

Maine Swimming Inc. HOD 5/7/11

I. Roll Call

HOD Members Present: Eric Palmer – Bangor Y, Danielle Gravel – CMA, Leanne Gravel – Coastal Maine Aquatics, Beth Preglovisk – Waterville Y, John Matzen – Representing Mt. Desert Island Y, Debi Clukey – Piscataquis Regional Y, Michelle Sazehn – Portland Y, Kate Jeton – Sanford Y, A.J. Rog – Seacoast Swim Club, John Bliss – Westbrook Seals, Jim Easterling – Westbrook Seals, Pam Thompson – Westbrook Seals, Nicole Veale– Wiscasset Unsinkables

HOD Members Absent:

Morgan Dorsey – Boothbay Regional Y, Dan St. Pierre – Casco Bay Regional Y, Matt Montgomery – Down East Family Y, Butch Babin – Hurricane Swim Club, John Matzen – Kennebec Valley Y, Marybeth Pordon – Old Town/Orono Y, Aaron Winslow – Waldo County Y

Board Members in Attendance

General Chair – Jim Willis
Admin Vice-Chair – Tom Manduca
Age Group Vice-Chair – Matt Baxter
Secretary – Lia Langeveld
Technical Planning Chair - Jay Morissette
Membership/Registration Chair – Tom Branch
Officials Chair – Steve Elwell
At-Large – Sean Flaherty
At-Large – Fritz Homans
At-Large – John Smith
Senior Athlete Rep – Laura Flewelling
Senior Athlete Rep – Uriah Eilinger
Senior Athlete Rep – Kathryn Violette

Absent Board Members

Coaches Representative – Mardie LaRiviere
Safety Chair – Andrew Kemp
At-Large – Tony Ten Haagen
At-Large – Matt Montgomery

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Disability Swimming Chair – John Smith
Camp Coordinator – Marie Weferling

Absent Non-Voting Members

Immediate Past General Chair – Chris Branch
Junior Athlete Rep – Sam Couillard
Junior Athlete Rep – Sam LaRiviere

Junior Athlete Rep – Tyler Wright

Zone Chair – Judy Milliken

Open Positions

At-Large

Financial Vice-Chair

National Times Chair

Sanction Chair

Senior Vice-Chair

II. Reading, Correction & Adoption of Minutes

Motion to adopt the minutes by Jim. 2Nd – Sean. Vote – All in favor with 1 abstention.
Vote – Passes.

III. Report of Officers

Treasurer's Report – Jim Willis

Jim has created an Excel spreadsheet that is current as of April 30th 2011. Jim sends everything that he does to Tom Manduca and Lia Langeveld. Jim also has a general ledger in Excel of all financial activities back to September of 2010 when the fiscal year began. All of our paperwork has been given to the auditor from Sept 1 2007-Aug 31 2010. Jim got all the paperwork from the treasurer on April 15th, dropped it to Lia on April 18th and Lia brought to the auditor on April 19th. There is one more piece of information that Lia will drop off on Monday. How does this compare to previous years? This is pretty steady from years in the past. Motion to accept the statements by Sean. 2Nd – John. Vote – All in favor. Vote – Passes.

General Chair – Jim Willis

The winners of the scholarship were not announced last week because the committee had not met yet. Tom, Jim and Matt met this week. One of the winners was Emily Clark from MMD. She has helped out lots of younger kids on the team and had a car accident last year and has been working all season to get back in swimming shape. The other winner is Nathan Paluso. He has a great passion and drive for swimming and the future.

Tom Branch talked about the privacy policy. Your e-mail addresses for the club contacts has been changed so that personal addresses are not visible. This also includes club sites – you cannot have personal information for anyone unless you have their consent. The info you can give out is age, club, team and time.

Age Group Chair – Matt Baxter

Matt sent an e-mail to everyone concerning the structure of the Zone meet proposed changes and he is also working to get Josh Davis to run a clinic here in the fall.

