

To: Minnesota Swimming House of Delegates  
From: Breandan Gibbons, Athlete Committee Chair

Date: Sunday, April 22nd, 2018

Re: Annual Report to the House of Delegates

Working on the Board of Directors of Minnesota Swimming has been one of the best learning experiences and most memorable and influential activities in which I participated during High School. I would like to thank all those who helped me along the way and who allowed me to be successful and learn in this position.

The athlete committee spent a lot of time considering different aspects of the state championship meet, both Senior and Age Group, and would like to present two resolutions that are pertinent to the House of Delegates today. First, the Athlete Committee unanimously voted in support of a resolution stating “that all future state championships meets for the foreseeable future be held at the University of Minnesota when at all possible. The Rochester Rec Center is the recommended facility if the University of Minnesota is not available.” This comes in response to several rounds of surveys conducted by myself, personally, about the past two state championships. During this year’s meet hosted at the Eden Prairie Community Center, one of the questions respondents were asked was about their preference of pool. Of the 89 athletes who responded 68 stated that the EPCC was worse than the University of Minnesota pool, and only three stated that they would prefer to have the meet at the EPCC. There is a lot of experimentation with the meet that the athlete committee feels is necessary, however there is a consensus among the athletes that there should not be experimentation when it comes to host site — the U of MN should host the senior meet every year.

Secondly, the athlete committee passed a similar resolution with regards to the Age Group State Championship. Stating “The athlete committee recommends that all Age Group state championship meets for the foreseeable future be held at either the Rochester Rec Center or the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.” In this resolution, as opposed to the Senior State Championship recommendation, the University of Minnesota and Rochester Rec Center are viewed as equal because of the way so many view the Rochester pool as the host of the Age Group meet and because the travel from most metro families is much easier for a three day meet, as opposed to a four or five day meet.

The state championship is something about which I have put a great amount of effort in hopes of making our LSC’s championship just as exciting and energetic as the other championships that take place in our state. It is something that I will continue to work on as I graduate and stay involved in the LSC.

Notably, today there is only one proposal for a separate Senior State Championship, and while the Athlete Committee believes that the Age Group meet and Senior meet should be separate, in this case the format hosted by Storm and Wolf is the preferred format because of its use of the University of Minnesota. As stated previously, this comes from the results of the survey conducted at the previous two Senior state meets. For anyone wishing to see the full results of that survey, please contact me.

Many of you might notice that there is not an awards ceremony today for the athlete of the year as has been typical of the House of Delegates meetings in the past. The Athlete Committee decided that it would be best to have that event as its own separate celebration after the summer state championship. This event is still in the early planning phase, but it is important to let everyone know now that we did not forget to acknowledge our athletes’ accomplishments, we just felt it was important to make a bigger deal about it than has been done in the past. I really appreciate all those who got me into the governance of the sport, this has been an incredible experience and I will certainly stay involved if the athlete elected today will let me. Looking at the candidates for the athlete leadership today, I know that MN Swimming is still in good hands moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

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