

2025 Montana Swimming Proposals As Voted On at the Fall HOD Meeting Summary

Final

Block A – Proposals

Number	Description	Author	Final Vote	Pulled
1	New Montana Swimming Logo	Laura Parvey-Connors	PASS	
2	Development of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Montana Swimming Zone Team Head Coaches	Kirby Beierle	PASS	X
3	High School State Lead Off Relay Split Observations	Hayley Coursey	FAIL	X
4	Change Name of the MT Swimming Junior BC Championships to the MT Swimming BC Championships	Susan Huckleby	PASS	
5	Adopt USA Swimming Motivational Age Group Time Standards for 13-21 year old 50 Backstroke, 50 Breaststroke and 50 Butterfly to replace the current Montana Swimming time standards for these events. (Parts A and B)	Susan Huckleby	PASS	
6	Adjustment to SC State Championship Qualification Time Standards for 9–10 Age Group	Kirby Beierle	PASS as amended	X
7	Break SC State into two meets – Age Group State and Senior State. Eliminate Junior BC Championships	Jay Friend	FAIL	X
8	Change the MT Swimming Long Course State Qualifying Time Standards	Jay Friend	PASS as amended	X
9	Allow the meet host to determine if they want to mix the 10&U swimmers into the prelims session of Long Course State rather than run a separate session for the 10&U swimmers.	Jay Friend	PASS	X

Proposals: (Proposal wording is in bold)

(1) New Montana Swimming Logo

Submitted by Laura Parvey-Connors

Recommendation:

Action: **Passed**

Proposal: To request board approval to adopt the newly designed Montana Swimming logo as the organization's official mark, replacing the current logo effective October 1, 2025. Upon approval, the logo will be implemented across all apparel, printed materials, signage, and digital platforms.

Before and after comparisons are below — colors could change. Greens were used for the 2025 Zone Meet. Examples using colors similar to USA Swimming are also reflected below.

Proposed new logo in different colors

Oval MT Swimming swimmer logo and the original round MT Swimming logo



Key Benefits

- **Modern, Professional Look:** Reflects our organization's forward momentum and strong competitive spirit.
- **Versatile Across Applications:** Works equally well on embroidered polos, screen-printed t-shirts, swim caps, banners, and social media.
- **Improved Visibility:** Clear, bold lines ensure the logo is recognizable from a distance and in small digital formats.
- **Unified Brand Identity:** A consistent, professional logo strengthens community recognition and pride.
- **LSC Donation by Meld Media:** equal to \$5,000. Meld Media will donate the design, digital files, and website consulting to update the logo up to a fee of \$5,000.
- **Logo designed by Meld Media.**

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(2) Development of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Montana Swimming Zone Team Head Coaches

Submitted by Kirby Beierle

Recommendation:

Action: **Passed**

Proposal: The creation of a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document that outlines the responsibilities, timeline, entry processes, entry programs, and support systems available to incoming Montana Senior Zone and Age Group Zone Head Coaches. This SOP should be developed during the 2025–2026 short course season and finalized no later than February 2026. The SOP would be created under the leadership of the General Chair, in collaboration with a designated committee, and should be reviewed and updated annually to reflect any changes to meet structures or entry requirements.

### Proposed Action Steps:

The General Chair appoints a small committee of experienced individuals to assist in drafting the SOP.

The committee gathers input from previous Zone Head Coaches, Team Managers, and LSC Board members to identify best practices and common challenges.

A first draft is presented for feedback to the Montana Swimming Board of Directors by January 2026.

Finalized SOP to be approved the Montana Swimming Board of Directors and distributed by the end of February 2026.

The SOP is reviewed annually after the summer senior and age group Western Zones meets by the Montana zones coaches, staff, and zones coordinator. Updates should be made as needed based on changes to meet formats or LSC policies. Any changes should be submitted to the General Chair by September 1 for consideration at the fall MT Swimming

**House of Delegates meeting. The zones SOP updates should be added to the HOD fall meeting agenda as a standing item under old business to be reviewed annually.**

Effective Immediately for the 2025–2026 Short Course Season (Completed by February 2026)

Rationale: Improved Clarity and Support for Head Coaches:

Currently, new Head Coaches for Zone teams are expected to understand the intricate logistics, entry procedures, and management tasks without a formal guide or background information. By providing a detailed SOP, we would ensure that coaches have access to a roadmap that includes deadlines, checklists, and contacts for support. This structure would help foster a more confident and well-prepared leadership experience.

Enhanced Continuity and Collaboration: The SOP would complement the existing job descriptions by providing a step-by-step framework that reduces ambiguity and clarifies roles and responsibilities. It would also promote collaboration by identifying who is responsible for specific tasks, helping to streamline communication between coaches, volunteers, and the LSC.

