should be included in the scholarship program as well.

Friendly amendments:

- I. **Stan Corcoran:** 3.6 unweighted GPA minimum. Second. Voting. 44 people on the call, so majority plus 1 23. Vote: 4 against. 26 for. **Amendment I is approved.**
- II. Must have qualified for State HS meet for two seasons. Second.

Discussion.

Jim McCollum. Some of this language feels sort of vague. Deadlines? Qualification periods? Who's the selection committee? Don't want to create too much administrative work for the

April Parker. Does the recipient NEED to have qualified for the state meet? Good team leaders and citizens in the sport aren't necessarily great swimmers.

Joe Peeden. Could mitigate some of the issues w/ timeline of entries and applicants by limiting it to one male/female per team.

Stan Corcoran. Concerns about the timeline w/ qualifiers and presenting scholarships.

Justin Karpinos. Support of one nominee per team per gender.

Pat Killian: no need for us to present this award at State. We can present it later in the spring.

Cheree Thompson: Is this limited to seniors?

Pat: Yes, the language should be cleaned up here. The intention was for it to be for seniors.

Call to a vote on Amendment II. 12 against. 20 for. 5 absentions. Amendment is approved.

- III. Tim Jones --proposes a diver added to the scholarship pool as a separate submission per team.

Discussion.

Stan Corcoran. Concern about # of divers relative to swimmers for the same scholarship pool. Would prefer to lump swimmers and divers into the same pool.

Joe Peeden. Question about athletes who are swimmers AND divers.

Tim Jones. We have 20-22 men + 20-22 women divers, so no more than 40 athletes. Probably 10-12 in the total senior population for divers.

Pat Killian: Current language says one male athlete and one female athlete, this language would extend to an individual diver regardless of gender

Call to a vote on Amendment III. 17 against. 7 for. Amendment fails.

IV Joe Peeden – proposes limiting submissions to one nominee per team.
Discussion.

Pat Killian: I think this is a good idea. Puts more onus on the coach and less on the board. Gives the team the opportunity to recognize and honor a member of their team. This would add to the experience for swimmers/divers in TN.

Call to a vote on Amendment IV. 1 against. 24 for. Amendment IV is approved.

Comments on Proposal 1.

Pat Killian: TNAQ and UT facilities already have capacity to do live streaming for \$2,000. We expect it would be more expensive at NAC since UT does this option in house. This is a costly option since we have already approved spending of \$1,000 on scholarships.

Discussion.

Kelli Broussard: Maybe lower the budget to 1,000 more than the Knoxville budget. This would get us closer to the desired annual budget.

Stan Corcoran: The first time that I saw this done and it was completed by high schoolers. It was very entertaining and I do not believe they did it for very much. I know some of the Nashville area schools could do this for not a lot of money.

Kelsey McDonald: Whether we are asking a program to do it, or HS athletes it is still a big job and this should be noted.

David Orr: At USA Swim meets in Knoxville it is free. I know with NFHS there are other options that cost the parents and we should make sure this is free. And maybe every year this is the limit that we spend and if it cannot happen then so be it.

Pat Killian: Speaking as TISCA president, that is the goal to help spread swimming.

David Orr: Did this not occur already before? Especially with the deck limits, I believe this would be a good thing.

Pat Killian: I do not remember the exact year that we did it. Whatever live stream they use is new.

Joe Peeden: Has been used in Knoxville summer competitions and had the names of athletes listed adding to the event.

Tim Jones: Would this include diving as well?

Pat Killian: I do not know if that includes prelims for diving but it does include finals. We do not have a firm plan from TNAQ so I cannot state anything specifically yet.

David Orr: I think that when this is proposed to TNAQ that if they are unable to do all sessions then a discussion of price change would need to be considered.

Call to vote on Amendment 1 for Changing budget to \$3,000. Amendment is approved.

Proposal #2: Hiring a DJ for final session

Pat Killian: Currently we do not pay Stearl the Pearl to DJ the session that he appears to. We do not have a live DJ at NAC, just a dad with an iPod. Apri, I do you remember where this number came from?

Apri Parkerl: From Skyler Findley's brain... :)

Pat Killian: This mostly happens during warmups and finals. We would have this say to the state meet and then get as much from this as we can. Okay, currently we are putting 1,000 dollars to scholarships yearly.