Tom Branch – Membership/Registration Chair

Last season, there were 159 registered non-athletes. There are 22 clubs – 7 were after 11/30 and had to pay extra and there were 3 after the 12/31. Season 1 had 190 athletes which is up from last year and year-round there were 833 which is down from last year. There were 40 outreach. Currently, there 10 season 2, 11 year-round and there is a new club located in Brunswick. They will be running a Season 2 club for this summer.

Tom Branch – National Times Chair

There are record certificates that have all been signed and will be passed out to teams. Starting in 2012, all registered non-athletes will have to take an athlete protection requirement. At this point, National has not let the LSC know if this will be free or paid.

IV. Reports of Committees

Officials Chair – Steve Elwell

Currently, National is recommending that LSCs put in a rule that deck-changing is not allowed. Manuel Sone has expressed an interest in being the Meet Referee for Summer Champs and there is someone who has expressed interest in the position when Steve is done in August.

Zones Chair – Judy Milliken

The Zone meet had fewer expenses than last year. There are costs that don't change each year so this is something that's factored in when determining how much to charge athletes. There was a subsidy for 2 athletes and an overpayment that is coming back to the LSC. See attached report. There were 51 athletes where the majority was under 12. It was a safe trip and the athletes had fun. It was changed by having the athletes come back and eat at the hotels. Some costs increased, like the bus and coaches stipend, and others decreased, like the food and the apparel. Judy recommends a formal request for subsidies, encouraged more coaches to apply and asked how to get the information sooner from the swimmers. Sean went as a coach and heard from parents and coaches how smoothly the weekend went, that it was well-run and everyone had a great time. The Eastern Zone director also made a comment as to how the coaching staff was professional and they really enjoy having the Maine team at the meet.

Camp Coordinator – Marie Weferling

Marie has resigned effective as of today.

Disabled Swimming Chair – John Smith

There is \$1000 in the budget for disabled swimmers and John asked anyone with a disabled swimmer to contact him.

Sanction Chair

No Report.

Athlete's Representatives

The three senior athlete reps are in attendance at the meeting. They will try to find nominations for the junior athlete reps along with the Senior Vice-Chair. Laura expressed that it was a great experience to be able to learn about what goes on in MSI. Judy expressed her thanks to the athletes for their help in finding a head coach for the Zone trip.

V. Presentation and Approval of the Annual Budget

Motion to table by Sean. 2Nd – Eric. Vote – All in favor. Vote – Passes.

VI. Unfinished Business

The following people were appointed to positions this morning and consented at the BOD: Fritz Homans – Financial Vice-Chair, Leanne Gravel – Senior Vice-Chair, National Times Chair – Thomas Branch. Motion to approve by Sean. 2Nd – Eric. Vote – All in favor with 3 abstentions.

At one point, we talked about acquiring a bookkeeper. Currently, we do not have a bookkeeper because everything was not in order. Once everything is in order, we will hire a bookkeeper. Jim has 2 people that he has talked to at this point. Chris asked if the bookkeeper was insured and the answer was yes. Tom recommended to check with National to see if the bookkeeper has to be a registered non-athlete.

VII. Elections

Nominations:

Age Group Chair – Sean Flaherty nominated Matt Baxter. 2Nd – Tom M. Marie nominated Lori LaPointe. 2Nd – Tom B. Motion by Tom B to have a secret ballot. No 2nd. Vote – All in favor of Matt with 1 for Lori & 1 abstention. Winner – Matt Baxter.

Fritz nominated Lia for treasurer. 2Nd – Tom. Secretary casts one vote. Winner – Lia Langeveld.

Technical Planning Chair. Leanne nominated Jay. 2Nd – Tom M. Secretary casts one vote. Winner – Jay Morissette.

Safety Chair – Leanne nominated Sean. 2Nd – Tom B. Secretary casts one vote. Winner – Sean Flaherty.

Membership – Sean nominated Thomas Branch. 2Nd – Leanne. Secretary casts one vote. Winner – Thomas Branch.

