

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Swimming Federation

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Swimming Federation (SVGSF) was held on Saturday, March 29th, **2025 commencing at 2pm 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:
 - i. Stephen Joachim
 - ii. Liz Cordice
 - iii. Kentish James
 - iv. Louise Mitchell
 - v. Kenyatta Alleyne
 - vi. Nicole Alleyne
 - vii. Simone France
 - viii. Brian George
 - ix. Natalie George
 - x. Garcia Cato

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

- a. The Minutes of the meeting held on January 13th, 2024 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 previously circulated and the President presented some highlights. The report is appended to and forms part of these minutes.

5. Financial Report of the Treasurer and approval of auditor

- a. The audited Financial Statements for the year ended November 30th, 2024 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
- c. The AGM approved the appointment of Defreitas and Associates as auditors for fiscal 2026 and 2027

6. Presentation and 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 2025 was approved

7. Proposals for changes and amendments to the Constitution and General Rules.

No proposals for changes or amendments were received

8. Election of the Executive Council, if their term of office has expired. The following are the positions to be elected.

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. Treasurer - Kentish James. Proposed by Garcia Cato and seconded by Natalie George
- ii. Vice-President, Admin - Natalie George. Proposed by Simone France and seconded by Kentish James
- iii. Floor member - Liz Cordice. Proposed by Louise Mitchell and seconded by Stephen Joachim

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:

- Stephen Joachim – President
- Garcia Cato-Peters – General Secretary
- Louise Mitchell – Floor member
- Simone France – VP Technical
- Shane Cadogan – Athletes Committee

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

The President thanked the meeting for their confidence in the 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.

SVGSF - Presidents Report to the AGM 2025

2024 Overview:

- Overall swimming had an improved year compared to last year. We are seeing an increase in the number of younger swimmers. We continue to see a small number of individuals performing very well and showing they are among the best in the OECS region and capable of competing at the Caribbean (Carifta) level.
- The highlight of the year was the hosting of the 32nd annual Swimming Championships in SVG. The Championships were a major success from all points of view in spite of the horrendous rains.
- Kyle Dougan, the founder of Blacksands Swim squad has stepped down from running BSSS. Over the last more than 12 years, Coach Kyle has led a great improvement in SVG swimming. His swimmers have developed to the level of being among the best in the Caribbean. His swimmers have won numerous regional medals at events all over the Caribbean including at Carifta and the Caribbean Islands Swimming Championships. His swimmers have represented SVG with pride and dignity at World Aquatics Championships and at Olympic Games. We thank Kyle for his leadership and work in developing swimming in SVG. We wish him success and happiness in his future endeavours.
- Kim Halbich, one of the founding members of the SVGSF and a member of the executive for many years has decided to step aside from her executive role. Kim has been a great supporter of swimming over the years and remained supportive after her children had completed their competitive swim careers. We thank Kim for her work and support.
- We had a disappointing Carifta in the Bahamas where we only won one bronze medal. Congrats to Kione Deshong.
- We held a session in January to educate/inform swimmers, parents etc of motivational time standards, World Aquatics points system, our national team selection policies, the Team manager software and the US College system (Brian)
- We held a session in March to improve governance and SVGSF knowledge in terms of Constitution, general rules, our website and social media. Swim parents and coaches were invited.
- We were able to host our annual SAC Gallagher Invitational in February and our National Championships in September.
- The SVGSF recognizes the continued importance of exposing athletes to competitions and training and provided assistance to Blue Marlins to compete at RHAC in St Lucia and to Black Sands to compete at the BASA AQI champs in Barbados.
- The SVGSF held a meeting with competitive swim parents after 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.
- We continue to focus on the training and development of coaches and officials.
- We recognize the need to prepare others to be prepared to operate the SVGSF in the future and always asking for volunteers. Part of this is setting up various committees to give more people a greater understanding of the work of the SVGSF. The following committees were setup in 2024:

- Facilities Committee – Chaired by Rohan Deshong and Marlon Mayers. Responsible for the physical pools and equipment
- Local Competitions Committee – Chaired by Simone France. Responsible for organizing and setting up local competitions and time trials
- OECS Committee – chaired by Brian George. Responsible for all aspects (except team selection) of attending and competing at the OECS swim championships

Unfortunately the Facilities Committee did not perform at the levels expected and has been disbanded with Brian and Stephen taking over their role.

Competitions and Events

- The SVGSF hosted the SAC Gallagher Invitational in February 2024 at the Shrewsbury Aquatic Centre (SAC).
- Barbados National LC Swimming Championships – March 2024. Our swimmers performed well as part of their Carifta Games preparation.
- Carifta Swimming Champs, Bahamas – April 2024 – as mentioned above we had another successful Carifta Championships in terms of winning a medal but the majority of our swimmers did not perform at the level expected.
- RHAC in St Lucia was held in April 2024 – Blue Marlins swim club competed and did well. Black Sands sent a small team who performed credibly.
- BASA Aquatic Centre Invitational – May 2024 – Both Blue Marlins and Black Sands swim clubs competed and did well.
- Paris Olympic Games – July/August 2024. We were represented by Kennice Greene and Alex Joachim. Both athletes performed with well.
- World Aquatics (AQUA) World Champs (25M) in Budapest in December. We were represented by Kenale.
- SVG Gallagher National Swimming Championships, SVG – September 2024 – This event was a success with good time improvements and new records set by our competitive swimmers.
- Hosted OECS 2024 Swimming Championships in November 2024. It was a great success in terms of visitors approvals and visitor experiences. We had over 200 athletes and officials from 8 countries and territories (an OECS record). SVG placed 3rd overall despite having only 26 swimmers (vs 34 for the teams ahead of us). Team SVG set individual records by Alex and Kennice and 3 Relay records. 16 swimmers won medals. We had two age group champs (Hazen Dabriel and Jadon Hamilton).
- Blue Marlins and Blacksands swim clubs sent swimmers to compete in the annual ASATT Swimming championships in Trinidad. 4 out of the 5 swimmers won medals. Kennice Greene was outstanding and broke in excess of 7 SVG records.
- Blacksands had 2 swimmers compete at the annual 2024 ASAJ Christmas Championships in Jamaica. Both swimmers won gold medals.

Swim Camps

We were to assist a few swimmers to attend swim camps in Florida.

Coaches

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

Future:

After the depressing years coming as a result of Covid, the future is looking brighter but we still have a lot of work to do to get back to our pre-covid levels. We have a few young competitive swimmers who are doing well. We have faced a significant drop in younger swimmers coming out of the Covid situation but we are beginning to see an uptick and we hope to see better performances from the younger group next year.

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 in the past. 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.

We will host OECS again in 2025 and will need the same levels of support as we had in 2024.

2025 – Major events:

- SAC Gallagher Invitational in February 2025
- Carifta in Trinidad in April
- CCCAN in June – Location TBC
- World Aquatics Championships in Singapore
- Junior Pan Am Games in Paraguay
- SVG Gallagher National Swimming Championships – September
- OECS Swimming Championships – November – St Vincent

Challenges:

- Continued investment and development in pool facilities and equipment (pumps, filtration systems etc). May need to look at replacing timing system.
- 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. Thanks to Kentish who does a terrific job as Treasurer and to Simone who took over from Andre and is doing excellent work on the Technical Committee.

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.