

Montana Swimming Virtual Board Meeting Minutes December 1, 2024

General Chair Jay Friend opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Those present included Jay Friend, Eddie Lary, Laura Parvey-Connors, Jessica Marshall, Eric Belasco, Susan Huckleby, Kristen Wyatt, Teague McElwee, and Ellyn Lewis.

Montana Swimming adopted the 2024-2028 parallel time standards for swimmers with disabilities. These time standards are posted on the website.

Montana Swimming will have an electronic payment system in place before the championship meets. The board approved setting up electronic fund transfers (EFT payments). Jay and Matt will work on the set up and instructions for use. Teams making EFT payments to Montana Swimming must pay the convenience fee. More information will be sent out once we have the details. Susan will include the information in the meet announcements for Short Course State and the Junior BC Championships.

Montana Swimming will implement a better system for remittance and verification of fees paid. If you mail a check to Montana Swimming to pay any fees (including entry fees, sanction fees, meet fees zone team fees or other fees), take a picture of your check and email it with a note describing the payment to Matt Yovich and Beth Storey on the day you mail your check. This will allow us to better track your payment. When checks are received, Beth will notify the team the payment has been received. Clubs may also bring checks to the swim meet and pay the fees upon arrival.

All club officers need to be members of USA Swimming. Club officers can join as an administrator (this is not the admin official membership). The administrator membership has no Montana Swimming fee – you pay only the USA Swimming fee. Meet directors should join as a non-athlete other membership and must have a current APT and background check.

In your hub, go to your My Club tab, click on Team Management, click on the Staff pill and list your club officers and their role. Montana Swimming wants all clubs to have their officers listed, including the club president, club treasurer and club contact, by December 30.

With the new rules regarding payment of fees, Montana Swimming must know who your club president and club treasurer are so we may contact them when necessary. Please send me the name of your club president and club treasurer, their email addresses and cell numbers by December 30.

For sanctioning meets, Beth must keep Eric Belasco updated on which teams owe fees to Montana Swimming so Eric knows which swim meets may be sanctioned and which swim meets need to be held up until payment is received. Once payment has been received Beth needs to send an update to Eric.

Jay spoke with John Thurmond (BYSC) about the operational risk position and John is interested. Jay will speak with John again about it and will then appoint him to the position if he is willing.

The HLST Last Chance Invite will be July 11-13 in Helena. Only times from new qualifying swims will be accepted from this meet for entry into Long Course State.

Long Course State will be July 17-20. The location is still being determined. The group discussed rising costs making hosting championship meets very difficult for teams. What can be done to decrease costs? Can the host team and Montana Swimming both find sponsors for the championship meets?

The board approved qualifying times for the 2025 Western Zone Age Group Championships for Team Montana will again be AA times with AAA or faster times receiving priority entries.

The Butte YMCA may need assistance from other teams in hosting Short Course State and Junior BC Championships.

The Montana Swimming by-laws have been updated and the board voted to accept them. They must be sent to USA Swimming by December 13 for approval. Changes to the by-laws included changing FINA to World Aquatics and change he/she pronouns to gender neutral pronouns.

Montana Swimming board members are elected/appointed to serve our LSC and make it better. Never use your position on the board as a weapon. Service with a smile should be practiced.

For the next meeting members should write a brief job description of what they do and how many hours per week or month they work in their position. Secondly, brainstorm ideas to make our LSC championship meets more exciting including format changes, and ways to make the meets financially viable. The next Montana Swimming board meeting will be Sunday January 12 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Huckleby
Montana Swimming Secretary