Officials – Jay would like to nominate Bob Russell. 2Nd – Sean. Steve nominated John Bliss. 2Nd – Tom B. Discussion: Bob is qualified, fair, impartial and will be around for 5 years. Tom talked to Bob last night and he was humbled and honored to accept the nomination. John Bliss is the right hand person for the Seals that takes care of meets and he is also an instructor throughout Maine and has run stroke & turn and start clinics. Certifying people to be officials should be folded in under the officials chair. There have been situations in the past where there has been a chair and a vice-chair where the vice-chair would step up to be the officials chair when that person moved on. There is an at-large position open so one person could be appointed as officials chair and the other could be at-large position. One of the duties for the officials chair is finding people to observe high school swims, which John did this year. Bob – 5 in favor, John – Majority.

Bob Russell was nominated for the at-large position by Tom B. 2nd – Jim. Vote – 1 vote by secretary. Winner – Bob Russell.

Tom nominated John Smith. 2Nd – Sean. Vote – 1 vote cast by secretary. Winner – John Smith.

Matt nominated Eric Palmer. 2Nd – Sean. Steve nominated Marie. 2Nd – Kate. Matt recommended Eric as being a great coach and a great voice to be on the MSI board. Their family is well-known in the state of Maine. Marie is very invested in Maine Swimming and would be a good part of the board. She is willing to put in the time that it takes if elected. Vote – Majority – 12, Marie – 2. Winner – Eric Palmer.

Board of Review Position – Tom B. nominated Dick Fournier. 2Nd – Tom. Secretary will cast one vote. Winner – Dick Fournier.

Board of Review Position – Tom B. nominated Anne Carney. 2Nd – Leanne. Secretary will cast one vote. Winner – Anne Carney.

Board of Review Alternate – Tom B. nominated Steve Elwell. 2Nd – Sean. Secretary will cast one vote. Winner – Steve Elwell.

VIII. New Business

Proposed Policy & Procedure Changes

The Policies and Procedures were not sent out 14 days in advance. Jim made a ruling that to vote on these based on past precedents. Sean moved to sustain the ruling. 2Nd – Tom M. Vote - All in favor with 2 opposed and 1 abstention. Vote – Passes.

1. Coaches Education - Motion by Matt. 2Nd – Tom M. Discussion – All in favor with 4 abstentions. Motion – Passes.

27.1 Maine Head Coaches who successfully complete ASCA Education Level 2 – 5 will receive a \$100 for each level. Coaches will only be eligible for one stipend of \$100/year and are able to collect the stipend in the next year(s). Present coaches or coaches from out of the LSC will receive \$50 for each level (Level 2 – 5) they have already completed and are eligible to participate in any higher education. Only one coach per team will be eligible to receive the stipend,

27.2 Maine Swimming will provide a coaches education training one time per year.

2. Coaches Education Training. Motion to pass by John. 2Nd – Matt. Vote – All in favor with 2 abstentions.

Policy 21.16 - New Policy & Procedure

MSI will reimburse for Winter and Summer Championships the Hotel & a Per-diem rate for meals at \$40.00 per day, if the meet is held at a facility more than 50 miles from their home and a mileage rate that is determine by the IRS for charitable organizations to the Meet Director/or the Meet Referee.

Motion to pass Sean. 2Nd – Tom. Discussion: If MSI is hosting a meet, then MSI should be picking up the costs. If a private club hosts the meet, the club should be picking up the cost. Vote – All in favor with 2 opposed and 3 abstentions. Re-vote because there was no motion to pass. Vote – All in favor with 2 opposed.

3. Entry Deadline - Policy 21.17 - New Policy & Procedure

Entries for Winter & Summer Champs will be 10 days before the 1st day of the meet. Teams that have not submitted entries by this date will be contacted the next day by the meet entry chair and will have until midnight that evening to get entries in for a \$50 fine. Any entries submitted after this date will be entered only at the discretion of the meet committee (Meet Director, Meet Referee, General Chair, Coaches Rep, & 1 Senior Athlete Rep). All teams will be sent a copy of their entries after they are received and have 24 hours to make any corrections to their entries. Entries will be considered final at Noon, 8 days before the meet.

