

IL/MO Area YMCA Swim Committee Agenda
10:00am – 2:00pm Sunday, May 6, 2012
State Farm OAB Training Facility
2309 East Oakland Ave
Bloomington, IL 61704

(1) Introductions

(2) Officer Reports

a. Secretary

- i. Review/Approval of September minutes – approved as submitted.
- ii. Update of Area Roster – updated.
- iii. Reviewed Key Dates
 1. Confirm Fall Meeting – Sunday, September 30, 2012
 2. 2013 Area Champs – March 15-17, 2013 at Kishwaukee YMCA hosted by Kishwaukee YMCA
 3. IHSA Boys State Championship – February 22-23, 2013
 4. ISI Age Group Championship – March 8,9, &10, 2013 (per Jon Cabel, ISI AG Committee Chair)
 5. IHSA Boys State Championship – February 28 – March 1, 2014
 6. Probable ISI Age Group Champs – March 14-16, 2014

b. Treasurer

- i. All districts owe the area committee except Illini. Checks payable to IL/MO Area YMCA Swimming.
- ii. Motion made to include ‘Area Committee’ on name badges for Area Committee members. Motion passed. John will order badges for the area committee and pass out in the fall meeting.
- iii. Treasurers report submitted.

c. Chair

- i. Report of excused scratches/exceptions approved by the Area Chair and/or committee (officers):
 1. Northwest – 1 family exception approved due to first communion. They did not swim at the district meet but swam at the area champs.
 2. Town and Country – Joliet boy with chicken pox. Allowed an 8&U swim on the relay team in place of the ill swimmer; there were no other eligible 8&U swimmers available. The 8&U swimmer was ineligible due to entry limits and that was the rule which was waived per approval by the area officers.
 3. Chicago had one denied. Band trip/extra-curricular activity where a swimmer was not able to swim districts – exception was requested to waive swimmer requirement to swim at district and allow the swimmer to swim at the area champs.
 4. St. Louis had an exception requested for an athlete with a broken wrist primarily due to lack of substantiation to the district chair, and the district chair did not support and it was denied. The

swimmer was subsequently cleared for swimming by the MD and did swim.

(3) Committee reports

a. Officials Committee

- i. Appreciated help in identifying key positions for area meet.
- ii. Reviewed evaluation criteria used by St. Louis. Encouragement is made for each district to make extra effort for mentoring and bringing along/pulling through more officials into our key positions at the district and area level. Don't hesitate to contact experienced officials for help at dual meets – in our out of your district.

b. Webmaster

(4) Review of Area Champs

a. Financial Recap to be presented (Appendix A)

b. General Feedback

- i. Nice job but it needs to go south (Tom A)
- ii. Flow behind the blocks was good.
- iii. Bullpen logistics – over-zealous on relays especially 8&U. Swimmers were pulled in too soon.

(5) Area Summer Champs

- a. Anyone willing to host? Oak Park is not planning to host. There will not be a summer champ sanctioned meet.

(6) Old Business

- a. Dave Hedden – Q times – proposes that Q times cannot become slower. Amendment to the bylaws in the generation of the YMCA area qualifying times. Motion tabled for the spring meeting.

Current Rule:

- A. Each District shall be represented at the Area Championships by the first-place finisher in each event at the District Championships. This automatic qualifier shall be in addition to any swimmer(s) who meet or surpass the Illinois Area Qualifying Times in the designated event in the preliminaries or finals of the District Championships. Area qualifying times for each event shall be obtained by averaging the 20th fastest 'best time' in the past seven (7) years, eliminating the high and low times, of the consolidated District Championship meets. Further, a time standard may not change by any more than plus/minus 5 seconds from the previous year. Each year, these Rules (including the Illinois Area Qualifying Times for the next season) shall be distributed to Area Committee members no later than July 1.

