



## Athlete Committee Meeting Minutes

June 4nd 2023

7:00 PM

*Mission: Create opportunities and provide resources to promote excellence in Maine Swimming.*

*Vision: You CAN get there from here!*

Call to Order - Brady Hale

Mission/Vision - Brady Hale

Roll Call - Brady Hale

Present: Brady Hale, Elle Yarborough, Denali Wagstaff, Mary Ellen Tynan, Taylor Rogers, Olivia Tighe, Beck Welling, Owen Kasper, Lylah Wagstaff

Absent: Audrey Cohen, Sarah Inman, Emma Farnham

### **New Secretary**

Brady Hale started by addressing that the committee needs a new secretary. Brady explained that the job of the secretary is to take the minutes for each of the committee's meetings. Denali Wagstaff volunteered to be the new secretary. All are in favor.

### **Introduction- Athletes' Committee Orientation Presentation**

Taylor presented the Athletes' Committee Orientation slides and discussed the Mission Vision, Core Values, Rules of Engagement, Governance Structure and MESI Committees, Athlete Leadership, and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). Policies about Electronic Communications state that the window of time for allowed electronic communications is between 5 am EST - 9 pm EST. During one-on-one interactions between minor athletes and adult participants, a parent/guardian must be copied. If there are multiple minor athletes, at least two adult

participants must be included. Taylor continued to go over the Athletes' Committee Roles. She adds that all athletes are required to be at the HOD meeting on the 25th of June at 1:30 pm at Colby College.

### **HOD, June 25th**

Mary Ellen Tynan discussed what will be covered at the in-person House of Delegates (HOD) meeting on June 25th. There will be a vote on whether the treasurer should be a paid position. Mary Ellen adds that voting members of the board are not paid positions. They also may discuss teams leaving/switching to New England Swimming. They need a 50% vote from the HOD to leave. If they don't get it, the teams have to stay in Maine Swimming. If they do, the teams will be allowed to leave. Or, ultimately all of the teams can decide to go to New England.

Taylor Rogers says to pay attention to language on the floor and make sure you know what you are voting for if you vote 'Yes' or 'No.' Taylor also says that questions should be asked if there is any uncertainty or clarification needed. Mary Ellen then reminds athletes to vote based on their own opinion. The budget will be another item discussed as well as the people being nominated for the open positions in the next year. There will be voting on an Age Group Chair, Technical Planning Chair, Treasurer, and Officials Chair and members of the Governance Committee. There are two positions with no nominees- one of them being the Treasurer.

Beck asked what switching to New England's swimming implies. Taylor Rogers answered that every club has its reasons but one of the big motivations for the switch may be because it is challenging to provide high-quality opportunities for certain teams. For some of the southern teams, there is not a lot of regular-season support. The distance needed to be traveled for some meets becomes an inconvenience for some teams, limiting their opportunities for meets. Some want easier access to some of the pools in the New England area to be able to host meets and be on the New England calendar so more people will come to Maine for meets. US-only teams have limited opportunities for competition because of the regular Y-swimming season.

Mary Ellen adds that it is better to abstain from the vote if you feel you need more education on the vote.

### **Thoughts on the banquet**

Brady asks the athletes to share their thoughts on the banquet. Elle comments that it was a little hard gathering and presenting awards in the time the athletes were given. She says she feels it went well but it would have been better if they had a microphone when presenting the awards. Denali Wagstaff agrees and adds that the event was fun. She thinks that it would have been more organized if there had been more adult/board member participation to help the event run smoother. Beck adds that he noticed there weren't very many coaches at the banquet and agrees that it would be better to get a

few more coaches involved next time. Lylah Wagstaff asks if the parents were the only ones who got to submit reviews. She says that the swimmer's input on the event would have been valuable as well. Owen Kasper says that the athletes could have been better at organizing the certificates.

Brady presents the idea that next year athletes should plan the event and adults should run it so that the athletes are not having to call their names and to have the event seem more structured and organized.

Taylor says it would be better to get the event on the calendar earlier.

Elle says the athletes enjoyed the golden goggle awards but is not sure how parents felt.

Taylor makes the point that the event is about the athletes, not the parents.

### **Volunteering this summer?**

Brady asks the athletes to start brainstorming volunteering ideas.

Brady will send a reminder about gathering ideas for volunteering opportunities this summer.

Brady shares that at the EZ conference, EZ voted on \$12,000 going to the next EZ leadership retreat.

Denali Wagstaff asks about the cost athletes attending will have to pay. Mary Ellen says that Maine Swimming is paying for Maine swimmers to go to the retreat.

Taylor addresses a note from Safe Sport to talk more about Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention policies within clubs. She asks to specifically keep pushing the policies about Electronic communication within each athlete's club.

### **Adjournment**

Brady makes a motion to adjourn the meeting

Elle seconds the motion.

The meeting is adjourned.