Motion to pass by Sean. 2Nd – Tom B. Discussion: Sean would like to amend so that the fine reflects \$250. 2nd – Steve. Amend by Matt to say \$250 or \$1 per entry whichever is more. 2Nd – Lia. Sean accepted as a friendly amendment. Vote – All in favor of

amendment to amendment with 1 abstention. Vote – Passes. Vote on amendment – All in favor with 1 abstention. Motion passes. Friendly amendment to change 9pm by Tom B. 2nd – Kathryn. Discussion: How is the person notified? What is the timeline for acceptance? Some members of the HOD thought that everyone needs to get a response from the coach that they got the notification. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each coach to get the entries in correctly. Amendment withdrawn by Tom B. Amendment by Steve that there is 24 hours from attempted time of notification. Withdrawn by Steve. Amendment: Teams that have not submitted entries by this date shall be contacted by noon the next day by the meet entry chair and shall have until noon on the following day to get entries in subject to \$250 or \$1 per entry whichever is greater. 2Nd – Jay. Discussion: There is already a rule in place that has worked well in the past. There should be some flexibility without letting it get out of hand. Since the precedent has been set, there should be some sort of policy. Vote – All in favor with 1 opposed and 2 abstentions. Amendment by Jay that the entries must be received by the meet director, meet entry chair and general chair. 2Nd – Lia. Discussion: This would be to have a triangle of checks and balances. A coach asked how she would know which e-mail addresses to send and this info will be clearly marked in the meet info for Winter & Summer Champs. High School champs require the entries to go to more than 1 person. Vote – All in favor with 1 abstention. Vote – Passes.

Vote on whole 21.17 – Entries for Winter and Summer Combined Championships will be 10 days before the first day of the meet. In the meet packet, there will be 3 e-mails and you must submit your entries to all 3 e-mail addresses. Teams that have not submitted entries by this date shall be contacted by noon the next day by the meet entry chair and shall have until noon on the following day to get entries in is subject to a fee of \$250 or \$1 per entry whichever is greater. Any entries submitted after this date will be entered only at the discretion of the meet committee (Meet Director, Meet Referee, General Chair, Coach Rep and one Senior Athlete rep.

Vote – All in favor with 2 abstentions. Vote – Passes.

4. New Qualifying Times - Policy & Procedure 21.18

Any new entries for Winter & Summer Champs for new qualification times only during the week before either Championship Meet. Swimmers must be current members of Maine Swimming/USA Swimming and entries must be submitted by Noon on Monday preceding the meet. Updated times and new USA Swimming registrations will not be accepted, no swimmer will be allowed to drop an event or add a new event.

Motion to accept by Lia. 2Nd – Leanne. Discussion: Sean amendment to add “will be accepted” & take out “only” 2nd – Kate. Vote on amendment – All in favor with 1 abstention. Amendment by Jay that the bronze meet will be the final meet to allow a cut-off time for that season's championship. 2Nd – Tom B. Discussion: In USA swimming, there are multiple entry deadlines to get in first time qualifiers. Why are we being more limiting to our athletes? All higher level USA meets use multiple entry deadlines. In Virginia, you can enter that day for a \$25 fine. Amendment is opposite to what the proposed amendment is so it's not germane and will not be allowed. Steve amendment

that the times have to come from a USA-Sanctioned meet and not a USA time trial. 2Nd – Tom B. Discussion: Steve would like to see the times come from a meet with multiple teams and not a time trial. He would like to see the meet on the MSI sanctioned meet which would exclude observed swims. One of the athlete reps asked why we are running differently in our LSC than from USA Swimming rules? The problem right now is not really the rule but that teams within the LSC feel some did not go to the Bronze meet for various reasons. Each team can choose which meet or time trials they attend. As long as everything is within the rules, it is up to each team what they would like to do. How does this affect Masters swimmers? Due to membership restrictions, Masters would not Vote on proposal – All in favor with 5 opposed & 3 abstentions. Vote – Passes.

