

**Maine Swimming Inc.**  
**Coaches' Meeting**  
**5/14/16**  
**SMCC South Portland, Maine**

**Present:**

Zach Gray, Dan St. Pierre, Butch Babin, John Smith, John Williams, Fritz Homans, Leanne Gravel, Jay Morissette, Lindsay McMahon, Taylor Rogers, Lia Langeveld, Stephanie Perkins, Matt Vogel, AJ Rog, Mary Ellen Tynan, Matt Baxter, Matt Montgomery, Zach Craven, Jim Willis, Betsy Perron

**Developmental Meets:**

Dan St. Pierre likes 200's for 11 and 12 year-olds at the D2 meet. John Williams likes the idea of 200s at the D2 meet because many kids age up before JO's and need an opportunity to swim the longer events to qualify.

*The Coaches Committee suggests offering 200's for 10 years and up only for those swimmers who are aging up before JO's*

**JO Trials:**

John Williams thought the meet was well run but there was a problem with communication and clarity of who qualified for JO's and also how you qualify for JO's at that meet. How does one qualify in a trials/finals event and how does one qualify in timed final events? For instance, there was confusion with timed final events like the 400 IM. In a timed final, someone who gets third but no qualifying time qualifies for JO's, because in timed final events, the first two finishers after the cut go to JO's (as does anyone who makes the cut). Whereas, in trials/finals events the top two finishers at finals qualify for JO's (as does anyone who makes the cut in prelims). *Please spell this out more clearly in the meet packet.*

Motion by John Smith, second by Taylor Rogers: Remove the first and second place option for qualifying for JO's. Only the cut time will qualify for JO's.

Discussion

It makes the meet more exciting and doesn't negatively affect JO's when the top 2 finishers have the opportunity to qualify, regardless of times. Stephanie Perkins said her swimmers appreciate the opportunity to have a chance to qualify for JO's. Question: how many first and second place finishers without qualifying times made it to JO's? Estimated answer: 20 to 30 swimmers. These were mostly older athletes but many had already qualified for the meet and were qualifying in extra events at JOT. Possibly 15 swimmers made it to Junior Olympics for the first time based on the first or second place.

Motion fails. 6 in favor, 10 opposed.

**JO's:**

Motion by John Smith, second by John Williams: In order to be eligible to compete in JO's, a swimmer needs to attend three USA MSI sanctioned meets between September 1 and JO's.

Discussion

Matt Baxter: This is not inconsistent with the MSI subsidy requirement. Jim Willis: If you make the cut you can go to Olympic Trials, regardless of where you make the cut. For instance, even if a collegiate swimmer qualifies at a NCAA meet, the swimmer can go to Trials. Fritz Homans: He does not want to restrict anyone from joining USAS. Jim Willis: We should be more inclusive. John Smith: This IS a more inclusive policy. Leanne Gravel: JO's is more of a "carrot" to entice Y swimmers to participate in USAS events. Zach Craven: There are additional USA meets after Y States which will entice Y swimmers to compete longer into the season. John Smith: You need to attend three Y

meets to get into the Y championship meet. This is a USA organization. We need to put our kids first. Jay Morissette: What the Y does is irrelevant to what USAS does. Matt Montgomery: Using Zack's team as an example, kids who go to JO's stick with USA swimming; the three meet rule is a Y rule not a rule for USA. John Smith: The intent is to increase participation. How do we get more Y kids to participate in USAS events before JO's? Jay Morissette: If the cut time for JO's needs to be accomplished during the season, this will increase participation in the regular season USA meets. *(Note for TPC to discuss.)*

Stephanie Perkins: The cost associated with USA meets would actually prohibit kids from signing up. Matt Baxter: A suggestion - that to qualify for Zones we require participation in two USA meets. Fritz Homans: USA swimming's motto is to "build, promote and achieve". We need to remember that YMCA teams have no additional fees and USA meets cost a lot; it's a big step up. Additionally, there is a perception among YMCA swimmers and parents that USAS is more "serious" than YMCA swimming. How do we get kids to migrate? JO's is something that attracts Y swimmers after Y States. Y kids who swim in JO's tend to continue USAS participation in following seasons. Essentially, we are accomplishing John's goal of picking up YMCA kids, only it is after JO's, rather than before.

