

Windy City FSC Board Meeting (held virtually via Zoom) - April 26th, 2020

In attendance:

- Karen
- Zoi
- Meg
- Bev
- Ryder
- Max
- Michael
- Valerie

Absent: Carol

Guest presenter: Alyssa Blackwell

Call meeting to order, 5:07 PM. Karen motions to pass consent agenda, Zoi seconds. All in favor. Zoi will upload Jan 19th, 2020 minutes onto website. Old business update: Karen has purchased Directors' and Officers' insurance. It costs \$575/year and will need to be renewed in February 2021.

EntryEeze committee update

Since the March 21st test session was cancelled, we will be prioritizing those skaters for our June 20th session. If you signed up for the March session, you will not need to register again – Valerie will register you automatically for the June session. Not planning to accept new registrations for June, which means we do not need to have EntryEeze up and running for test registrations until after June.

In the meantime, the primary function of EntryEeze will be focused on membership renewals/signups for the start of the new season on July 1st. Meg has the initial EntryEeze website set up now, with 172 active members on it. Some adjustments still to be made – some of these members were categorized incorrectly. EntryEeze categorizes people as either “skater” or “non-skater” as well as making assumptions about subsequent members – that one is a parent and the other is a child skater. This narrow definition does not fit many of our members. Some might be a married couple, some might be siblings, and some could even be all the categories: parent, skater, and coach. These categories do not match up with those in USFSA, so Meg will work to make sure that the best category is selected for each member.

This coming season, all minors must have parent/guardian information on their EntryEeze account. Our membership form and our online registration will be modified to reflect this change. Meg does not anticipate needing to send out membership forms until the end of May, at the earliest, giving us at least a month to communicate with EntryEeze and USFSA.

Meg will work with Max to set up our Stripe account for receiving payments through EntryEeze. The committee will need to meet before the end of May to finalize membership information before the new season.

New business: Alyssa Blackwell, guest

Proposal #1: Club bulletin board. Fun way to unite members, create a sense of community, and promote recognition of our club at McFetridge. Could recognize the synchro teams' achievements as well as anyone who has medaled at a larger competition, like solo dance Nationals, or if you've landed your

axel, or passed a Gold or Senior-level test. Alyssa proposed the idea back in the Fall of 2019 and we responded positively. The hold-up has been in obtaining approval from McFetridge officials. Shannon, one of the synchro coaches, had reached out to rink management but never received a reply. Karen will attempt to get a reply from management so this project can get rolling. Alyssa is offering to create and decorate the board if/when we receive approval.

Proposal #2: modifications to Windy City Sunday night dance session music rules. The session has evolved from a social dance event for adults, to largely being a practice session for solo dancers and synchro skaters. They are working towards tests or competitions and not necessarily using the music on the official CD. Alyssa suggested that the CD is no longer necessary as most skaters and/or coaches have their compulsory dances on their phones. There was some confusion regarding whether a song must finish playing before you can switch the music. Karen clarified that this is not the case. You can switch the song if you are certain that no one else is skating to it.

Instead of only allowing coaches to change the music, Alyssa also proposed that skaters be allowed to put on their own music, especially relevant to solo dance series skaters who must use their own music.

Summary of proposal: anyone can play any dance music, anytime. Utilize the whiteboard to create an order of who gets to play their music. This would likely require additional rules, like coaches / skaters in lesson getting priority, or limiting the maximum amount of times you can play your program/dance. Would we need an actual ice monitor to make sure the rules were being followed?

Concerns were voiced by Karen, Ryder, and Max. Max said these rules won't work unless we get an ice/music monitor. The rules are too complex for skaters to self-govern. Fights could arise over how many times someone played their music, over "bumping" another skater in the music order, etc.

Max: "There's too many rules; there's too many people who believe the session belongs to them... This will not self-govern. I would recommend not putting something like this in place unless you can get a monitor. It will get crazy. ...Otherwise you will be very frustrated."

Karen said we could try out some of these rules once or twice to see how it would work on these sessions – sometime in June, if we get back out there, or else in September. Meg offered to burn new CDs divided by skating levels – all the Bronzes on one CD, all the Silvers on another, etc.

After this, Alyssa left the meeting.

Refund / financial update from Max

Max has communicated with Brad regarding missed sessions due to the Covid-19 cancellations/closures. We have only paid for ice through March 29th, which means we missed three Sunday night dance sessions (March 15th, 22nd, and 29th) plus one test session on March 25th. We will get a credit for this to be put towards future ice time.

Tax discussion regarding being a non-profit but not having the federal tax-exempt status. Max believes that we can file the 990 form but filing the form does not automatically make us tax-exempt. He will file the 990 form and go from there. Unless we were to go for a C3, where people can make donations, Max isn't sure that there is a big benefit. A C6 might not really make a difference for us. Meg suggested that, if we became a non-profit, this could benefit the synchro teams' fundraising efforts. However, the synchro teams are their own entity to some extent, separate from Windy City, especially as they are

partially subsidized by the park district. We did not reach a decision regarding the synchro team fundraisers but will revisit the subject in the future.

Annual meeting

Annual meeting date tentatively set for June 28th, virtually (on Zoom). Ryder and Carol are up for re-election this year; Ryder will run again, but Carol has not confirmed if she will run again as well. Zoi will be in charge of sending out the notice of the annual meeting. (Email to be sent out at least a week in advance.) Members will be notified that they can vote if they are over 18 and have the right membership. Members will also be notified that the bylaws have changed, especially those changes that impact voting as well as the number of board members, and that the bylaws can be found on our website. The proxy form will be attached to the email and anyone who wishes to vote by proxy can fill out the form and send it back via email to Zoi. As the meeting will be happening on Zoom, members will have to reply and request the Zoom link as we do not want to list that link publicly. Last but not least, we hope to include EntryEeze information in the email, letting them know how they can renew their membership for the 2020-21 season. Zoi will also update the website regarding the annual meeting and the EntryEeze update.

June 20th test session update: We need a date by which we decide to either cancel the test session or move forward with it. We settled tentatively on June 1st. If rinks are not open by that time, they would have less than three weeks to get back on the ice and practice for a test session, which does not sound like a feasible plan and would likely cause us to lose money as few skaters would want to test under those circumstances.

Updates

Karen, Bev, and Zoi will be virtually attending the USFSA Governing Council in May. All board members must be SafeSport compliant starting in the 2020-21 season. Bev will send out some instructions. There is a \$30 fee for the background check, which must be done every two years going forward. Member club dues will be reduced by 50% for this upcoming season. Karen recommended the online, free Club Education Seminars starting April 29th – Karen will email the details to all board members.

USFSA Club Board Member Agreement – Bev had made changes to #5 and #9 and emailed the revised version to the board. Goal is to have all board members sign this form by our Annual Meeting.

Michael raised a question regarding when we can renew our memberships for 2020-21 through EntryEeze. As a coach, he needs to complete his CERs and get his coaching insurance renewed before July 1st. Meg didn't know for sure and will email USFSA Member Services to get an answer regarding when coaches can renew.

6:32 PM Karen motions to adjourn, Zoi seconds. All in favor.