Proposed:

- A. Each District shall be represented at the Area Championships by the first-place finisher in each event at the District Championships. This automatic qualifier shall be in addition to any swimmer(s) who meet or surpass the Illinois Area Qualifying Times in the designated event in the preliminaries or finals of the District Championships. Area qualifying times for each event shall be obtained by averaging the 20th fastest 'best time' in the past seven (7) years, eliminating the high and low times, of the consolidated District Championship meets. Further, a time standard may not change by any more than plus/minus 5 seconds from the previous year **nor shall it become slower**. Each year, these Rules (including the Illinois Area Qualifying Times for the next season) shall be distributed to Area Committee members no later than July 1.

Discussion:

Might impact call ups. With times not adjusted down based upon swim times, there may be fewer qualifiers at the district meet which may require more call-ups and more conflict by folks planning to do something else.

Proposal failed.

(7) New Business

- a. Election of area officers:
 - i. Chair
 1. John Lynch and Rome Yount were nominated. Rome was elected.
 - ii. Secretary
 1. John Lynch was nominated and elected.
 - iii. Treasurer
 1. Jacques Thro was nominated and elected.
- b. Proposed rule changes (the following are from the Northwest District):
 - 1) Remove rule 5.B (There shall be a limit of four (4) entries per association in the Area Championships in any individual event.)
 - Justification:
 - The state meet is supposed to mirror the National meet. This limit on entries is contrary to YMCA policies. The opening statement for the "rules that govern YMCA swimming" states, "Everyone wants, and should have, an equal opportunity to compete and a fair chance to win."
 - Our state time standards are out there for the swimmers to set goals and hopefully meet them during the season. The time standards do not have an * next to them to state that if you make this time at the district meet, you get to swim at the state meet, *UNLESS THERE ARE FOUR FASTER SWIMMERS ON YOUR TEAM WHO ALSO QUALIFIED FOR THIS EVENT*.
 - In the past, there were concerns about one team dominating the meet. Rather than micromanage that, let the kids determine who will win the meet.
 - Example-Grace Waller in 2011-after fighting her way back to the ranks of championship swimmers from cancer, she qualified for the state meet, but we had 4 swimmers who were faster than she was therefore, she didn't get to swim that year. What kind of YMCA message did we send?
 - Upon checking with other area committees and National chairperson concerning how other meets are run, none have this type of restriction in place.
 - This rule forces larger teams to look for other meet which will allow all of their swimmers to compete at a season ending championship meet. Rather than a meet which limits the team to only their four fastest swimmers in an event.

Motion tabled to the fall meeting.

- 2) Remove rule 10.J.iii (Upon completion of the race, the Deck Referee will long whistle the swimmers on to the blocks, and when ready, releases the race to the starter. The Deck Referee will ensure swimmers in the water are properly motionless and positioned before releasing the race.)

- Justification
 - Unnecessary-Micromanaging. Referees are capable of making an appropriate decision as to when to safely step up swimmers. Frequently, swimmers are whistled up while others are still on their last leg. Gives back control of the deck to the referee where it belongs.
 - Returns the ability to make up some time to the deck staff-helpful when storm and/or equipment delays happen.

Motion tabled to the fall meeting.

- 3) Remove from rule 12.B “, and the editor of Swimming World.”

- Justification
 - This is an outdated requirement for the Area Hosts.

Motion tabled to the fall meeting

- 4) Under “Responsibilities of the selected host;” Change "3 semi-automatic buttons per lane" to read "2 semi-automatic buttons and two watches per lane."

- Justification
 - 2 buttons are sufficient
 - National meet has 2 buttons
 - Easier to staff. Many teams complained about the amount of timers they needed to supply for the meet.
 - Less people on the deck and over the lanes

Motion tabled to the fall meeting

Proposal to remove the following rule regarding flyover starts:

- i. Deck Referee chirps swimmers ready when last swimmer has one length to swim.