April: I think we can lower it to \$2,500.

Roger Dahlke: we paid \$2000 plus hotel room for 2 nights for DJ all day 3 sessions per day for two days (6 sessions). "DJ Scuba Steve is for real"

David Orr: This is too expensive at \$5,000 and I do not believe it is needed at all. I think if the host club really wants to win a bid, then this could be part of the bid process to decide between locations. I think this is superfluous funding that needs it at all and does not give the same amount of value for the cost. The meet is already fantastic, I do not want to take from that atmosphere.

Stan Corcoran: Roger mentioned Scuba Steve and he is incredible. He does all the results, the PA, and he has a depth of quality song options to choose from. I am surprised that we paid so little for him.

Tim Jones: I fully support Scuba Steve, but are we really talking about spending \$1,000 on athletes and \$5,000 on a DJ?

Stan Corcoran: I amend that we lower the value to \$3,000. Second by Kelli Broussard

Call to Vote: Against: 0 Votes For: 21 to lower to \$3,000 Amendment is approved

Call to vote on proposals as amended as presented

3. To vote on 2x \$500 scholarships as written: Against: 0 For: 20 Amendment is approved

1. To provide a livestream funded up to \$3,000 for as many sessions as possible as written: Against: 1 For: 23 Amendment is approved

Discussion on proposal #2 prior to voting.

David Orr: Once again I want to reiterate that this to me is superfluous. We do not need this at all, so please consider it in the future.

Josh Winn: Just one thing we should consider is the value of swimming to the spectator and we should consider this value that this could have for those observing the meet.

2. To vote on spending up to \$3,000 Against: 9 For: 15 Abstension: 2 Amendment is approved

5. Presentation & approval of the budget.

After we settle the proposals above, we will vote to approve the annual budget.

April Parker: No further comments

Approved expenses:

- Operational: Maintaining the TISCA website, Google account, et sim.; maintaining a bank account; mailing expenses, et sim.
 - Annual Meeting: Room rental, coaches' lunch
 - Awards: State trophies, Swimmer/Diver/Coach of the Year, All State plaques
 - Further miscellaneous expenses at the discretion of the Treasurer.
- + **New spending proposals approved by membership**

6. Discussion: Changes & proposals under consideration

A. A proposal has been made to the board to change the format of prelims warm-ups at State into an open warm-up. We will have discussion about this proposal for membership to ask questions and voice opinions. The board agreed to discuss & vote on the proposal at our November meeting.

We had questions about the potential implications of this - what does it do for smaller/larger teams? What does it do for athletes who expect to make finals vs. the slower kids in Heat 1? Will the first hour be empty and the second hour be a mess? Concerns about length of time between first warmup and the competition start time.

Discussion.

April Parker. Points brought up from other coaches. Expectation is that this will adversely affect smaller teams who may get pushed out. Worries that the open warmup will cause confusion and hurt feelings in a championship meet setting.

David Orr. Last year, it felt really good to me in my first TISCA meet. My only thought is about rotating the WU sessions from year to year. USA meets will offer athletes with more experience the chance to manage this.

April Parker. Confirms that WU sessions and assignments ARE rotated from year to year.
Stan Corcoran. Concerns about Knoxville are less about WU time and more about deck space. In Nashville, the seating and moving around is much easier. Assigned seating would help.

Kelsey McDonald. Could we shorten the sessions for assigned WU first, then expand the Open WU time?

Pat: In Knoxville, we can run 3 x 30 minute sessions, but in Nashville in 2024 we had to run 4 x 30 minute sessions.

Chris: expect to have a zoo on the first day without it.

Jacqui Wright. With open WU, is it possible to create some rules/etiquette surrounding how we navigate this?

Pat. We don't think we can replace competent coaches, but we can have reminders at the Thursday coaches' meeting

The Board meeting in November will pick up this conversation.

B. At the annual meeting, we formed a committee to define the term "bona fide" competition. TISCA policy states that state cuts are only valid if the athlete achieves the cut in "bona fide" competition, but we are lacking a clear definition of that term. We will hear an update from the Committee.

Joe Peeden: We recognize the need for clarity on "bonafide" to create a level playing field. Times need to be performed in a "bonafide competition" but that isn't defined.