5. Policy & Procedure 1.2.A.3 – MSI offers a Single Meet Open Water membership for a fee of \$13.00, of which \$10.00 is forwarded to USA-S and \$3.00 is retained by MSI. The single meet memberships are good for 3 days. This membership type is not valid for competition at or above the Zone Championship level. - Effective date of May 14, 2011. Motion to approve by Sean. 2Nd – Steve. Vote – All in favor. Vote – Passes.

Winter Champs 2012

This morning, the BOD decided their 1st choice is Bowdoin on March 7th-10th, the 2nd choice is Bowdoin March 15th-18th and the 3rd choice is UMaine which is March 15th-18th. Matt brought up that it was passed for 13 and over to move to 7 events. Technical Planning and coaches will look at this issue. For next winter, it will be 7 events with the present scoring. Tom B. is in charge of looking into facilities and dates for Winter Champs.

Summer Champs 2011

Coaches supported going to a 2 ½ day format in St. John. We will have to suspend the rules temporarily for the meet. One of those is F2.1 – 11-12s would be swimming trials and finals so the events be \$5 instead of \$4. Motion by Matt to suspend. 2Nd – Eric. Discussion: What happens if this doesn't pass? 11-12 and 13-14 will be swum separately. The events will be 6 for everyone. How long does this suspension last? Just this summer. Will the points be different? We will talk about that later. Vote – 18 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstention. Vote – Passes.

1. Suspend the rule to have 12 and under age groups for 200s of strokes and the 400 IM for Summer Champs. In trials, they would all swim together. In finals, there would be a 14 and under age group and a 15 and up age group. Won't that cause the 11-12s to not swim those events because they will be scored with the older kids? This could be encouraging kids to not swim distance events. National wants us to concentrate on distance events for swimmers. No motion to pass. Motion fails.

2. Suspend the rules of scoring because the number of events has changed to 6 events for all. Motion by Jay to pass. 2Nd – Lia. Vote – 21 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. Vote – Passes.

2012 Summer Champs

The dates of July 18^h - 21st were proposed. We talked about moving it back a week to July 25th – 28th. Motion to have Champs the last weekend of July and end the meet on Sat. 2nd – Jay. Vote – All in favor with 1 abstention.

2011-2012 Meet Schedule

The 2012 SYOA will be the 14th and 15th of July 2012. They would like to hold their Odd Age meet on June 3rd. The January 29th 2012 CMA meet will come off the schedule. HOD will move to October 1st. Motion to approve the schedule by Jim. 2Nd – Matt. Vote – All in favor. Vote – Passes.

Junior Athlete Reps

We will vote this summer on 3 Junior Athlete Reps. Anyone that coaches or HOD feels would do a good job, ask them and have them nominated. The Senior athlete reps along with Leanne will help look for nominations.

Summer Zones

Swimmers with a AA time can apply. Judy will prepare everything. Judy asked appropriate time to discuss coach and swimmers. Not until application time. Usually coach with most swimmers is the coach that is reimbursed. MSI reimburses up to 5 swimmers. Laura recommended that from past experience, she has gone without a coach and it would be great to send a coach. Coaches from private clubs that are sending swimmers could do something to have their coaches attend the meet. Having a deadline of the Monday after summer champs was recommended.

Anything Else?

Leanne asked that coaches that had athletes attending a higher level meet talk to her so that numbers are known for budgeting purposes. Jim would like to suspend the rules so that everyone who would like to go to Sectionals & Grand Prix meet that the swimmers have to make the Super Sectionals cut in order to be reimbursed. The rule is 23.6 to suspend for this summer. 2Nd – Jay. Discussion: In the past, numbers have been taken and this was not done this year. It was also discussed to reimburse kids who come back from college and attend those meets. Sean brought up a point in Robert's Rules that we may not be able to suspend the rules because they were actual policies and procedures and not rules. Jim's understanding was that we cannot suspend by-laws but that we can suspend rules, which are our policies and procedures. Under Robert's Rules, there is the ability to discuss, debate and re-consider the vote. Since this is the HOD, there are people who don't attend coach's meetings and the function of the HOD is that all voices from all teams can be represented. Jim passes to Tom M, which is the admin vice-chair. Sean

