

TISCA Fall Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

7:00 PM Central / Google Meet

I. **Teams in Attendance:** Alcoa HS, Anderson County HS, Bearden HS, Brentwood Academy, Central HS, CSTHEA Patriots, Christian Academy of Knoxville, Cleveland HS, Green Hill HS, Hardin Halls HS, Hardin Valley Academy, Harpeth Hall, Henry County, Houston HS, Jefferson County HS, Knoxville Catholic, Lakeway Christian Academy, Lenoir City HS, Maryville HS, McCallie School, Middle TN Diving, Memphis University School, Nolensville HS, Notre Dame HS, Page HS, St. Cecilia Academy, St. Mary's, unattached homeschool swimmer (Winzeneread) University School of Nashville, Webb Knoxville, Wilson Central HS, Jackie Bertucci (Rules & Regs)

II. **Approval of spring 2025 minutes:**

https://www.tisca.net/hstisca/UserFiles/Image/QuickUpload/24-25-spring-meeting_023343.pdf

Motion. Second. Minutes are approved without correction.

III. **Board Updates.**

i. Welcome to our new Regional Reps: Josh Winn (Knoxville) and Josh Tinley (Middle TN).

ii. 2026 Board Elections: The following positions will be up for election in spring 2026: VP (Joe Peeden), Treasurer (April Parker), Rules & Regs (Jackie Bertucci). All have indicated a willingness to continue to serve. The nominating committee will not have to meet this year, but nominations AND self-nominations are welcome for the future.

IV. **Reports of Officers:**

i. **President, Pat Killian:**

Registration is open! See TISCA.net Registration. Registration steps entail:

- 1) complete online registration form
- 2) submit full team roster when it's finalized

3) Send payment to TISCA.

Due October 31; after 10/31, a late fee applies. No registrations will be allowed after the state meet entry deadline.

Safety courses must be completed; outstanding fees must be paid prior to registration.

TISCA does not collect certificates for CPR, AED, sudden cardiac arrest, but those need to be completed by anyone who works on deck with athletes and available upon request.

ii. VP, Joe Peeden:

Please submit transfers at tisca.net. Transfers are automatically approved after 30 days unless there is a protest or contested transfer.

iii. Treasurer, April Parker

Last year, income was \$14,816.00, and expenses were \$11,903.46. Expected 25-26 budget is same as 24-25.

Our expenses were State awards, State DJ, scholarship, misc. business items.

Current Balance: \$41,376.53.

Proposed 25-26 budget. Motion. Second. 2025-26 budget is approved.

V. Review of State Meet 2025.

Smaller than previous years, moving in the right direction, in our efforts to diminish the size of the meet in accordance with demands of meet hosts and facilities.

Total participants:

2023: 880

2024: 844

2025: 618

Qualifiers:

2023: 741

2024: 668

2025: 532

Divers:

2023: 41

2024: 54

2025: 51

The smaller meet was a challenge for athletes who didn't qualify and would have previously, but the quality of the meet was better.

-Pre-verification began last year as well for teams who failed to provide proof of time for 2 consecutive seasons.

-The Number of teams who needed to pre-verify was ~8; no one was denied entry into the State meet because of this.

-Warmup structure was changed a little bit to add more open WU lanes and opportunities.

-Livestream is a priority for 2026, and we know it's a challenge at Sportsplex.

-Coaches' credentials are limited to # of coaches per athlete. We know this is a challenge and limits coaching access. It will be the same this year as last year.

Jim McCollum (Knoxveill Catholic) has a comment about the limited # of credentials being a challenge for teams who only have one coach on deck, juggling being w/ athletes and administrative tasks like meetings, relay cards, etc.

VI. State Meet 2026 is Feb. 6-7 at Centennial Sportsplex in Nashville. We can expect the meet packet to be released around January 1, 20126.

i. New awards program at State Meet.

