

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm

In advance of the formal Board Meeting, Board members and staff participated in two workshops:

1. Harassment & Abuse Allegations

Steve Indig and Dina Bell-Laroche, of Sport Law & Strategy Group, discussed crisis management implications for BCAS in relation to the current National Team investigation and the impacts of athletes sharing their opinions and personal experiences on social media.

2. Advance Coach Program Discovery Findings

Geoff Ayi-Bonte, from New History Consulting, shared the findings of his initial survey of national stream coaches and presidents, and the BCAS Board of Directors as it relates to organizational and cultural alignment.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

RaeAnne Rose called the meeting to order at 8:44 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Voting: RaeAnne Rose, Rosoleen Rutherford, Rhonda Vanderfluit, Carol Stewart, Mandy Curtis, Jordan Wuest, Marina Chekunova, Elise Fagnan
Staff: Jennifer Keith, Tanya Magee
Regrets: Anne-Marie North

1. Welcome & Approval of Agenda

MOTION: (Stewart/Curtis) to approve the Agenda as amended.

Carried

2. Declaration of Potential Conflict of Interest

Vanderfluit declared that in relation to any discussion about the National Team investigation and/or communications from Pacific Wave Synchro, her husband is a member of the CAS Board of Directors. In addition, her daughter is a coach and she has former affiliations with PWS. Fagnan declared that she is a current coach and Provincial Stream Lead with PWS.

3. Minutes from September 14, 2020 – Review & Acceptance

MOTION: (Stewart/Fagnan) to approve the minutes as circulated.

Carried

4. Action Items

Rose noted that BCAS met the deadline for all Board members and staff to complete the Commit to Kids Training and thanked everyone for their efforts.

Keith noted that based on the Doodle poll for the half-day virtual Board Planning meeting, there is no date in October when more than 4 members are available. Keith suggested that the Board form 2 working groups to review the Strategic Plan and Risk Registry, respectively, and report recommendations to the Board.

Keith noted that based on an extension clause in the current lease agreement with Fortius, a new lease was not needed, and our current agreement is in place until April 2021.

ACTION: Board Members to advise Keith and Rose their working group preference.

ACTION: Keith to establish a meeting schedule for the Risk Management and Strategic Plan working groups.

It was agreed that for future Board meetings, staff will report monthly on the highlights section of their reports with strategic plan updates presented quarterly.

OPENING BUSINESS

4. President Report

Rose referred to the President report submitted with the meeting package. She also referred to a letter from Pacific Wave Synchro, received a short time in advance of the meeting, outlining concerns about the National Team investigation's impact on the Annual Summit. The Board discussed the key aspects raised in the workshop with Sport Law & Strategy Group, namely that:

- the National Team investigation is a CAS issue and does not involve BCAS or its members.
- The investigation will be limited to the specific incident(s) and issues raised in the complaint, not on the culture of the sport as a whole and not as a means of singling out other coaches in Canada.
- While public sharing of issues related to the National Team may encourage more athletes to share negative experiences in artistic swimming, BCAS supports them to do so, so that we can work towards creating a healthier and safer sport experience for our members.
- BCAS has an important story to share about the work being done through a host of initiatives spearheaded to improve safety and wellbeing in sport, including the EVOLVE project.
- The Annual Summit agenda was developed to complement the EVOLVE project and to provide education, training, and awareness of positive strategies for sport delivery.
- It was agreed that it is important not to silence anyone using their voice to raise awareness about issues in our sport. The purpose of EVOLVE is to reflect on personal awareness of our own contributions to the sport culture and commit to strategies to improve that culture and the sport experience.
- It was noted that some of the Summit speakers have been active on social media in response to the National Team investigation. It is important that Summit presenters and participants not use the event as a platform to discuss the National Team investigations and BCAS staff will prep the presenters in advance and moderate each session. However, if the Summit creates a conduit to highlight issues in BC, BCAS wants to be aware of them so we can address them and create a better sport experience for our members.

ACTION: Keith will work with Vanderfluit and Curtis to review the Summit presenters and identify actions that may need to be taken to maintain the professionalism of the Summit

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD

5. COVID-19 Risk Assessment

a. Ratify RFD 2020-130 – Member Registration Policy & Procedures Amendments

MOTION: (Curtis/Stewart) to ratify the approval of RFD 2020-130 – 2020-21 Rule Amendments and Suspensions as presented. **Carried**

b. Technical Leaders Working Group Update

There was no update from the Technical Leaders Working Group.

c. Increase Maximum In-Person Training Time

Keith noted the Return to Artistic Swimming Guidelines currently restrict in person training to a maximum of 2-hours per day. There have been requests to extend this limit to allow training groups to train both in water and land activities in person on the same day. Vanderfluit noted that public health has indicated that transmission generally occurs in exposures of 15 minutes or longer. Given that the current maximum training time far exceeds 15 minutes, increasing the training time is not likely to add any increased risk.

d. Considerations for Indoor Land Training

With the weather starting to get colder, there have been several inquiries about BCAS approving clubs to return to indoor land training. Vanderfluit noted that indoor land training is riskier because there is increased risk of droplets aerosolizing. Those that may aerosolize when in the pool will settle in water and chlorine fights the virus. Those that land during land training, create more risk of spread.

It was agreed that the time limits for contact training – training without physical distancing – must continue to be limited to 25% of the training time and in intervals that do not exceed 15 minutes. It was also agreed that other prevention protocols, such as physical distancing and wearing face masks, will be more important during indoor land training.

MOTION: (Vanderfluit/Fagnan) Rescind time limit restriction set out in the Return to Artistic Swimming Guidelines and allow indoor land training. **Carried**

e. RFD 2020-131 – Proceed with October 13 Loosening of Restrictions

MOTION: (Fagnan/Stewart) to proceed with the loosening of restrictions as outlined in the Return to Artistic Swimming Guidelines. **Carried**

f. RFD 2020-132 – Amendments to the Return to Artistic Swimming Guidelines

MOTION: (Stewart/Wuest) to approve the proposed amendments to the BCAS Return to Artistic Swimming Guidelines Version 4 as amended. **Carried**

ACTION: Keith to update the Return to Artistic Swimming Guidelines and distribute to the membership.

g. RFD 2020-134 – Land Event Fees

MOTION: (Stewart/Fagnan) to set the meet fees for land events to align with the associated in water event whereby the meet fee for land skills competitions will be the same as figures, and land routine fees will be the same as the corresponding in water routine event for solos, duets, teams, and combos. **Carried**

6. EVOLVE Project Update – Accept Advance Coach Discovery Report

The Board accepted the Advance Coach Discovery Report presented by Geoff Ayi-Bonte.



7. Annual Summit Update

RFD 2020-133 – Suspend the 2020 Summit Registration Fees

MOTION: (Stewart/Curtis) to suspend the 2020 Summit Registration Fees allowing all members to participate at no cost. **Carried**

Elise Fagnan left the meeting at 9:52 pm.

8. RFD 2020-135 – Mandatory Training for Officials

MOTION: (Curtis/Stewart) to mandate that all BC Officials complete the Respect in Sport for Activities Leaders training or the Coaching Association of Canada Safe Sport training by January 1, 2021, and every 3 years following their first certification date. **Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 pm.

FUTURE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DATES:

November 2, 2020	7:00 – 9:30 PM	Synchro BC Office / GoTo Meeting
November 21, 2020	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Virtual Annual General Meeting