There is a need to clarify the eligibility for relay participants. There are two proposals for the following rules:

- A. To participate in a relay event at the Area Championships, a swimmer must have participated in some portion of the swimmer's District Championships. (A swimmer shall have been deemed to have participated in District Championships if the swimmer did not actually swim, but was entered in such Championships and was unable to compete due to medical reason or other reason specifically approved in writing by the Meet Committee at the District Championships.)
- B. Except as provided in Rule 5C, in the Area Championships, relay team substitutions are permitted; provided that the swimmer being substituted has participated in his/her District Championships, and such participation does not cause the swimmer to have participated in more than four (4) different events throughout the swimmer's District Championships and the Area Championships combined. Any swimmer listed on a team roster that meets Area eligibility and participation rules will be accepted as an alternate.

Clarification for the fall meeting and final rule wording regarding whether an eligible relay participant must have been entered and swum (alternate on a relay does not count) OR an eligible relay participant must have been on the roster and met the requirements to have swum at the district meet without having been entered in the district meet. Wording should be as strict as possible, if exceptions are needed, we have an exception process. We may need to clarify practice regarding who can provide a declared false start to the referee.

Motion tabled to the fall meeting.

St Louis district wished to discuss dates for 2014 and potential bid to be submitted in the fall:

- Would be a joint district supported event
 - The date is March 15,16 2014 and would conflict with the probable ISI Age Group champ meet
 - 2 day format. Preliminaries for all on Saturday; finals for all on Sunday.
 - 2 short course pools, running each gender with 2 sessions in each pool simultaneously.
 - Running essentially like the National Meet
 - 500yd freestyle – final heat would be swum with finals.
 - Discussion:
 - Religious exceptions for Sunday?
 - Potential hotel issue, may not know you need to stay until after checkout.
 - Would there be a coaching staff issue?
 - Deck passes may need to be modified – there would be no limits per St Louis
 - 2 hours of warm-ups
 - Time Trials – Sunday after finals
 - Prelims relay exchanges on 100 would be from bulkhead – finals would be from blocks on the bulkhead
 - Entry fee - \$12 surcharge per swimmer, \$4 individual event, \$16 relay event
 - Currently the St Louis district nets 18-20K on the district meet
- c. Establish qualifying times for 2012-2013 season
- i. Dale Andersen volunteered to process the new Q times. Rome will send him the psych data from the 2012 area champs
- d. Other new business
- i. Question relating to the staff designate not being a voting member
- i The National Group Representative (non-voting), together with one non-voting representative from each District in the Area, which representative shall be an employee of a YMCA in such District;
- (a) As needed by the respective district, the staff designate for the district may vote at the area meeting. Notwithstanding, the district may not have more than 4 votes.

Motion tabled for the fall.

- e. Should we go to a uniform shirt for officials? Tom Merlin will research and bring a proposal to the fall meeting
- f. Updates from Dave Hedden:
 - i. Coaches - look for an email survey regarding coaches' clinics
 - ii. Kansas – John Lynch has volunteered to train officials in Kansas City. Kansas in general would like to reach out and become more involved in YMCA competitive swimming. There is interest in becoming a sixth district (Kansas City).
 - iii. Discussion:
 - 1. St Louis is willing to add the KS metro area to their district with the intent to create a 6th district or a separate YMCA area.
 - 2. There was general agreement this was good for the YMCA. The St. Louis district will work with the KS metro area to include them in their district. Discussion pended to the next year's spring meeting related to the creation of a sixth district (this is not intended to be a constricton but to put it out for follow-up and discussion.
- g. Lori reminded everyone we need to comply with the national branding requirements. Y-USA will be providing an update with more examples.
- h. Summer competitive YMCA swimming. Interest? The Chicago district runs a summer league. Season ending meet is the last weekend of July. Typically short course. There is the potential one of the meets becoming sanctioned to provide a summer sanctioned meet. If you are interested in participating, please contact Darby ... and consider summer competitive YMCA swimming.
- i. Adjournment at 2:33pm