



MAINE SWIMMING, INC. | Maine Swimming Athletes Committee

8/7/22

7 PM

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

Vision Statement: You CAN get there from here!

Present: Audrey Cohen, Brady Hale, Abby Hollis, McKayla Kendall, Ethan Schulz, Elle Yarborough

Absent: Ali Bragg, Emma Farnham, Lucy Shaw, Denali Wagstaff

Guest: Taylor Rogers (late)

Call to Order

Mission/Vision

Roll Call

by Ethan Schulz

McKayla Kendall made a motion to take the agenda out of order second by Brady Hale.

Brady Hale made a motion to approve the minutes, second by McKayla Kendall.

Special Surfers

Ethan Schulz asked if people were still interested in doing the Special Surfers in August. There was talk about doing it in July but many of the swimmers on the Athletes Committee were away at meets. Abby Hollis said that it would be a good idea but it is short notice. McKayla Kendall agreed and said that we should probably move to the next thing. Ethan Schulz then explained more about the program for the future. Audrey Cohen asked when the date was and Ethan Schulz said August 16th.

Filling Committees

Ethan Schulz said that we need to start thinking about who we want to get involved in committees. The website should be updated with the list of committees that need positions. Henry, Taylor, and Mary Ellen are looking for people to get involved in the officials committee. Ethan Schulz is going to check to see if Will Porter is interested in being on the officials committee. McKayla Kendall talked about the senior committee and DEI positions that need to be filled. Ethan Schulz opened the floor for another discussion. Brady Hale said that Audrey Cohen did a good job with her takeover. Audrey Cohen said that she got positive feedback from the takeovers.



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Age Group Committee Info

Brady Hale said that at the last age group meeting they talked about the 2023 age group championships and there were some opposing sides throughout the meeting. There were a few things that the Age Group Committee wanted athlete input on.

10 & U swim trials and finals or timed finals?

McKayla Kendall mentioned that USA swimming recommends that they swim timed finals. She then said that she felt that the 10 & U should be timed finals. Audrey Cohen said that timed finals would be better because trials and finals are a lot, especially for a younger swimmer. Elle Yarborough also agreed with only doing timed finals.

When should the 10 & U session be (during prelims, in between, during finals)?

Abby Hollis said that it would work well in the 10 & U session in between just like it is at Winter Champs. Audrey Cohen then asked about the Colby Meet and McKayla Kendall explained the structure of the meet. Audrey Cohen said that being at finals would be good because there is a lot of excitement and it is motivating for the younger kids. Additionally the officials would only need to be there for two sessions instead of three. Brady Hale said that the officials committee is going to focus on getting more officials this year. He also mentioned that the younger swimmers being at finals would give the older swimmers more of a break in between events. Ethan Schulz said that he thinks they should swim at finals but from a technical planning standpoint most of the adults would say the finals session would take too long. Ethan Schulz asked how we would address that issue. McKayla Kendall said that at this meet there might not be as many younger swimmers, based off of the number we saw this summer at LCM champs.

Changing it to a 3.5 day meet... do we allow 6 or 7 events?

Ethan Schulz said that in the past he thought the timed finals group did 9 events. Brady Hale said that there was talk about 9 events but then there was also talk about 6 or 7 events. McKayla Kendall said if there are less than 16 people in an event then only the top 8 would swim at night which is how it has been in the past. Ethan Schulz was wondering if for 50s and 100s we would allow them to swim again and for anything over 100 then only the top 8 would make it back.

*this situation would only occur if there were less than 16 swimmers in an event



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McKayla Kendall said that she would ask the AJ about it at the next Age Group Committee. Audrey Cohen said that she likes having 6 events because if you don't want to do a distance event you sometimes end up with 3 events in one day. McKayla said that she likes the 6 events as well.

Relays

Do we offer the 800 relay?

Ethan Schulz said that he really likes the 800 relay. Brady Hale and McKayla Kendall said that they also want to keep the 800 relay. There was a concern about the 1000 or the 1650 falling on the same day. Ethan Schulz said it makes more sense to put the 1000 and the 800 free relay on the same day because more people swim the 1650 than the 1000.

Do we want mixed relays?

200 relays gender specific?

400 relays mixed?

Audrey Cohen said she likes mixed relays but we should only do 1-2 relays per night so adding in mixed relays it might be too much. McKayla Kendall and Brady Hale said that they preferred to do mixed relays at some other meets throughout the year.

When should we do the relays... prelims or finals?

Abby Hollis said she liked them at finals.

