



**Mission:** Create opportunities and provide resources to promote excellence in Maine swimming.  
**Vision: Maine Swimming:** You CAN get there from here!  
**Core Values:** Sportsmanship, Excellence, Leadership, Fun

Attendees: **Matt Baxter (PPSC), Marcel da Ponte (CMA), Robert Hale (SSC), Puranjot Kaur (MDIY), Keith Kennedy (SEAL), Todd Larlee (CMA), Nori Lund (WCCU), Haley Markos (PPSC), Leanne Pedro (SMAC), Brian Savage (LRSC), Mike Schmidt (KVY), Lynn Steward (CMA), Louise Tirabassi (UN), Jeff Ward (SEAL), Vanessa Williamson (UN), Marie Weferling (UN), Jim Willis (MDIY) – those in bold eligible to vote**

#### Call to Order

The coaches meeting was called to order by Coaches Representative Marcel Da Ponte at 9:01 AM

Review of Minutes from last meeting  
No old minutes reviewed.

Review of items to be covered.

#### New Business

##### Senior and Champs Cut Times Discussion-

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO MOVE FORWARD:**

- (1) Keep the cut times the same as last year. All in favor. Sponge clarified that Dec meet qualifying times will be separate and should be out soon.
- (2) Close entries 9-10 days before champ. Will allow late entries for swimmers that are currently registered with Maine Swimming/USA Swimming from YMCA States and other meets. Only new times not time updates. No new registrations. All were in favor.

Senior Camps and Workouts – no vote needed. Just good to get Senior swimmers together for a camp or workout. CMA does train with other teams on occasion and would like to continue doing so.

Olympic Athlete Clinic-Mary Ellen reported Andrew Seliskar will be coming on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> with format similar to Ian Crocker 2017 event. Clinic in AM, lunch and meet in afternoon. Brendan Hansen will be doing the January Clinic and will focus on breaststroke.

Recommendations- 75- 100 swimmers, 11 and Overs, Masked, Age Group and TPC can finalize order. Sponge suggested we focus on 200 free and 200 IM and a 50 or something.

##### Championships-

- (1) Total events for 13 & over - currently a max of six for 13 & over swimmers. Other meets like sectionals are seven. Move to allow 7 events for 13 & Over. Jim – what about going from 9 to 7 for 12 & unders? Will keep at nine for 12 & Under.
- (2) Allow swimmers to have bonus events for which they have a current swim in Swims database but no B time required. How does this work with qualification from Trials meet? Right now if you qualify at Trials without a qualifying time don't get bonus swims, but change to allowing bonus.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO MOVE FORWARD:** 13 and Over go to 7 events, if a swimmer has a bonus opportunity they must have an official time and any swimmer in the meet with a bonus opportunity regardless of how qualified can do it. All were in favor.

HS Times and Champs-currently all high school times are allowed for championships. Proposed policy is that high school times from high school meets would not be allowed and times for champs must be observed from HS Regional and State Meet. Jim suggested that all registered swimmers should be able to have Regional and State Meets observed at no charge. Swimmers should be registered by the deadline for observation sign-ups. Recommendations- HS Regionals and HS State meets would be observed, Must be a current registered USA Swimming member, members must then request observation, no charge for the observations.

**Minutes MESI Coaches Committee**  
September 27, 2021 at 9:00AM via Zoom



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Mary Ellen noted if you are going to continue to allow high school times for winter champs you don't need observations. Marcel indicated we are catering to HS swim by allowing this. Is it lowering the bar?  
**RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE FORWARD** by Matt Baxter that only times in SWIMS observed at Regionals and States can be used for the MESI Winter Championship Meet and there were be no charge. Clarified that dual meet high school times will no longer be allowed. Second by Rob Hale. Most in favor. Sponge abstained.

Athlete Reimbursement-

Recommendation to form a committee to explore what other LSCs do with athlete money for athletes. Coach Matt Baxter will return with information at the next meeting. If you're interested in helping supply information please email him.

ASCA Coaches Report-

Marcel gave an ASCA report on what he attended at the convention. Notes are available by request. Just email Marcel.

Discussion on Emily Caras Meet - MESI naming scholarship after her. MESI working with the Caras family on the scholarship.

Intra Squad Meets-

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO MOVE FORWARD** - Allow Intra Squad Meets moving forward.

Motion by Keith Kennedy, Second by Michael Schmidt. SEAL had 68% best times at one meet. Coaches and teams should be able to make own decisions. All were in favor.

Meet Directors-

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO MOVE FORWARD-** Allow recognized meet directors outside the Maine Swimming LSC to serve as meet directors. Encouraging teams to have more than one meet director if you're planning on hosting a meet in the future.

Motion by Keith Kennedy, Second by Michael Schmidt

All were in favour.

LSC Fines-

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO MOVE FORWARD** - Discussion regarding fines and education. The coaches feel that we should be educating our members first before resulting in fines. The observation of fines is that they are just paid by organizations and do not add value to the organization's overall goals and turn off participants. Coaches Mentoring is encouraged with newer coaches or any coach that is interested. Reach out to a local coach or the coaches rep for assistance. Mary Ellen stated that there is monies available. All you have to do is ask!

Motion to adjourn.

No next meeting date has been announced at this time. Please refer to the Maine Swimming Website for more information and thanks for attending!

Respectfully submitted, Keith Kennedy