

MSI Technical Planning Committee
March 23, 2015
5-9pm
Bath YMCA

Present: Jay Morissette, AJ Rog, Betsy Perron, Fritz Homans, Leanne Gravel, Mary Ellen Tynan, Marie Weferling, Matt Baxter, Jim Willis, Tom Manduca, Betsy Bradley, Matt Vogel, Lia Langveld, Nicole Viele, Dan St.Pierre, John Williams

Jay Morissette began the meeting with a review of the TPC responsibilities:
Per MSI By-Laws:

"...the Technical Planning Committee, which is responsible for long-range planning regarding the swimming programs conducted by MSI, the continuing review and development of the MSI philosophy and for advising other committees and divisions regarding the implementation of that philosophy in the context of MSI's swimming programs.

...TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE - The members of the Technical Planning Committee shall be the Technical Planning Committee Chair, who shall serve as chair, an Athlete Member and at least six (6) additional members of whom at least fifty percent (50%) shall be Coach Members. The Athlete Member and the additional members shall be appointed by the General Chair with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors."

Tom Manduca, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, appointed all present at the meeting to the technical planning committee, except for himself.

Junior Olympics Discussion

The question was posed for consideration:

Is it time for a separate senior meet? Do we have enough numbers to support two separate championship meets and do we have the manpower to run two separate championship meets?

Entry stats 2015 JO's:

123 10 & under swimmers

157 11-12 swimmers

330 + 13 & over swimmers

3000 entries (past 3 years – 3400 entries)

Before JO Trials, 107 swimmers had Bonus Swims; most were 12&U.

MSI official base is growing and could probably support to championship meet.

Fritz: Could we open up a march senior meet to New England swimming? Could we hold a senior meet in December at Bowdoin, in addition to but not instead of JO's?

Marie suggested an 11& Over JO meet where 11 and 12-year-olds could also compete in finals along with a separate 10 and under championship meet .

Matt Baxter: 2015 JO's were not the ideal championship meet.

Fritz: At Bowdoin, there are more lanes than there are at the University of Maine.

Matt Baxter: Yet there would not be a drastic time difference were the meet held at Bowdoin. Feels 9 PM or after is too late to end the final session. He suggests removing the middle section of the meet and running JO's like a sectional meet.

Fritz: Bowden is expecting us in 2016 and 2017.

John Smith via email:

Advocates for separate, time standards based 12& U championship meet and a 13-18 championship meet. An all age-group Trials/Finals meet could be offered for those swimmers who do not meet time standards. Would alleviate crowding on deck, in warm-up and in stands, would allow for more time-efficient and less stressful [for coaches and officials] sessions, would put less stress on college pool hosts, would allow ALL swimmers to compete in a championship meet.

Jim Willis: Does not think we need to separate the meets likes the idea of the "big pool " meet for the ten and unders. Doesn't want to conflict with YMCA states.

Would two meets fit into the MSI meet calendar and would they fit into the host pools' calendars?

Matt Vogel: This year's CMA qualifier meet was the same time as Y States and the team wasn't happy with meet format.

What is the object of moving 10 and unders out of Junior Olympics? Is it out of concern for the swimmers or is it out of concern for the coaches and officials?

Benefits of removing ten & unders from the Junior Olympic meet:

- 10 and under short championship meet would be attractive to new parents.

- A shorter meet would be easier on the coaches, officials and the swimmers.

 - Finals could start and finish earlier each night.

- 11 and 12-year-olds would have the opportunity to swim prelims and finals.

- Re-locating 10 and under swimmers to another pool/meet may make it easier to patrol off-limits area of college host facilities.

- Younger swimmers could have their championship meets after the older swimmers which will avoid calendar and training conflicts with Sectionals and Y

Nationals.

We could loosen up the 10 and under qualifying times and add 8 & unders.

A 10 & under championship meet could be held at a smaller venue.

Drawbacks to separating the ten & unders:

May not fit into the calendar.