New athlete involvement

McKayla Kendall said that we need more involvement and a sense of community. She also said that we have done both of these things to a certain extent but there is also a lot more that we can do. She said that we need more athlete involvement and was wondering if there are ways to incentivise people. She asked Ethan Schulz what the age range for committee involvement is. He said that it is 16 or going into sophomore year. McKayla Kendall was wondering if there was a way to mentor younger athletes to help them get involved. As the returners graduate then the next generation would be able to fill their position. She said that it would be a good idea to have an in person leadership summit. Maybe have a younger athlete attend the meeting with you and learn more about the process. She said the community that we create is important and the



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takeovers definitely help with that. In the past we talked about creating an achievements section of our social media or where are they now for our older swimmers. We also talked about having a set of a week that would motivate different teams to try out together. Ethan Schulz said that there is \$2500 set aside that we could use for in person events. Ethan Schulz asked if we wanted to do an athlete get together before the end of the summer. McKayla Kendall said that there might not be time for the swimmers going to college but it might work for the younger swimmers that we are trying to get involved with. Elle Yarborough said that we should try to make it as accessible as possible since it's hard for northern Maine swimmers to go to the south. McKayla said that Waterville is centrally located and we might be able to do some sort of outdoor swim practice/event there next year. Elle Yarborough was wondering if we could do something right before the start of the winter season to get people excited. McKayla Kendall said that during an Age Group meeting they discussed having a clinic with older and younger swimmers and then a meet the next day. Another idea was having a meet like the YMCA All Star meet to get people from different teams swimming together. Possible September and early October.

Taylor Rodgers joined

Ethan Schulz asked what the age restrictions for involvement is. Taylor Rodgers said that it is 16 or going into your sophomore year.

MAAP Policy Reminder

Taylor Rodgers said that we need to make sure that they are aware that electronic communication between a single minor athlete needs to have a parent or guardian and if there is more than one athlete there needs to be at least two adults. We also have the social media policy that we designed so we need to make sure we educate people about that. We also need to remember that there are no photos/videos behind the block, even if the blocks are on both sides. Additionally if there are non-adult athletes and adults then the meeting can't go past 9. Ethan Schulz asked about our group specifically if it was all the athletes and Taylor Rodgers said she would reach out to SafeSport.



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Leadership retreat

Ethan Schulz said that with the Eastern Zone meeting coming up in September we need to start nailing down some details. The retreat is going to be June 23-25 2023 at Colby College. We still need to come up with a set of guidelines that each LSC will use to choose the athletes that are going to attend. Each LSC can choose 16 athletes and 1 coach. We want to make sure that the people that are involved are the ones that are attending the retreat. McKayla said that it would most likely have to be application based. McKayla said that we could send out a form and allow the LSCs to use it directly or use it as an example when they are choosing their candidates. Taylor Rodgers said that it might be best to do it as a sheet with recommendations instead of a form so the other LSCs know that the form isn't mandatory and they will have more freedom to pick and choose. Later on down the road we will also need to look for speakers at the retreat. Taylor Rodgers said they might also want an itinerary and an events list for the meet.

Creating groups within the athletes committee

Ethan Schulz said that it might be a good idea to break up the committee to work on different tasks. Possibly a social media and a feedback group. Elle Yarborough also mentioned talking to the people who run their team social media to get more people involved. With team registration each team needs to register a team representative. Taylor Rodgers said we might want to add a piece to the registration about the team social media to gather more information about each team. Ethan Schulz asked if feedback and athlete involvement should be together or separate. McKayla Kendall said that the feedback would be a way for us to gain some knowledge about what people are looking for and what they like. The athlete involvement group would be finding ways to provide them with the opportunities that they are looking for. So it would be two different groups that are working together. Audrey Cohen, Brady Hale, Abby Hollis, and Elle Yarborough said they would also like to be involved in the athlete feedback group. After all of the discussion we decided on three groups.

- 1.) Athlete Feedback
 - Ethan Schulz , Audrey Cohen, Brady Hale, Abby Hollis, Elle Yarborough
- 2.) Social Media
 - Emma Farnham, Brady Hale, McKayla Kendall, Elle Yarborough
- 3.) Athlete Technical Planning
 - Audrey Cohen



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Motion to adjourn made by Brady Hale second by McKayla Kendall.

To-Do List:

- Look into making/changing the policy that deals with the age that a swimmer must be in order to get involved on a committee
- Possibly start a college recruiting email chain
- Bring an athlete to the next meeting you attend
- Create a sheet with guidelines to pick candidates for the Leadership Retreat
- Get the task force together for the Leadership Retreat
- Send out a reminder about a team representative to the coaches
- Reach out to other athlete committee members who didn't attend about what subcommittee they want to be on