

**St. Vincent and the Grenadines Swimming Federation**

P.O. Box 600, St. Vincent, West Indies

Website: [www.svgswimming.com](http://www.svgswimming.com) - Email: [svgasa@gmail.com](mailto:svgasa@gmail.com)



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES**

The Annual General Meeting of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Swimming Federation (SVGSF) was held on Saturday, **January 7th, 2023 commencing at 1pm at Paradise Beach Hotel conference room and via ZOOM conference facility.**

The President welcomed all to the AGM.

**1. Declaration of quorum**

- a. The Treasurer advised that a quorum was present (over 50% of the financial membership of the SVGSF was in attendance at the meeting). In attendance at the meeting were:

- Stephen Joachim
- Garcia Cato
- Liz Cordice
- Andre Cadogan
- Kentish James
- Louise Mitchell
- Kim Defrietas
- Simone France
- Shivern Peters
- Kenyatta Alleyne
- Nicole Alleyne
- Nicole Byron
- Brian George
- Marlon Mayers

**2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

- a. The Minutes of the meeting held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 had been previously circulated to the members. A motion to take the minutes as having been read was taken and passed.
- b. There were no Corrections or amendments
- c. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

- a. There were no matters arising that were not for further consideration on this AGM's Agenda

### **4. President Report**

- a. The Presidents report was read and it is appended to and forms part of these minutes.
- b. The President noted that 2022 had seen the full restart of swimming after the challenging Covid situation of 2021 and 2020. The SVGSF had lost a significant amount of swimmers. He was particularly concerned about the lack of competitive swimmers in the age 10 and under category.

### **5. Financial Report of the Treasurer and approval**

- a. The Financial Statements for the year ended November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 were previously circulated. The Treasurer was in attendance at this AGM. The Treasurer reviewed the financial statements and answered queries.
- b. The Financial Statements were approved unanimously.

### **6. Proposals for changes and amendments to the Constitution and General Rules**

- a. General rules – The FINA rules on the protection from harassment and abuse document was previously circulated. The President recommended that this document should be adopted as one of the General Rules of the SVGSF. This was unanimously approved.
- b. National Team selection policy – The national team selection policy document had been previously circulated. The President reviewed the document and the rationale for the policy. The policy document was unanimously approved.

### **7. Election of the Executive Council, if their term of office has expired**

Article 22 of the SVGSF Constitution addresses Elections. Section 22.1 states that “All nominations for the election of officers shall be proposed, seconded and forwarded to the General Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM. However, on the day of elections nominations proposed and seconded shall also be received from the floor”.

- a. The nominations received and seconded for the relevant positions were:
  - i. Stephen Joachim – President. Proposed by Simone France and seconded by Garcia Cato

- ii. Andre Cadogan – Vice-President Technical. Proposed by Stephen Joachim and seconded by Kentish James
- iii. Garcia Cato-Peters – General Secretary. Proposed by Simone France and seconded by Louise Mitchell
- iv. Louise Mitchell – Floor member. Proposed by Stephen Joachim and seconded by Andre Cadogan

There were no further nominations. All above were elected unanimously and declared elected for a four-year term in accordance with the SVGSF Constitution.

The Executive includes the above elected persons and the following persons continuing their term for an additional two years:

- Kentish James – Treasurer
- Kim Halbich – VP, Admin
- Liz Cordice – Floor member

## **8. Approval of the Budget**

The budget document had been previously circulated.

The Treasurer and the President presented highlights and answered any queries.

The Budget for 2023 was approved.

## **9. Any other business for which notice has been given**

The President thanked the meeting for their confidence in the re-elected members of the executive and looked forward to continuing to work productively with the executive, coaches and parents.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

