



Puget Sound Swimming Association (PSSA)

November 12th , 2024

Business Meeting Notes

Attendees:

1. Tom Wunderlich, Snohomish
2. Jackie Barratt, South Sound
3. Matt Warren, Lakewood
4. Joseph Shelly, Skagit
5. Marilyn Grindrod, Bremerton
6. Earl Long, Regional Officials Coordinator
7. Jan Haanio, Morgan
8. David Millican, Whatcom
9. Shannon Millican, Whatcom
10. Peyton Buegler, Gordon

Quick recap

The team discussed their recent trips, the challenges of managing swim meets, and the upcoming Y State Champs, including eligibility criteria and the decision to strike the language allowing the use of practice times as eligible times for the state meet. They also planned for the upcoming swim meet, focusing on the need for more swimmers, the layout and timeline, and the importance of a 45-day window for meet file submissions. Lastly, they discussed the need for a mandatory virtual meeting for coaches before the state meet, the challenges faced due to low participation in classes, and the importance of continued recruitment of parents.

The group agreed that these were to be the next steps:

- Janice and Michael to send out the survey to coaches regarding Y State meet participation estimates.
- Marilyn and Shannon to determine the date for the mandatory Y State coaches meeting.
- Tom to update contact information for YGS teams and coaches.
- Earl to prepare training materials for new officials.
- Tom to organize a class for 3-5 new officials in the North End.
- Marilyn to include question about preferred meeting times (evening, Saturday morning, Sunday afternoon) in the coach survey.
- Shannon to prepare the Y State meet file once the order of events is finalized.
- Marilyn and Shannon to draft the next version of the Y State meet announcement by next week.
- Joseph to compile and send out meeting notes within the next two days.

Treasurer's Report

The team then reviewed the meeting minutes and the treasurer's report, with Marilyn noting an increase in funds due to added meet fees. Earl also mentioned a \$200 contribution to the PSSA from a Level 2 swim official class he sponsored.

Managing Swim Meets and Constraints

The team discussed the challenges of managing swim meets, particularly in relation to the number of swimmers and the time constraints. They considered capping the number of swimmers or implementing a first-come, first-served policy for future meets. The team also discussed the possibility of limiting the number of teams attending certain meets, with the aim of accommodating all swimmers who need a second

meet. The issue of managing the short course season was also addressed, with the team considering the need for larger facilities and potentially renting pools for future meets. The team also discussed the upcoming Y State Champs, with a focus on eligibility requirements, seed times, and event limits.

Championship Meet Eligibility Criteria

The key points discussed were: swimmers must compete in at least two sanctioned YMCA meets or an observed high school meet to qualify; times from practices or informal time trials certified by the head coach are allowed for seeding purposes only, not for qualifying standards. There was a debate around whether coach-certified times should be allowed moving forward, with some concerns about integrity; ultimately, Tom proposes removing the coach-certified time option since swimmers now have ample time to get times at meets before championships. The motion focused on the decision to strike the language allowing the use of practice times as eligible times for the state meet. The motion was passed with a majority vote, with the exception of one team where one of the two representatives had to be excused. The decision was made in accordance with the bylaws, which state that a quorum is made up of representatives from the teams present at the meeting. The meeting also discussed the waiver process for the state meet, which includes exemptions for the two-meet minimum and the 90 or 30-day requirements. The swimsuit policy was also discussed, with no requests for exceptions being presented. The waiver process and swimsuit policy will be explained in the meet announcement.

Swim Meet Planning and Adjustments

Marilyn and Jan discussed the upcoming swim meet, focusing on the need for more swimmers and the potential for a 20% increase in participants. They also discussed the need for a survey to be sent out to coaches to determine the number of swimmers in each age group, which would help in finalizing the meet timeline and potentially shaving off some time from the opening ceremonies. Earl and Shannon discussed the plan to run both pools simultaneously, eliminating the large gaps seen in the previous year's meet. They also mentioned the need for education with the coaches about the change in age range for some events. The team agreed to continue planning and make adjustments as necessary.

Y State Meets Layout and Timeline

The team discussed the layout and timeline for the upcoming Y State meets. Shannon suggested keeping age designations in each pool and only pivoting the 11-12s on 200 events to minimize confusion. Earl proposed finalizing the meet announcement and file by December 1st, with a reminder sent in early January for the last-minute meets. Marilyn and Jan agreed to work on the next draft and aim to finalize it by the end of the year. The team also discussed the importance of a 45-day window for meet file submissions.

Mandatory Virtual Meeting for Coaches

Shannon proposes holding a mandatory virtual meeting for coaches before the state meet to distribute important information like the meet invite, meet file, and coaches cheat sheet. Tom agrees this is a good idea to ensure all teams understand requirements and policies. They plan to tackle getting an updated contact list first. For longer-term coach training, they discuss potentially holding an in-person session in late spring or summer, with Shannon advocating for in-person training. The short-term goal is a mandatory meeting focused on the state meet, while the long-term goal is more comprehensive coach training at a later date.

Updating Contacts and Mandatory Meeting

Shannon proposed a plan to update contacts and invite people to a mandatory coaches meeting. Tom confirmed that YGS is expanding and will have three sites going, with contacts already established. Shannon suggested dividing the board to contact people for updated information. Tom agreed to this plan and mentioned that Marilyn and Shannon would discuss the meeting date and send out the information as soon as possible. Earl expressed concern about coaches not knowing about national competitive rules and suggested including this information in the mandatory meeting. The team agreed to plan a coaches training sometime in spring or summer. The next meeting was decided to be a special meeting for Y State.

Addressing Low Participation and Recruitment of Officials

Earl discussed the challenges faced due to low participation in classes, resulting in a decrease in the number of officials from 88 to 70. He mentioned that the South End was particularly affected, with some teams having very small numbers. Earl also mentioned that they have been using level twos to help orient new officials. Tom agreed with Earl's points and emphasized the need for continued recruitment of parents. Shannon suggested adding a question to the survey about the best time for a mandatory meeting, and Joseph agreed that considering the day as well as the time would be helpful. The team decided to update their contacts before deciding on a meeting time.

Adjournment and next meeting

The group, led by Tom, adjourned the meeting with the expectation that a survey would be sent out and a time for the next meeting would be decided in early December. The time and exact date would be communicated out based on the results of the survey.

Next meeting(s):

- Early December TBD via survey results ;