Encouraging Participation from More Coaches: These important coaching roles often seem intimidating, especially to those who have not attended a Zones meet before. A well-documented and supportive SOP would help demystify the process, making it more approachable for coaches interested in gaining experience at this level. This could lead to increased involvement from coaches across the state, strengthening the program as a whole.

Conclusion: Developing a Standard Operating Procedure for Montana Swimming's Zone Team Head Coaches is a proactive and supportive step that will enhance the experience for coaches and athletes alike. It will ensure more consistent leadership, encourage wider participation from our coaching community, and provide a reliable framework that supports long-term success at Zones meets.

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(3) High School State Lead Off Relay Split Observations

Submitted by Hayley Coursey

Recommendation:

Action: Failed

Proposal: Montana high school swimmers swimming in the Montana high school state meet with current USA Full Registration to have their lead relay Splits be observed by officials.

The current UAS Swim rule is stated below:

102.3 RELAYS .1 .2 .3 .4 .5 .6 Relay teams shall not compete unattached. In all cases, relay teams must be composed of USA Swimming members of the same club, school or organization which is a member of federation.

Rationale: If a USA-registered swimmer is the lead and same school relay that athlete is getting no extra help for the UNSANCTIONED swimmers behind them.

Other than the feeling of the devastation of missing out on getting a state cut taken away for a rule that does nothing but hurt the athlete.

Effective immediately.

NOTE: This proposal does **NOT** comply with USA Swimming rules. Even if passed, the times could not be uploaded to SWIMS.

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(4) Change Name of the MT Swimming Junior B-C Championships to the MT Swimming BC Championships

Submitted by Susan Huckleby

Recommendation:

Action: **Passed**

Proposal: **Change the name of the Montana Swimming Junior B-C Championships to the Montana Swimming BC Championships.**

Effective immediately.

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(5) Adopt USA Swimming Motivational Age Group Time Standards for 13-21 year old 50 Backstroke, 50 Breaststroke and 50 Butterfly to replace the current Montana Swimming time standards for these events.

Submitted by Susan Huckleby

Recommendation:

Action: **Passed**

Proposal A: **Adopt the USA Swimming motivational age group time standards for the 13-14 year old 50 backstroke, 50 breaststroke, and 50 butterfly. These time standards will replace the current Montana Swimming 13-14 year old 50's of stroke time standards.**

Proposal B: **Adopt automatically the USA Swimming motivational age group time standards for the 15-16 and 17-18 (for use by the Montana Swimming 17-21 year old age group) for the 50 backstroke, 50 breaststroke, and 50 butterfly when they are released. These time standards will replace the current Montana Swimming 15-21 year old 50's of stroke time standards.**

Effective immediately.

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(6) Adjustment to SC State Championship Qualification Time Standards for 9–10 Age Group.

Recommendation:

Action: **Passed as Amended**

Proposal as amended: **Revise the Montana Swimming Short Course Championship time standards for the 9–10 (10&U) age group in the following manner:**

- **Swimmers must enter the Montana Swimming Short Course State Championships in one event with a 9-10 year old or 10&U ‘B’ qualifying time or faster.**
- **Once entered in the one qualifying one event, the swimmer may then enter any other event with a verified legal time proven through SWIMS as a bonus event.**
- **Exception: Swimmers must enter the 400 / 500 Freestyle with a ‘BB’ time or faster. Cannot enter with a bonus time.**
- **No time (NT) entries are not allowed.**

Effective immediately.

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(7) Break Short Course State Championships into Two Meets – Age Group State and Senior State and Eliminate the Junior BC Championships

Submitted by Jay Friend

Recommendation:

Action: **Failed**

Proposal: **Break our Short Course State Championship into two meets -- an Age Group State Championship Meet and a Senior State Championship Meet. Eliminate BC Champs to use that meet and funding for the meets.**

Short Course Age Group State Championships

Age Groups: 11-12, 10&U, 8&U

Qualifying Time: Must have a time in the SWIMS database in the events they wish to enter.

Event Limit: 7 individual events, no more than 3 per day. 5 relays, no more than 2 per day.

Format: Prelims/Finals for 11-12 and 10&U age groups with A/B Finals for each of these age group. Timed Finals only for 8&U. 8&U may swim either 8&U or 10&U for individual events, but not both.

- Friday: 500 Free (11-12, 10&U), 200 Fly (11-12), W/M 400 Free Relay (11-12, 10&U).
- Saturday: Mixed 200 Free Relay - Prelims Only (11-12, 10&U), 100 Back (11-12, 10&U), 200 Breast (11-12), 50 Fly (All), 25 Free (8&U), 100 IM (All), 200 Free (11-

12, 9-10), 50 Breast (All), 25 Fly (8&U), 400 IM (11-12), W/M 200 Free Relay - Finals Only (11-12, 10&U).