We are defining "bonafide competition" as:

1. **Sanctioning and Approval:** competition must be certified by TISCA, NFHS, or USA swimming
2. **Official Oversight:** Certified officials (referees, starters, stroke and turn judges).
3. **Eligible Participants:** Athletes must meet TISCA eligibility requirements:
 - a. Academic standards
 - b. Amateur status (**not for meet participation, but for TISCA qualification*)

4. Documentation and Results:

- Results recorded using approved timing systems:
- Electronic timing
- Manual watches (per guidelines)
- Official results submitted to TISCA for verification.

5. Adherence to Conduct Standards

- Compliance with NFHS and USA Swimming Codes of Conduct.
- Promotes sportsmanship, fairness, and respect.
- Infractions resolved per established procedures.
- Compliance with Meet Formats

6. Meet formats align with TISCA and NFHS standards:

- Event order
- Distances
- Entry limits

Ensures consistent competition conditions statewide.

Primary Benefits for us:

Consistency: Uniform standards across Tennessee.

Fairness: Legitimate and equitable qualifying times.

Clarity: Clear guidelines for organizers, coaches, and athletes.

Integrity: Upholds the sport's integrity and reputation.

We'd like the regional reps to be involved in this -- please reach out to Joe.

Pat: We understand intrasquad meets to be included in this, but NOT coach + swimmer only time trials.

Joe: confirms that is correct.

Jacqui: MTHSSA doesn't require officials.

Pat: Yes, this would be a big change for us in our Region.

Joe: Region reps would have to examine this and talk about what

Tim Jones: is offering to help with the definition part of diving.

April: Proof of times look often like a bunch of things -- handwritten results (if signed by officials) are okay, sometimes we get obvious time trial settings like 3 kids in one event for a meet; or kids who swim the same race multiple times in a meet. There is a HUGE variety in the range of proof of times that we get. More definition here will help!

Stan: We have a knowledgeable person (but not USA certified) who operates as an official. It doesn't have to be a USA official, but it DOES have to be someone who is knowledgeable in the sport. A time trial meet with automatic timing should be okay, right?

Jacqui. NFHS rule that allows only 2 individual events per athlete still applies, right?

Pat. Yes, that's correct.

Chris. Other certifications (YMCA, USA, etc.) should count as potential for this, right?

Pat. Clarifies that September 1 to meet entry deadline is still the time frame for qualifying for State. Nothing about the qualifying period has changed.

David Orr. Shelby County is having discussions about order of events for NFHS and other non-NFHS events (50's of strokes, 100 IM, etc.). Are times for these HS meets that operate outside the NFHS order of events allowed?

Pat. Currently, TISCA would accept results from meets like the one you're describing. In February, we could change this and accept ONLY swims at fully certified NFHS meets. But we don't currently do this.

Chris. Supports our current format -- relay carnivals early in the season don't follow the traditional order of events, but a 50 free cut in that kind of a meet ought to count.

Pat. We'll see this as a proposal in February for consideration.

6C. Update from School Divisions Committee.

Submitted for feedback now -- TISCA membership will vote in the spring 2025 meeting on this.

We propose adding two award categories for:

- top performing from I-A, I-AA, II-A, and homeschool (small public and private schools)
- top performing team from I-AAA (large public schools)

These division awards would be scored only against those of other eligible teams (from results of prelims -- it favors teams w/ depth, rather than a small school w/ 1-2 outstanding athletes. Finals swims would NOT be included in this. Finals swims would be only for the top overall team.

Chris: how do we define these divisions?

Pat: same as TSSAA track divisions. NOT based on team size, or # of qualifiers.

David: my only suggestion is that we don't include finals. Could we include the best time between prelims/finals? I know that's complicated.

Pat: We got hung up on this, but we landed here with prelims operating like a "timed finals.

Thanks to Scott Mayo for building this spreadsheet that makes this administratively possible.

Chris Coraggio. How many schools are represented in each category?

Pat Killian. I-A is three times, and I-AA isn't much bigger. The meet got more competitive and interesting by combining I-A, I-AA, and II-A, and homeschool.

We will vote on this in February 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Karpinos, TISCA Secretary *(with help from Joe Peeden, VP)*