Motion fails. 2 in favor, everyone else opposed.

Motion by John Smith, second by Matt Baxter: In order to attend JO's, a swimmer must attend one USA MSI sanctioned meet between September 1 and JO's.

Discussion

Whether the requirement is one meet or three meets, the registration fee is the same and prohibitive. When swimmers qualify for JO's, that is the trigger to invest energy and money in USA swimming because for many kids, USA swimming is a step up. Motion fails. 4 in favor, everyone else against.

### **Issue: crowd control at JO's**

We need to introduce a crowd control program at Junior Olympics.

Motion by Jim Willis, second by Fritz Homans: Families of every individually entered swimmer (not relay-only swimmers) get one bracelet per swimmer, per session.

Discussion

We need bracelets plus a viewing area where people cycle out and in to see their children swim. We could sell bracelets beforehand online. We should have closed circuit TV like at UMO, though there is not a lot of room in the multipurpose room. Also relay only swimmers should not have to pay the fee. Some parents get their swimmers there two hours early to gain admission which is not fair to the swimmers. Why are there no rules for numbers at the Bowdoin Open or NESAC's but there are for JO's? This is a Championship Committee issue which will be discussed at a future meeting.

Motion passes 11 in favor, 2 opposed, 4 abstaining.

### **Per the TPC meeting in April:**

Motion by Jay Morissette, second by Leanne Gravel: Change the "Senior" relays at JO's to "11 and over". No 10 & unders would be allowed to participate on the Senior relays. Motion passes 10 in favor, five opposed

### **Zones:**

Should we still go? Fritz Homans: Several LSCs are part of a task force to come up with alternatives to Zone meets. The current format is losing effectiveness and popularity zone-wide. John Williams: It is a positive experience for younger kids and we should always look for higher-

level events for our swimmers. Fritz Homans: This year, for MSI swimmers, it was a huge shock; we might as well have taken them to Olympic Trials. Do we want to work with other LSC's or Canada to come with an alternative meet? Matt Baxter: Currently Zones doesn't fit in with the hierarchy of swimming events for USA swimming. Matt Montgomery: What about Select Camps? Betsy Perron: Creating Select Camps was one of the goals the LSC had set three years ago. *(Note for TPC)* Butch Babin: Zones has run its course in the current format. Kids are not set up for success, especially this past year, because of the calendar. Matt Craven: Zones is great for younger kids. It is more of an experience meet, not a competition meet, with exposure to faster swimmers and a fun experience that encourages kids to go home and work harder. Discussion tabled.

Jim Willis motion, Jay Morissette second: At Junior Olympics, move the 200 medley relay to Friday night, first event. Motion fails, 5 in favor, 5 opposed, 5 abstaining.

Motion by Leanne Gravel, second by Taylor Rogers: Move the 200 medley relay to the first event on Thursday night. Motion passes, 10 in favor, 5 opposed.

Matt Baxter: Can we move an additional event to Thursday night? Jim Willis: We used to do the 500 for younger kids on Thursday night. It's not popular with parents; there was a decrease in participation.

Motion by Jay Morissette, second by Taylor Rogers: Move the 12 and under 500 free to Thursday night. Motion fails, 8 in favor, 8 against.

Motion by Jim Willis, a second by Taylor Rogers: Move 11-12 400 IM to Thursday night. Motion passes, 14 in favor, 1 opposed.

## **Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Perron, MSI Secretary  
September 20, 2016

*TO DO:*

*JOT meet packet:*

*Please define more clearly how swimmers qualify for JO's.*

*For TPC to discuss:*

- 1) Should cut times for JO's be accomplished during that season (as opposed to at any time) in*

*order to promote more YMCA participation in regular season USAS meets?*  
2) *Per LSC Goal sheet 2014: create Select Camps?*

*For Championship Committee:  
bracelets, crowd control at JO's*

*Coaches voted in favor of following changes for JO's:*

- 1) Change "Senior" relays to "11 & Over"*
- 2) Make 200 MR 1<sup>st</sup> event Thursday night*
- 3) Add 11-12 400 IM to Thursday night*

*Coaches suggests the following change for the D2 Meet:  
Offer 200's for 10 year olds who will age up before JO's*

*Zones:*

*Continue discussion. Should we still go to Zones?*