



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

Maine Swimming Technical Planning Meeting

7:00 pm 2/18/2020

Via ZOOM

Present: Marcel Da Ponte, Caroline Mahoney, Brian Savage (Sponge), Mike Schmidt, Marie Weferling (7:08PM)

Absent: Kristy Barry, Matt Baxter, John Smith

Guests: Jay Morissette, Mary Ellen Tynan, Jim Willis

Meeting called to order at 7:03PM by Marcel

Marcel described the protocol for the meeting.

Athlete Perspective:

Marcel then asked Caroline what athletes think about the tentative meet schedule. Caroline reported that she and Kristy had talked and they thought they were good options to work with. The developmental options look good. Then discussion about senior opportunities and need to have two types of opportunities for seniors. There is Bowdoin and Winter Champs right now. She felt if we have a senior meet bonus could be added as needed. She felt that separating seniors out is a good idea if we can get competition from New England to come.

Marcel clarified that he had not spoken with Caroline personally about this prior to the meeting so they are Kristy and her ideas. Marcel does not want to put forward a proposal that won't work.

Review of Meets:

D1 -relies heavily on KVY and BYB. MESI cleared about \$3600 with 188 swimmers so not a bad meet but if KVY or BYB don't attend, meet is in trouble.

D2 - TCST hosted. 40% of swimmers from KVY. Only 6 teams. Drop in attendance of about 30 swimmers. Number of teams has decreased from 12 to 6. Income has declined from \$2300 in 2018 to \$1380 to \$1218. Marcel asked if Caroline ever attended the D2 meet and she had in 2017. Marcel asked what she thought of the meet. Marcel noted that he does not have the meet on the schedule. Caroline noted that senior level swimmers focus on Bowdoin Open and bigger level meets like the BU trials/finals meet, champs, etc. Caroline would rather have fewer meets but bigger more competitive meets. Caroline did say she would ask around to other swimmers.

Trials and Champs - At winter champs we had 564 swimmers. At trials we had just under 400. Two huge meets. Trials meet 2018: over \$7000 2019 over \$8000. But we will be missing Nova Scotia this year. Trials was only MESI meet that increased profit this year. Nova Scotia was about \$2200 last year. Jim said that's about 40 kids. Winter champs lost \$400.

Mary Ellen left meeting at 7:20PM.



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Usually at about 640 swimmers at champs. Last year numbers down and UMO almost double the price of Bowdoin. Raised fees this year and will raise again next year. Hopefully we can get some sponsorships to increase profit. Colby will probably be more expensive than Maine. Maine charged \$22000 about last year including video which was about \$3500.

Senior Meet: Is a senior level meet viable at all? Jim's dream is to continue with Winter Trials Meet week after vacation. Then have a Senior Age Group meet. 13 & under final, 14-15 age group, 16 & over and super final. This would be all in one site (2nd weekend of March). Would give more time before Sectionals and Y nationals. Try to do something with Bowdoin also. Make it more of a senior level type meet. Bowdoin is a huge meet that makes a lot of money. Cut times do need to be looked at. Are these our decisions anyway? 12 & unders will not be part of the meet anyway. He has not changed the cuts since the early 1990s. Direct him towards the new cuts. If more a senior meet he may be more teams but less swimmers.

Marcel would like to see us go in a senior level direction but not sure we have the numbers as Maine alone to make this happen. John Smith called today and he attended a meet in Wellesley. He talked to CRA, ABF and NSSC and they have interest in attending a senior level meet in early to mid-March. Senior meet is in December in New England. They have a Regional Meet, Silver meet 12 & unders and 13 and overs. Jim says he hates to rely on 3-4 teams in New England to plan a senior meet. Sponge – it would be very difficult to pull off. If we want to run a senior level meet we need to run a Senior level meet. Marcel asked – do we not have an issue at this point? Are we OK? It is job of TPC to make sure we are moving forward in the right manner. It would be fantastic to have a senior level meet if we can actually get people there.

Mike – when looking at end of season meets, you are looking at targets like YNATS or winter champs cuts. Looking for best possible environment. Champs has a great environment with the number of kids. There is electricity. We do not have a lot of pools in the state to give us options. If you have a senior meet and only have a smaller group of kids from your team with bigger teams from New England is that the right environment. You would be splitting up your team. Meet targeted for top end kids who are going on to another meet anyway. Is that diluting that experience for them. Idea is to get it in a more advantageous time on the schedule.

Jim states the Matt Baxter doesn't support the Eastern Zone Sectional Meet is because it backs right up the week after champs. To move champs up a week would be better. Marcel asked Jim if he knows what Colby might charge to rent it out. They will charge more than Maine charges but not significantly more because they don't want to push themselves out that we won't come.

Marcel stated that he has looked at some many things over the last weeks, the numbers for a Senior Meet just don't add up. Maybe we could head in that direction in the future for the benefit of the swimmers.

Other Meets: Jim suggested we create a senior circuit. October - Training session and then a ½ meet, then another on in November with a training session and a 1 day meet. In January training session with a prelim – finals meet preferably LCM. We need a prelim-finals meet that does not include high school meets. Give them a chance to swim them and then champs meet the second weekend in March. This should hopefully get kids to go there. Marcel would like to see for maybe next year for winter champs meet go to a more uniform qualifying time standard just so we are on an even keel and uniform development. Jim states that for the 14 & unders you use the last four years of placement, but if we haven't had 30 kids in that event we open it up a



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bit. Marcel said Kentucky swimming uses 40th time from previous year's results. If there is no 40th time they use the BB. Jim says ours cannot be slower than a B. Marcel said he can get on board with something like that. Jim prefers the average over the past few years.

Mike asked if we need a proposal for a meeting in April. Marcel will be in touch via email with some changes after discussion at this meeting. Mike asked about Colby availability next season. Jim will email Tom. When would they be willing to host meets to us. Jim said definitely March 2021 will be open to us. Sponge suggested we invite Tom to one of these meetings.

Jim said to present what TPC thinks should be the entire schedule including other meets. Should the other meets be happening or not. Be sure to have everything in order for the schedule. Marcel mentioned the Regional meet proposal for three meets. We don't have enough swimmers for three Regional meets. At best we can have a north and a south, but who will run it in the north? At this point we cannot have a Senior meet without guarantees from NE. Where would we host in the north? Get out of Husson and maybe move to KVV or MMD and hold the developmental meets there. Same for D2 meet. It would pull in more people than going to Husson and Bates.

Marcel notes they can discuss these thoughts among the TPC.

Jay reported that 25 years ago a committee met that had the same discussions. Are we meeting out op, middle and lower level swimmers? If we are then don't need to change but if not then we should. Different teams have different cultures about travelling out of LSC, but then they don't attend the Canada meet. Jay feels the Canada meet is a great meet and meets the needs of many level of swimmer.

Marie wonders why the teams keep going to New England. Marcel said competition and better facilities. Jay also noted some are closer to Boston than to meets in central or northern Maine. Marcel can get to MIT for a great trials/finals meet and much closer than Canada. Jay noted that most kids who go to new England Seniors do not get night swims while they would in Canada. That would help the mid-level swimmers. Hard to argue they are not getting the best competition.

Jim consider the 2021 long course championships. Are they going to be at Colby or St. John? St John costs about \$10,000. Colby will be much more expensive. Also hotel rooms are hard to come by.

Marcel will get back to committee members by email.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.