

**Maine Swimming
TPC Meeting
April 10, 2018
Via ZOOM**

Members Present: Matt Cook, Gracie Perron Tom Manduca, Jay Morissette, John Smith, Jim Willis

Members Absent: Emily Ecker

Guests: Maddie Buck Betsy Perron, Taylor Rogers, TJ Willis

Mission Statement and Vision Statement read by Jay Morissette. TPC agreed that both still represent the purpose and direction of Maine Swimming Inc.

Question: Do the MSI meets D1, D2, Junior Olympic Trials, Junior Olympics and MSI 3 fulfill our mission?

General consensus is that the meets are serving the needs of the organization.

D2:

Suggestion to add the 800 free relay to the meet format.

D1:

Recommend that the meet should be scheduled on a date early in the season in order to get maximum attendance. Taylor Rogers suggested a mixed relay could be included at this meet.

Junior Olympic Trials:

This meet seems to have gone well this year. The meet information should be more specific about eligibility to compete in the 200's. There are 10-year-old swimmers who age up between Junior Olympic Trials and JO's, so they should be allowed to swim the 11-12 events in order to qualify for JO's. *The solution would be to make sure that the age of entry date in Hy-Tec for JO Trials is the date of the first day of Junior Olympics.*

- ***This is not allowed. Age-up date must be the first date of the meet.***

Junior Olympics:

According to USA Swimming regulations the name, "Junior Olympics " applies to a meet where swimmers are aged 18 and under. To rectify the situation we either need to require that only 18 and under swimmers compete at this meet or we need to change the name of the meet.

Possibility discussed regarding holding both a senior meet and a junior meet. The senior meet would be held on the same weekend as Junior Olympic Trials. This would allow swimmers competing at the senior meet to have a break between that meet and sectionals. This would be more compatible with USA Swimming's schedule. Added benefit of having a senior level and a separate junior level meet for 12 and unders would be that we could have trials and finals for 12 and unders.

However, this would essentially be the same meet that we currently have now but would split resources (coaching and volunteer and venue) over two weekends and there is a concern that we wouldn't have enough swimmers to populate two meets.

Jim Willis suggested that this might be an option beginning in 2021 when Colby's pool is open; felt it is worth discussing as a longer-term option but as an immediate solution, he does not recommend making a change.

Jay Morissette and Taylor Rogers suggested that educating parents could go a long way to helping to ease concerns about who should be swimming at this end-of-season meet. Taylor suggested emphasizing that the Junior Olympic Championship meet is a lower rung on the ladder that leads to Sectionals, Futures, Junior Nationals, etc. and is not a state championship akin to the Y state meet.

John Smith commented that many parents are concerned that their swimmers are getting shut out of participating in finals by post high school aged swimmers.

Taylor Rogers suggested instead of presenting High Point awards, we should recognize the swimmers who qualify for next level meets.

John Smith re-emphasized that we should not have Junior Olympics so close to sectionals. Jim Willis pointed out that we are not the only LSC that has our state championships so close to Sectionals. Some other LSCs (Adirondack, for example) have similar calendars and basically their teams/individuals also just have to make choices about which meets they will emphasize.

(John needed to sign out of the meeting at this point.)

Question: Are there a lot of 13 and over to take advantage of JO Trials? There are not many but the number is growing; there were several 13 and over's this year who needed to be there to make cut times.

Age limit: Consensus was not to limit age participation at the older end of the spectrum at the championship meet. Parent education and stepping-stone idea is important to emphasize.

Jim Willis would like John Smith to write up a proposal for a senior level meet. Consensus was to keep the championship meet format the same essentially until 2021 unless John Smith makes some compelling arguments otherwise.

Consensus was to change the name from JO's to Winter Championships.

Cut times need to be examined. Some events are oversubscribed and some events have cut times that are too fast, resulting in undersubscribed events.

The Age Group Chair Senior Chair and Coaches Rep will meet to discuss cut times and present a proposal at a coaches meeting before the fall HOD.

(Gracie Perron signed out of the meeting.)

Scoring: Jay Morissette suggested that scoring is not balanced; it favors the 12 and under swimmers. Jim Willis countered that as an age group, 13 and older swimmers score one and a half times more points than the 12 and under group. Tom Manduca pointed out that we all have to play by the same rules so why should it matter?

Relays: Should we include the 800 free relay? We did run the 800 free relay in the past but we removed it because it became a time issue. We could run it at the end of the Thursday night session.

Recommendation for the HOD: Run an 800 free relay at the D2 meet in order to measure interest for this event. At the D2 meet, we would limit entries to one 800 free relay per team.

1000: Should we move the fastest heat of the 15 and over 1000 free to the final session? Consensus was not to move the heat.

Relay entry limit: Should we limit the number of relay entries per team?

Betsy questioned why we don't limit scoring to just A relays; if we are concerned that we have too many relays entered, this may cut back on entries. Jay pointed out that many of his swimmers enjoy the opportunity to have the chance to earn points for their team through the relays and otherwise may not go to this meet if they are not given this chance to score points.

Matt Cook likes the idea of having unlimited relay entries because it gives more swimmers the opportunity to swim regardless of potential to score points.

Consensus is to keep relay entries the same.

Age specific relays: Should we make relays age specific?

Allowing mixed age relays does create more opportunities for swimmers to participate in the meet.

The stipulation in the meet packet that a swimmer may only swim in one session helps to keep swimmers in the right age groups but allows for 11-12 swimmers who are only there to compete in relays to participate.

Tom proposed defining seniors as 12 and over; the majority opposed this proposal.

After much discussion the consensus was to leave the relays as they have been in the past.

Relay heats: Should relays be swim fastest to slowest? The consensus was that relays remain slowest to fastest. TJ Willis competed the All-Star meet where the relays were swim fastest to slowest and he said that it was very challenging to get out of an individual event and turn around and swim a relay.

Finals: Should we run 10 lanes for finals? Consensus was that if we don't score all 10

lanes, we should not run 10 lanes at finals.

Super Heat: Should we run a superheat at finals? A superheat is defined as one heat made up of the fastest times regardless of age group. B finals for 13-14 and 15 & O would be eliminated; there would only be A finals for the next 8 fastest swimmers in each age group.

A superheat would favor scoring from senior level swimmers over the other age groups unless we modified the scoring system to make it more equitable. There's a concern that on the boys side there are not enough swimmers to justify a superheat. Superheats may serve MSI the best, but because of low numbers, it may not make sense.
Superheat discussion was tabled for another time.

500's: Should we have a B final for the 500's? If we did this we would also have to add a B final for the 400 IM. The B finals for these events have been cut out of the meet to conserve time. The opinion of the coaches was that most kids are satisfied with only having an A final. Consensus of the group is to restrict the final heats of the 500 and 400 IM to the top 8 swimmers.

MSI 3:

The general consensus is to keep it the same, except for considering moving relays to the morning.

Proposal for the coaches committee: move the relays on the first two days of the meet to the morning session before the distance events; there is plenty of time in the morning session. This allows more time in the evening sessions for teams to have team dinners and get to bed at a reasonable hour.

Consider including Paralympic events in the future.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Perron, MSI Secretary April 12, 2018