Without changing the cut times (which would cut about 50 swimmers out of each age group) or coming up with a creative seating arrangement, an 11 & older meet would be too crowded on deck,

Having trials and finals for 11 and 12-year-olds would limit the diversity of events that they could compete in, unless the number of permitted events entered increases. Matt Vogel pointed out that 11 and 12 swimmers in Indiana would swim trials and finals but not 200s in finals.

Motion by Lia Langveld second by Leanne Gravel:

Remove ten & unders from the current Junior Olympic format.

The amended motion fails with the majority opposed.

Discussion: a lot is contingent on available dates.

Amendment to the motion by Jay Morissette, second by John Williams: if Bowdoin gives us March 10-13th, then we can have an 11 and over championship; if we are locked into March 17-20 at Bowdoin, keep all age groups together.

Vote to attach the amendment to the motion passes. 11 yes; 1 no; 1 abstain

Post amendment discussion:

Why do we need to separate the age groups if we are at Bowdoin?

Nicole Viele: we are thinking a longer-term, not just for the next year or two.

Motion by Matt Baxter second by Jay Morissette:

Create a separate ten & under championship meet.

Motion passes. 7 yes; 3 no; 3 abstain

Discussion we could hold 13 and over preliminaries in the morning 11 and 12 preliminaries in the middle session and finals for 11 and overs in the evening session like the Summer Zone format. With the Summer Zone format we won't have to lower the cut times to limit the number of swimmers on deck.

Fritz Homans proposed amending Matt's motion to refer to meets held only at the University of Maine.

Matt Baxter rejects the amendment.

Matt Baxter does not like the idea of a middle session.

Leanne Gravel suggested making qualifying times faster to cut down the number of swimmers.

Marie Weferling suggested we can run the meet faster with other changes such as instituting a positive check in procedure.

Mary Ellen Tynan asked if everyone has to be on deck? Can we have a holding area outside the pool area? General response: no holding area likely at Bowdoin.

Betsy Bradley urged the TPC not to lower the qualifying times. WCY has worked very hard on promoting USA swimming among traditionally Y swimmers; the team earned the Level I Team Recognition status. If we are trying to grow USA swimming in Maine, we should not cut the numbers who can attend the championship meets.

JO's Meet Packet Review

Motion by Fritz Homans, second by John Williams:

Make a proposal to the HOD to outsource meet management to professional meet manager.

Motion passes. 13 yes;2 no;1 abstain

Discussion: This will take the politics out of running a meet and won't overtax volunteers. Meet manager would handle all aspects of running the meet. Two people could be hired for \$5500 or one person could be hired for \$4000. This would not include printing costs which are approximately \$2000/ winter and \$1000/summer.

With a solid meet management we could allow swimmers to over-enter for their events and "scratch down" once the meet starts.

Motion by Jay Morissette, second by Fritz Homans:

Change the term "senior" to "15 and older" except in relays where we use the term "open".

Motion passes. 12 yes; 3 no; 1 abstain

For the 1000 and the 1650, maintain the term "open" or "senior" allow anyone to enter, regardless of age, as long as their times meet the time standards and fall into event limit parameters. Younger athletes would have to accept that this would negatively affect high-point earning potential.

Motion by Jim Willis,second Betsy Perron:

Relays will be timed finals in the following categories: 12 and unders 14 and unders and seniors.

Motion passes 12 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain

Motion by John Williams, second by Lia Langveld:
Hold timed finals in the 1000 and 1650 seeded by time not age.

Discussion: this offers better competition for all swimmers; younger swimmers may be overwhelmed.

Motion fails. 5 yes, 7 no, 2 abstain

Motion by Matt Baxter second by Jim Willis:

For timeline purposes at finals, allow 11 and 12's two heats for events that are 100 yards or less; 1 heat of events 200 yards and over.

Motion passes 13 yes 2 no

Motion by Jay Morissette, second by Nicole Viele:

Eliminate the \$100 no-show relay fine.

Motion fails unanimously.

Motion by Jim Willis, second by Jay Morissette

Relay-only swimmers should be eligible to swim relays at JO's if they are properly USAS registered by the meet entry deadline with a valid card or deck pass account.

