

2025 Montana Swimming Virtual Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2025

General Chair Jay Friend called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Those in attendance included Jay Friend, Eric Belasco, Susan Huckleby, Kristen Wyatt, Brady Baughman, and joining late were Beth Storey and Teague McElwee.

There was some confusion over the meeting date this month. Originally it had been set for January 26. It had been changed to January 12 at the last meeting.

Jay stated BOZ submitted a bid to host the 2025 MT Swimming long course state that we would review.

The committee reports were skipped for this meeting.

New Business:

Meets with Prelim/Semi/Finals Rounds in Montana Swimming:

Prelim/semi/final meet formats may now be offered at Montana Swimming meets. For a time, MT Swimming would not sanction meets with semifinal rounds as the results wouldn't upload as part of the complete meet results in SWIMS. That problem has now been corrected. Susan is unsure how semifinal times will upload in Team Unify. Semifinal results upload in Team Manager.

Resolution: Montana Swimming teams may now host meets with preliminaries, semifinals. and finals.

Meet Entry Fee and Entry Fee Payments:

Teams have expressed concerns about sending payments to Beth. Beth lives in a newer area in Helena and apparently her address wasn't verified by the Post Office, so she didn't always get mail delivered. Beth had not specified her apartment number in her mailing address so that may have affected delivery as well.

MAC has had difficulty sending payments to Beth. They mailed checks and Jed also paid through Venmo. Beth told MAC afterwards that the Venmo account was no longer working. No one is certain where the money sent by Jed to the Venmo account is at this time. MAC sent their last check by certified mail which Beth received.

Also checks submitted haven't always been deposited in a reasonable time frame leading teams to be concerned if the checks were lost. Beth did not always have easy access to the bank, especially when she lived in Dillon as there was no First Interstate Bank branch there. There is a First Interstate Bank in Helena. Beth needs to be added to the Montana Swimming checking account. Checks need to be deposited in a timely fashion.

A method to accept electronic payments must be set up soon with 1st Interstate Bank. Jay will be at the Washington Open next week and will ask the PNS and Oregon Swimming people how they handle electronic payments.

Resolution: The Montana Swimming Finance Vice Chair will send a receipt by email within seven (7) days of receiving payment from teams.

Payments for the 2025 Short Course State will be made through OME by credit card except for fees for outreach athletes, late entries, and time trials. Payments for outreach and late entries should be made by check at the meet rather than mailing checks or pay by electronic means if available. Time trial payments can be made by check or in cash at the meet. Concerns were expressed that team entry fees in OME may exceed the limit on team credit cards. OME used to have the option to pay by credit card or by check. That payment option was dropped with the new SWIMS. Susan will check if it is now an option.

Fee payments for the BC Championships will be by check (unless an electronic payment option is available.) Susan has asked that teams bring a check for their entry fees to the meet rather than mailing a check.

For both Short Course State and BC Championships, all fees owed by teams (except meet fees for meets within 19 days of the start of the championship meet) must be paid in full or the teams will not be allowed to warm-up or compete until fees are paid. Susan will ask Beth to give Eric and her a weekly update on fee payments and who still owes them so fees can be paid by the championship meets.

2025 Long Course State Bid:

Bozeman Barracudas submitted a bid to host Long Course State for \$15,000+. They will ask for sponsorships that will be payable to BOZ to help offset the increased costs of hosting the meet.

Jay will send out an email vote to the board tomorrow asking for approval of the bid.

Round Table:

Recycled State Medals Drive: The recycled state medals drive has been very successful so far. Montana Swimming spends probably \$6500 a year or more for awards so these costs can be reduced by recycling the medals.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be in person on February 22 after finals conclude at Short Course State in Butte. There should be money in the budget to provide some food for this meeting. The time and location will be announced later.

Coach Table Issue at November Butte Meet:

At the November Mining City Classic meet in Butte, the coach tables on the deck had to be a minimum of four feet away from the edge of the pool per state law which reduced the space athletes had to walk behind the tables to speak to their coaches. One coach started telling the athletes that they could not walk behind the tables but instead should speak with their coaches at the end of the pool. This coach did not tell the other coaches that this had been said to the athletes. This created a problem.

Susan said this was not the policy at the meet and she was neither asked nor told about it.

Kristen stated that a temporary exemption could be granted by contacting the state to place temporary furniture closer than four feet from the edge of the pool. Susan will talk with the Butte YMCA and ask if this exemption could be obtained. For state, there needs to be space on the sides of the pool for officials to walk stroke and for lifeguards to move to their stations on deck.

Teague said it was easiest for athletes to talk to their coaches behind the tables rather than trying to find their coach on deck to talk to them.

Short Course State:

- The Butte YMCA will borrow backstroke ledges from BOZ.
- The t-shirt sales go to the Butte YMCA. Susan has contacted Fine Designs about selling shirts at SC State and the BC Champs and if they will provide white polos for the officials.
- Susan applied to Advantage Butte for \$4300 for awards for both meets. Advantage Butte meets January 21, and Susan will be at their meeting.
- Teams will need to provide timers.
- Teams will need to provide 2 safety marshals to work one session of the meet. The Butte YMCA doesn't have enough parents/staff to cover all the safety marshal positions all meet.
- Short Course State has been approved as an Officials Qualifying Meet (OQM) and evaluations will be offered for officials. Keith Lambert from Spokane and Susan are the evaluators. Susan asked Advantage Butte if a hotel room could be provided for Keith.
- Eric will order radios from Day Radio. Radios should be shipped to the Butte YMCA, attention John Thurmond.
- Eric will order the awards for the officials and the coaches.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm. Next meeting is on February 22 in Butte.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Huckleby
MT Swimming Secretary