should be allowed to state where he feels we are out of order and state what he didn't get to voice an opinion on. He doesn't feel that those are valid orders. Jim's points are to change the fees for 11-12 because they are swimming trials and finals so it will be a little more expensive, one is to make a 14 and under age group and the other is to standardize scoring since everyone will be swimming 6 events. Discussion: Basically, this is sanctioning a meet for 11-12s where we are limiting those kids to the number of choices they have. We are specializing them at an age that is very young. This is not in the best interest of our athletes developmentally. The emotional part of trials/finals puts pressure on 11-12s to succeed in the finals. It is also a lot of training for swimmers, especially distance swimmers, to put in for younger athletes. Younger athletes do not do double sessions which trains kids to be able to compete in a trials/finals competition. These athletes may not be developed enough to do the longer distance events. This LSC has discussed going the direction of what National is doing and in other LSCs, they run trials and finals for 11-12s. Only letting 11-12s do 6 events is putting an emphasis on specializing kids which is young. If they are given more shots at swimming the same event, they will have more opportunities to approve. TPC has discussed in the past using this as an experiment to see how it works having 11-12s do trials and finals. Because we don't have a long course facility in the state, this gives them more opportunities to swim in a long course facility. Running all the distance events and having 11-12s do finals is a lot of changes all at once. This issue has been discussed multiple times at multiple different locations at meets and the Board level. Coaches and TPC make recommendations on how to run meets. Tom's recommendation is to put the proposals in front of the HOD. Jim could have decided, but put it before HOD as a courtesy.

HOD will now vote to approve what's been approved by the coaches. In previous years when this has happened, the General Chair has brought it to the HOD and HOD has consented to the change. In the fall, the policy and procedures changes would be proposed. The changes are 2 ½ day format, trials and finals for 11 and up, 14 and under age group and 15 and up for 200s & 400 IM and scoring be standardized for all age groups. Entry fees were not in the coaches proposal but Jim is adding \$5 for 11 and up entries and \$4 for 10 and under age groups. Jim will amend to keep 11-12 separate at night with a majority vote of HOD and 4 opposed. It is up to the meet referee's discretion to combine as needed.

Vote – All in favor with 5 opposed and 1 abstention.

Matt asked a question about attending the ASCA clinic. Jim will talk with him about this.

Jeff Easterling talked about the Sebago Challenge. It will be July 30 at Sebago State Park with a 1k for 12 and under and 3k & 5k for 13 and up. Participation will be limited to 150 for 1k and 150 combined for the 3k & 5k. It's open to USA and Masters swimmers. Registration cards are being collected for Masters. Clubs can print off rosters and give it to the Seals for proof of membership. There are 3 campgrounds available right now and 1 for the meet staff.

Chris talked about Brad meeting with Jay & Leanne on the Bowdoin Open. In the minutes, it says AA times, but was supposed to be A times. With BB times, the number of swimmers would be greatly reduced. For MSI, there are about 110 boys and 120 girls that have the 15-16 AA times which would reduce the numbers greatly. With cuts, this may also encourage teams from out-of-state to come and compete. Brad will be talking with out-of-state teams that attend the meet to see what they think of the cut times. Brad was amenable to having Maine teams have a 1 week entry window before other teams are allowed into the meet. Send Chris & Brad an e-mail if you know numbers on your team as to how many swimmers you will have. Cut times will be put in for all age groups. The cut times right now being considered are BB for everything except the 50 events. It was also discussed to get bonus swims with depending on how many cut times an athlete makes. There has been mis-information about last year's meet. The meet directors did not know that a large club from New England would be attending and once that team put in entries, the meet was full.

Next Meeting: October 1st 2011

Motion to adjourn by Sean. 2Nd – Tom B. Vote – All in favor. Vote – Passes.

Meeting adjourned approximately 2:10pm.