Motion passes 8 yes, 2 no, 3 abstain

Motion by Jim Willis, second by Jay Morissette:

11 & over swimmers can swim in six individual events.

Discussion: Leanne Gravel and Matt Baxter suggest making it seven individual events. Jim Willis remembers that that did not work in past years.

Motion fails 2 yes, 10 no, 1 abstain

Motion by Matt Baxter, second by Leanne Gravel:

11 and older can enter up to seven events in the meet with no more than three events per day.

Motion passes 9 yes; 3 no; 1 abstain

Motion by Jay Morissette, second by Lia Langveld:

Allow three relays for each age group -- 200 medley, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle

Motion amended by Leanne Gravel, second by John Williams:

11 and over relays -- 400 medley relay, 400 freestyle relay, one each day; 200 freestyle relay, 200 medley relay both in one day [one swims in the morning one swims at night]

Amended motion passes yes 10, 2 no, 2 abstain

Motion by Leanne Gravel:

No more than three relays per team per relay event

Motion fails 13 no; 1 yes; 1 abstain

TPC voted in favor of allowing swimmers to add any events earned at the JO Trials meet to the JO entries. Since swimmers will be allowed to over-enter and "scratch down".

Additional changes to meet packet: add the name of the entry chair. Update the name of the meet location. Change the entry deadline to read "Entries will be accepted until nine days before the start of the meet."

Under entry information regarding entry times: "Entry times must be achieved during or after the first day of the previous season's JO's."

Change entry deadline time from 12 PM to 11:59 PM

Additional entry procedures and other updates to the meet packet to be discussed at the next TPC meeting.

Summer International Invitational

Motion by Jim Willis , Fritz Homans second:

Accept the same format for the Summer International Invitational that we had in 2014. Cap meet at 400 to 450 swimmers.

Motion passes unanimously.

Jim Willis would like to change the 400 IM to a timed final, last event of the morning session on Friday. Make the 400 freestyle a timed final at night on Friday .

The meet packet will be ready by April 15.

Developmental Meets

Jim Willis suggested eliminating the D3 meet if we are keeping JO Trials and intend to have 10 and under Championships which include eight and unders.

For the D1 meet, there will be two locations and times -1 on Saturday and one on Sunday.

Matt Baxter suggested for developmental meets we have a progressive cut time the first meet would be sea level and the second meet would be B level. We would offer events not normally seen at invitational meets.

Motion by Jim Willis, second by Jay Morissette:

For the D1 and D2 meets, have open, mixed gender events with no awards. Table the events discussion for a later meeting.

Motion passes with majority vote.

Motion by Jim Willis, second by Matt Baxter:

Cut out the D3 meet entirely.

Motion passes unanimously.

JO Trials

Motion by Leanne Gravel, Jay Morissette second:

Change entry requirements to reflect the new JO's entry requirements:
"Entry times must be achieved during or after the first day of the previous seasons JO meet."

Motion passes

10 and Under Championships

Question: should we have cuts or leave the time entry times wide open?

Decision: "B" cuts for 910-year-olds; leave the eight & under entries open. There will be five events allowed per day.

Motion: 2016 Championship Meet Dates

Option A:

If Y States are February 26-28, JO trials will be March 5-6; 10 and under championships March 12 -13th; JO's March 17-20

Option B

If Y States are March 4-6 then JO trials and 10 and under Championships will be held on the same weekend of March 12-13th; Junior Olympics March 17-20

Motion passes yes 14; no 1

Time Trials

Policies and procedures regarding time trials were discussed.

Motion by Matt Baxter second by Matt Vogel:

Table the time trial discussion for another meeting.

Motion passes yes 13; no 2; abstaining 0

Motion by Jay Morissette second by Lia Langveld:

Propose a Policy and Procedure change to the Board of Directors that a relay record can be broken at a time trial meet.

Motion passes unanimously

Jay Morissette will send an email to Tom Manduca for discussion at the Board of Directors proposing that for MSI hosted meets, any meet fee not paid by the first day of the event will result in a fine of one dollar per entered event.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9 PM passes unanimously