

Minutes MESI Crisis Management

July 30, 2020 via Zoom



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: Kristy Barry, Marcel Da Ponte (8:20), Holly Hatch, Taylor Rogers, Jim Willis

Absent: Maddie Buck,

Guest: Henry Clauson, Mary Ellen Tynan

Jim turned the meeting over to Henry to review the COVID sanction guidelines he developed with Mary Ellen's input (see document). Henry has spent weeks reviewing what MESI needs to do to return to competition. He has consulted other LSCs, Zones, etc. We now need to put something in place for potential competition to start. Each LSC must come up with baseline requirements based on Maine guidelines. Then each club who wants to run a meet must come up with a plan unique to their facility. The purpose of the document is to put policies in place to create consistency across the state and is compliant with USA-S and officials' expectations. Within next week or two must have some form of this in place to be able to review sanctions. This is not set in stone and things are changing on an on-going basis. Right now COVID is stable in Maine so unless we have to contract again, the plan will hopefully become less restrictive as we move into the fall.

Henry reviewed the types of meets. Mary Ellen clarified that in the non-sanctioned virtual meets all swimmers must be registered USA Swimmers.

State of Maine: no more than 50 in attendance at an indoor meet session. That includes swimmers, coaches, times, volunteers and parents. So somewhere between 33-38 swimmers in a session.

Requiring a release. These are two forms that need to be done before the meet. One is an affirmation document that affirms the swimmer is not sick. This is more for contact tracing not punitive. The second is a waiver of liability that they only need to sign once as an MESI swimmer regardless of the number of meets they attend.

No more than three sessions a day is his recommendation to balance officials, cleaning, etc.

Must be pre-seeded. No deck entries. True to published heat sheet.

Officials will be changing such as electronic whistles, DQs by radio. Henry trying to secure more radios.

Discussed masks, entering and leaving pool flow to minimize contact and maximizing social distancing. Cannot use the locker rooms. Come to pool already dressed.

Minimize spectators. No elderly or little kids.

This document has been reviewed and thoroughly discussed. Would like it in place next week.

Marcel clarified that using this document and tailor it to each team's facility. Marcel noted that his biggest issue will be if his facility even allows it. Look at USA-S return to competition guidelines and present plan to facility and they might become more comfortable with it. Marcel says he has one of the first meets on the schedule for the fall and it looks like it might not happen then. Henry said the point is to allow clubs to get things started for the clubs. Not every club will jump on this. Goal is to work with each team to see how we can get things to move forward.

Jim has questions:

1. Warm-up: two people per lane. Jim said some are practicing with three. Is it ok if we are stricter than what the home team is doing. Henry said two per lane for meet because of other people in the facility. Minnesota doing

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three per lane
and Henry has
talked to
official's chair

there and it was a nightmare. Two is easier but one is best. Some teams run meet in four lanes and leave an empty lane and then leave a lane for warm-up/warm-down

2. Locker room use is ok in Maine now? Henry said no. Locker room use is not OK. Will not be the policy for meets regardless
3. Would we run an approved meet? Mary Ellen says you can if you would like to. Must do all the background work and apply through USA Swimming. Henry clarifies all previous processed in place and then these are additional.

Henry clarified bathroom usage. Must have designated bathroom and it must be cleaned.

Mary Ellen had discussed with Henry about a financial penalty for non-compliance. Henry had put in \$1000. Everyone agrees it must be severe. Taylor said we are talking about the health of our swimmers. Marcel suggested \$500 but then rethought it. Jim suggested it say "up to \$1000" to allow for flexibility. \$1000 would be if someone grossly ignores the protocol. Marcel asked who decides the penalty. Meet Referee, Officials Chair and Sanctions Chair would be responsible for determining a fine and appeal would go to BOD.

Taylor asked about MESI liability if something happens at a meet. Mary Ellen noted that all meet information releases MESI of liability. If we are follow the rules we are good. Swimmers must sign liability release in addition but that is not a license to be lackadaisical. Biggest threat is media attention is something bad happens. We need to have procedures in plan. Also it is optional for a club to participate. It is their choice to do this and the parents have to access that risk themselves.

Mary Ellen asked if team is ready to move forward on Monday. Taylor makes a motion to recommend this guidelines to the BOD. Second by Kristy. Motion approved. Henry will update and get to Mary Ellen

Jim noted that the LSC leaders meetings will now be once a month on Thursday. Next is August 13th so our next meeting should be 13th at 8PM to fall in line. Regionally based toolkit will be out September 12th. CLMBS 201 will be virtual. Governance meeting was on Tuesday. Jim listened to some and Mary Ellen and Jack Pillsbury were also on.

YMCA had future planning meeting not COVID related and this Tuesday (Aug 4th) will meet to discuss for 20-21.

NFHS has COVID course Jim would like to recommend to the BOD that this course be required for coaches. He assumes it is free. Taylor makes a motion to recommend to the BOD, Holly seconds. Mary Ellen asks if required for every coach. Would certification be taken away if they don't have it. Mary Ellen suggests that it be required for the Head Coach. Taylor suggested head coach plus a non-athlete. Mary Ellen reports that is hard to monitor. Head Coach requirement will be recommended to the BOD.

Jim noted that Bar Harbor has tourists everywhere. Jim can't imagine his area staying clean much longer. Marcel has noticed a lot of out of state license plates around. Henry works in downtown Portland and it has been very busy.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ellen Tynan