## Appendix to the Minutes

### Agenda Item 4 – Presidents Report

#### **SVGSF - Presidents Report – AGM 2023**

#### **2022 Overview:**

- Happy to report that the world showed significant strides in dealing with the Covid-19 situation. This meant the resumption of normal regional and international swimming competitions.
- The Covid situation has resulted in a large drop off in younger competitive swimming and we face challenges in this area that need to be addressed during the next year.
- We saw a good increase in the numbers of kids starting learn-to-swim programs this year compared to last year. We hope to see many of these swimmers beginning to compete.
- Our swimmers did well at Carifta and for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive competition we won medals. Brandon George won a bronze medal in the boys 13 to 14 age group in the 100 back. Kennice Greene won a bronze medal in 50 meter Free. The girls 13 to 14 won silver in the 4 x 50 meter freestyle relay.
- We were able to host our annual CGM Invitational in February and our National Championships in August. We also held a number of time trial events.
- The SVGSF recognizes the continued importance of exposing athletes to competitions and training.
- We were able to complete the renovation of the small learn-to-swim pool and we want to thank Brian George for supervising this project. Financing was provided under the FINA OASP programme.
- The main pool was closed from mid-November to December to facilitate substantial maintenance work. The pool was reopened in December ahead of schedule. We express our appreciation to Brian George for coordinating this project.
- The SVGSF held a meeting with competitive swim parents after we returned from the OECS Champs. This meeting was to review results and look to the future. The meeting was well attended and there was useful feedback and interaction.
- Dr Simone France is a FINA International Technical Official for the period from January 1st, 2021 to December 31st, 2024
- Our Technical VP, Simone, has been very busy. She has held several meetings with coaches. They were a coaches training session (Level 1) hosted in SVG and funded by

FINA (now World Aquatics). Simone hopes to host a formal officials training program in 2023.

## **Competitions and Events**

- The SVGSF hosted the SAC Gallagher Invitational in February 2022 at the Shrewsbury Aquatic Centre (SAC).
- Barbados National LC Swimming Championships – March 2022. Our swimmers performed well as part of their Carifta Games preparation.
- Carifta Swimming Champs, Barbados – April 2022 – as mentioned above we had another successful Carifta Championships.
- RHAC in St Lucia was held in April 2022 – Blue Marlins swim club competed and did well.
- BASA Aquatic Centre Invitational – May 2022 – Both Blue Marlins and Black Sands swim clubs competed and did well.
- SAC Time Trials – SVG – June 2021. This event was designed to give local swimmers an opportunity to measure their progress and improve their times.
- Caribbean Games were held in Guadaloupe. We were represented by Mya, Kennice and Eltonte.
- CCCAN Swimming Champs were held in Barbados in July and we were represented by Shane Cadogan
- We attended the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England. We had 6 swimmers and all recorded PB's times in most events. We were represented by Shane, Bryson, Kenale, Jamie, Tia and Abigail.
- FINA World Champs in Hungary were held in June. We were represented by Shane and Jamie.
- SVG Gallagher National Swimming Championships, SVG – August 2022 – This event was a success with good time improvements and new records set by our competitive swimmers.
- OECS in St Lucia was very successful for Team SVG. We were not competitive in the team event due to the size of our team. However, our individual swimmers were very successful. Twenty-three of our twenty-four swimmers won medals and three swimmers broke OECS records.

## **Swim Camps**

Black Sands Swim Squad Summer Camp

Some swimmers also went to swim camp in Florida.

## **Coaches**

We continue to recognize the importance of investing in our coaches and in supporting their development.

Simone coordinated a FINA level 1 course.

## **Future:**

We have signed a contract to install a solar system at the pool which should result in substantial reductions in our electricity bills. This project should start in the first quarter of 2023.

The future looks like a very mixed bag. We have a few young competitive swimmers who are doing well. We have faced a significant drop in younger swimmers brought on by the Covid situation. We hope that we see better performance from the younger group.

We will continue to invest in our best young swimmers and once funding is available, we will continue the same program that has demonstrated success before Covid. We will continue to assist our best swimmers to attend swim camps and to attend regional competitions. We will continue to assist in the development of our coaches and officials.

### **2023 – Major events:**

- SAC Invitational in February 2022
- Carifta in Curacao in April
- CCCAN in July/August in El Salvador
- CAC Games in El Salvador – July
- World Championships in Japan – July
- FINA World Junior Swimming Championships (Location and date TBA)
- Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad - August
- SVG Gallagher National Swimming Championships – August
- Pan Am games – Santiago, Chile – October/November
- OECS Swimming Championships – November – Antigua or St Lucia

### **Challenges:**

- Continued investment and development in pool facilities and equipment (pumps, filtration systems etc).
- Continued training and exposure for coaches and officials.
- Continued development of younger swimmers and keeping older swimmers in the competitive program.
- Continued funding for development of athletes.

### **SUMMARY:**

Thanks to the current Executive Committee for your work and dedication during the year. Special thanks to Louise for her dedication to open water and grassroots/community swimming. Thanks also to Kentish who does a terrific job as Treasurer. Simone for Tech VP role.

Special thanks to some parents who continue to take the hard work of carrying the sport including Brian, Kenyatta and Simone who are terrific in helping run the meets and Stacey and Janelle who take care of

food and beverage. Thanks to all parents who step up and volunteer at all meets. We need to continue with parental involvement.

Thanks.