- Sunday: Mixed 200 Medley Relay - Prelims Only (11-12, 10&U), 100 Breast (11-12, 9-10), 50 Free (All), 200 Back (11-12), 25 Back (8&U), 100 Fly (11-12, 9-10), 50 Back (All), 200 IM (11-12, 9-10), 25 Breast (8&U), 100 Free (All), 1650 Free (11-12), W/M 200 Medley Relay - Finals Only (11-12, 10&U).

Awards: Individual Medals 1-8, awarded during finals in each evening, Ribbons 9-16. Relay Medals 1-3.

Changes from Current Meet Format: Eliminates time standards. Condenses the meet into 2.5 days. Adds mixed relays in prelims. Makes a whole new event line-up. Adds 1 finals heat for 11-12 swimmers, adds 2 finals heats for 10-U swimmers.

Short Course Senior State Championships

Age Groups: Open

Qualifying Time: 13-14 BB time to enter the meet. 1 QT = 5 Bonus, 2 QT = 5 Bonus, 3 QT = 4 Bonus, 4 QT = 3 Bonus, 5 QT = 2 Bonus, 6 QT = 1 Bonus, 7 QT = No Bonus. Swimmers cannot enter the 400 IM, 500 Free, 1000 Free, 1650 Free as bonus events.

Event Limit: 7 individual events, no more than 3 per day. 5 relays, no more than 2 per day.

Format: Prelims/Finals by Age Group (14&U, 15-16, 17-21). A/B Finals for each Age Group.

- Thursday: 1000 Free
- Friday: Mixed 200 Free Relay - Prelims Only (14&U, 15&O), 200 Fly, 50 Back, 100 Breast, 200 IM, 50 Free, 500 Free, 400 Free Relay - Finals Only
- Saturday: Mixed 200 Medley Relay - Prelims Only (14&U, 15&O), 200 Back, 100 Fly, 50 Breast, 200 Free, 400 IM, 200 Free Relay - Finals Only
- Sunday: 100 Free, 200 Breast, 50 Fly, 100 Back, 100 IM, 1650 Free, 200 Medley Relay - Finals Only

Awards: Individual Medals 1-8, Ribbons 9-16. Relay Medals 1-3,
Effective: To be implemented for the 2027 SC State Championship Meets.

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(8) Change the MT Swimming Long Course State Qualifying Time Standards effective for 2026 LC State.

Submitted by Jay Friend

Recommendation:

Action: **Passed as Amended**

Proposal as amended: **Change the time standards for the Long Course State Championships to the following:**

**12&U Swimmers:**

- **No time standards for the 12& Under age groups (except for distance events), but the swimmer must have a verified legal time proven through SWIMS to enter each event at the Montana Swimming Long Course State Championships.**
- **NO time (NT) entries are not accepted.**
- **Distance exception: Swimmers ages 12&U must have a verified 'BB' time or faster in their respective age group in each event to enter the 400 IM, 400/500 Freestyle, 800/1000 Freestyle, and 1500/1650 Freestyle events.**

**13-21 Year Old Swimmers:**

**Swimmers must enter one event with a 13-14 year old 'BB' time or faster to qualify for the Montana Swimming Long Course State Championships.**

- **Swimmers may then enter bonus swims as follows with a legal verified time proven through SWIMS.**
  - **1 Qualifying Time (QT) = 6 Bonus Swims**
  - **2 QT = 5 Bonus Swims**
  - **3 QT = 4 Bonus Swims**
  - **4 QT = 3 Bonus Swims**
  - **5 QT = 2 Bonus Swims**
  - **6 QT = 1 Bonus Swim**
  - **7 QT = No Bonus Swims**

**Swimmers must enter the distance events with a verified 13-14 year old 'BB' time or faster in each event to enter the 400 IM, 400/500 Free, 800/1000 Free, 1500/1650 free. No bonus times are accepted for the distance events.**  
**NO time (NT) entries are not accepted.**

Effective immediately for qualifying for the 2026 LC State Championships.

(9) Allow the meet host to determine if they want to mix the 10&U swimmers into the prelims session of Long Course State rather than run a separate session for the 10&U swimmers.

Submitted by Jay Friend

Recommendation:

Action: **Passed**

**Proposal: Allow the host to determine if they want to mix the 10&U swimmers into the prelims session of Long Course State rather than run a separate timed finals session for the 10&U swimmers. The host must state in their bid which format they are going to use.**

Effective immediately.