



## **MAINE SWIMMING, INC. | TECHNICAL PLANNING MEETING Tuesday, December 21 , 2021 | 8:00 AM (VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES**

### **1. Call to Order & Reading of Mission, Vision & Core Values**

- a. MISSION: Create opportunities and provide resources to promote excellence in Maine swimming.
- b. VISION: Maine Swimming - You CAN get there from here!
- c. CORE VALUES: Sportsmanship. Excellence. Leadership. Fun.

### **2. Roll Call**

- a. members
  1. Paul Monyok – Chair - Present
  2. Henry Claussion – Official’s Chair - Present
  3. Marcel Da Pointe – Coaches rep - Present
  4. AJ Rog – Age Group Chair - absent
  5. Jim Willis – Senior Chair - present
  6. Ethan Schultz – Athlete - absent
  7. Ali Bragg – Athlete - absent
- b. guests
  1. Mary Ellen Tynan
  2. Brian Sponge Savage
  3. Holly Hatch
  4. Taylor Rodgers
  5. Matt Baxter
  6. Todd Larlee

### **3. Reading & Approval of Minutes**

- a. No minutes to review/approve

### **4. Reports**

- a. No reports

### **5. Unfinished Business**

- a. No Unfinished Business

### **6. New Business**

- a. Discuss Winter Champs – Plan B (and Plan C?)

Plan A which is to have Winter Champs at UMaine is in question due to regulations surrounding COVID. The regulations can be found here and was updated as of Dec 16 2021 (<https://goblackbears.com/sports/2021/10/11/covid-19-vaccination-attendance-policy.aspx>)

The issues concerning Maine swimming is, one that the university could “pull the plug” and not allow our winter champ swim meet due to a surge in COVID or other reason. Two, that the requirement for any event exceeding 250 people, attendees must have a negative COVID test for admission.

It was first discussed that we should have a back up if for some reason we are not able to have the winter champs meet as scheduled. The group discussed a few options. Sponge from LRSC offered the Bath Y as a back up location for the swim meet.

People were apprehensive about the ability for the Maine Swimming community to comply with the UMO regulations. Marcel had indicated that he had just come back from a national level meet and it was handled in a very similar fashion, bag tags were handed out once checked in as proof. In our case



we could use a similar approach, wrist bands could be used. Henry mentioned that this type of regulation (what UMO is implementing) is becoming the norm whether swimming of any other business. It was determined that Maine Swimming could implement a plan to comply with the regulations. Henry offered to take the lead on this documentation. Part of the plan will include masks be worn at all times regardless of test results and/or vaccination status. The goal is to not become a super spreader event. The discussion moved to the idea that whatever plan is implemented, it could be used whether at the University of Maine or at Bath or at any location used for Winter Champs.

One concern as an example stated was a person who was all set to attend but didn't have the test done or it was older than the "within 72 hour" restriction. It was decided that a strict check in would be needed to handle this and that parent volunteers should not be subjected to what might become contentious. Sponge and Taylor offered to man the table. It should be pointed out that Sponge is certified for COVID testing.

The group also decided that Maine Swimming should assume that UMO will not provide any assistance in terms of policing or implementing testing on site, therefore Maine Swimming should have on hand a number of tests for extreme cases of last minute testing. An extreme case includes a coach or referee, who without their participation would jeopardize the integrity of the meet. It is not for someone who simply did not comply. Again this may occur at any venue and should be handled the same regardless of venue.

The discussion moved to where we stand with the University of Maine. Currently there is no official contract in place with the University of Maine. As with most years, this is not finalized until the end of January possibly February. It was stated that we (Maine Swimming) needs to provide protocols and numbers (athletes, coaches, spectators) to University of Maine in order to get their feedback and continue with contract negotiations. The idea was stated that spectators could be limited and/or restricted to the field house with a live feed, in an effort to keep numbers down. It was also pointed out that the budget may need to be adjusted to include money for tests as well as the fact that the price for lifeguards has gone up at the UMO facility.

Related to the contract, Marcel mentioned that he is very concerned that UMO will pull out and that he cannot take that risk and needs a championship meet. He stated he needs to know by Jan 15<sup>th</sup> or he will make other arrangements for his team and not attend winter champs.

Plan B was discussed. Plan B would be to have the meet at Bath Y. Sponge mentioned that he would make it happen. The concern was brought up that UMO offers a larger space with more spectators as well as our long-standing relationship with the facility. Sponge acknowledged that space is limited but that swimmers could be staged throughout the building to keep numbers down. It is most likely that spectators would not be in person if the meet were at Bath. It was discussed that the meet may need to be split over two separate weekends to keep numbers down. The idea was proposed that 13 and older swim on the weekend currently planned as other national meets will be in conflict otherwise. The 12 and under could go the following weekend. It was mentioned that volunteers, such as officials, are harder to come by for the younger group. That may also be a reason why we could not have the meets (13&over and 12&under) on the same weekend but separated at two venues.

Finally it was briefly discussed but another plan, call it plan C, could be to have the meet as regionals similar to last year. Most people were in agreement that it is not ideal and that having everyone under one roof with good competition is the goal. This is why Umaine offers Maine Swimming the best opportunity to achieve that goal. Bath with an 8-lane pool and space for staging is a good second option.

Next steps (related to this item) are to review the protocols initiated by Henry. Acquire counts from each team on how many in attendance at winter champs.



Proceed with contract negotiations with UMO based on this information  
Provide information to board at next meeting  
Consult with Crisis Committee if needed to execute plan

b. Confirm Developmental Meet #2 Bid – LRSC (CMA withdrew bid)  
Quickly discussed this event.  
The Olympian Brendan Hansen is scheduled to come  
It was confirmed that Bath will be hosting, a contract is forthcoming  
Sign ups for swimmers are not yet open  
Sign ups to officiate are open

## **7. Announcements**

a. No announcements

## **8. Adjournment**

a. Motion  
b. Second