In addition to awards for men's, women's and combined team State Champions, TISCA presents the following awards following school classifications for TSSAA track & Field:

a. The top-performing men's and women's teams among all programs from TSSAA Division I-A, I-AA, II-A schools, as well as home school teams.

b. The top performing men's and women's teams among all programs from TSSAA Division I-AAA schools

To determine the winners of the awards:

- a) Performances of eligible teams will be scored only against those of other eligible teams;
- b) The results of prelims will be scored as a timed-finals championship, with the exception of diving, for which the complete program will be scored;
- c) Only performances that meet the State Meet qualifying standards are eligible to score points -- > do NOT want to incentive any false entries.

Pat clarifies that this is reorganizing the results among only the teams *within* a category, not just filtering out the teams in different categories, and prelims are scored.

We need to: administer these awards effectively at the meet, and generate NAMES for both (A) and (B) awards, so they aren't just the "small school" and "public school" state champion. The overall trophy is called the Ray Bussard trophy in honor of Ray Bussard from UTK.

**Is there anyone past or present in your region who would benefit from this kind of an honor? Send the Board an email!*

VII. Bona Fide Competition Rule.

In what competitions can a swimmer qualify for State? What is a real meet? The majority of our membership should not have any trouble meeting the designation of competitions or eligible Q times. But there are some questions/situations around the margins that we want to have a set of expectations/goals for.

There are four criteria for Bonafide competition:

- a. Sanctioning and compliance** by TISCA, NFHS, your regional governing body, USA swimming, YMCA, AAU. Automatic acceptance if there are 2 or more HS teams following NFHS order of events. If you're at a meet and there is something wrong with the meet that compromise the results of ALL events (not just one call by an official), coaches can challenge the process of results and contact Joe Peeden.

*Intrasquad meets must be pre-approved by the TISCA VP (or designee) to be considered bona fide.

*Time trials held as part of an approved meet are automatically considered bona fide.

*Standalone time trials require pre-approval from TISCA VP (or designee).

*All meets not automatically accepted must complete a post-meet assessment, documenting adherence to bona fide standards.

b. Having certified officials whenever possible. Good faith efforts to secure officials should be documented. Want to encourage more officials at our meets to preserve the integrity of the competitions. NFHS officiating Swim & Diving course is something we want to push and try to cultivate more officials in our pool, which is less in terms of cost and requirements than the USA swimming officials' course.

c. Results need to be documented appropriately. Result must be recorded using compliant timing systems and submitted to the appropriate governing body for verification. Diving scores must adhere to NFHS standards and regional documentation rules.

d. Sportsmanship and good conduct. All meets must promote fairness, sportsmanship, and codes of conduct set by NFHS or USA Swimming.

Questions?

Q: How about meets with MS and HS students, so they will gain meet experience and times? Some events are not just NFHS events.

Rule against MS participation is a TISCA rule for the State meet not a NFHS rule. If you alter the meet event order, that's the question, but if you include MS swimmers that does not necessarily disqualify a meet's results.

Q: Question about time trials at the end of a meet?

A: Time trials at the end of a bona fide meet CAN count; that's reflected in our policy document. A certified official present needs to sign them.

Question from Chris Coraggio: What criteria is there for "good faith effort" to get officials? Just an email indicating that we tried?

Comment from Jackie Bertucci: Could we have both teams' coaches sign time trial results? (Probably).

A: That's April's discretion, because she oversees the verification of non-Q times at State. But it's TISCA coaches on the other end of this. This would only be an issue if the ONLY time a kid made a State Q time was at a time trial and then failed to meet the Q time at State. Our goal is to eliminate fabricating results, and we will honor good faith efforts on the part of coaches.

Joe Peeden: Teams could protest results if there were blatant violations and no officials present, in theory, but the goal is for teams to be making an effort to seek them out.

Pat: Even the effort to communicate with your team parents inviting them to be certified is part of a good faith effort.

Clarification that time trials do not count against event totals.

VIII. **Mentoring Program Opportunity.** Stan Corcoran from McCallie has offered to do a mentoring program for new coaches in the State. Look for a Google Form to sign up for this soon, and we'll look for a time to set this up.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Karpinos
TISCA Secretary