

October 2nd
Coaches Meeting Minutes

I. Reports

Jay - Meet Schedule

He looked at other LSCs for meet ideas - Distance meet, pentathlon, Senior meets, shorter meets. Maine is weak in distance & IM so we could start having more of those type meets to develop more complete swimmers. It would be good to provide variety for kids who swim high school, Y & USA meets. MSI could subsidize so host clubs don't lose money if hosting.

The idea of "virtual meets" within the LSC was discussed. It's difficult to recruit kids for USA swim. The virtual meet could be open to non-USA kids to get more swimmers involved. Rotating meets could give more availability. With mini meets, more teams may hold meets. MSI could support more teams to host meets. What can we offer for meets to give some variety?

Could the age group portion of the Bowdoin Open come out and run 11-12 trials/finals instead? We could survey teams at the 2010 meet about this option.

IM Ready and IMX meets each summer and winter would be good to run.

Meets the league would like to see include IMX, IM Ready, 10 and under meet, Prelims/Finals for 11-12 and a distance meet.

New meets could attract new swimmers and parents. These meets could be LSC hosted.

Some teams are reluctant to host meets. In Virginia, a \$2000 subsidy is provided and a percentage of the fees go to the LSC. Can the meet reports for the last 2-3 years be discussed? Can the sanction person and the treasurer get those meets? This would help to see if meets are losing money or not. If teams can prove they lost money, MSI should make sure they at least break even. Another option would be to incentivize teams to run good meets.

Coaches need to all buy in that this schedule helps the overall development of the swimmer. The 3 meets that would stay on the schedule would be Bowdoin, Bronze/8 and under Champs and Winter Champs. TPC should take charge to publicize what meets should happen. BY SYOA, TPC will provide a meet list and there will be a short meeting after the Sat AM session. These meets could be filled first before other meets could be bid on.

Tom - Organizational Structure

Recommendation to reduce the number of at-large spots due to the small size of MSI. The structure was explained and a chart was provided showing who falls under each section.

Steve - Officials

MSI could provide shirts for officials. There should be an officials liaison on a committee with Steve and he would delegate tasks. They would also work to recruit new parents.

There is an officials clinic on October 17th in Portland and October 24th in Bangor. Tom will call Steve about clinic advertisement and club liaison.

Should we pay for officials? Officials who volunteer can use it as a tax write off. Teams with lots of officials could benefit by hiring them out to teams without officials.

Zones

Winter Zones will be held March 31st - April 2nd. The meal plan will change a bit. The 11 and ups will have lunch out and eat dinner at the hotel. The 10 and unders will have dinner as their big meal. The uniform will go out to bid.

Championship Meets

MSI is doing bag tags for 2011 registration. The 11-12 400 IM remains in for Winter Champs. For Summer Champs, could the format be shortened and have the meet closer to increase participation?

Banquet

The banquet should be cheaper, less formal and free to all athletes. A sub-committee of Tom, Jay & Lia was formed to look at planning of the banquet for the upcoming year.

Matt – Age Group Chair

Regarding clinics structure, there should be one clinic that is open to everyone and fun, possibly ending with a meet and a pizza party at the end. The 2nd clinic would have time standards and could be run by an out of state coach and put kids in training categories. The 1st clinic would be run in Fall 2011 with a coaches clinic included. Names discussed to come to this clinic were Ryan Lochte and Bill Boomer. If the swimmer were a household name, more kids might get involved. Could MSI run a joint clinic with NE?

The Seals discussed holding an Open Water meet the weekend after MSI Champs.

There is an MSI Disabled Swimmer Scholarship. If each team could consider this while they are doing fundraisers and contribute something if able.