



**MAINE SWIMMING, INC. | Maine Swimming Athletes Committee**

**12:30 pm via Zoom**

**1/20/22**

**Mission Statement: Create opportunities and provide resources to promote excellence in Maine Swimming**

**Vision Statement: You CAN get there from here!**

Present: Ali Bragg (12:36) , Audrey Cohen, Emma Farnham, Abby Hollis, Noah Katz (left at 1), McKayla Kendall (12:48), Brim Peabody, Maria Saltysiak, Ethan Schulz  
Absent: Kristy Barry, Will Porter, Elle Yarborough  
Guest: Mary Ellen Tynan, Jeff Ward (SEALS)

**Moving Trials from March 5-6 to March 12-13**

Mary Ellen Tynan shared her screen with the coaches recommendation to TPC for the Championship Meets. She explained that UMO overbooked so the YMCA State Meet is now March 5-6 instead of 12-13. The trials meet is currently March 5-6 so Mary Ellen was wondering what the athletes think about moving trials to March 12-13 so that more swimmers are able to attend. Ethan Schulz asked when champs Mary Ellen said March 18-20. Emma Farnham asked if trials are usually the week before champs and Mary Ellen said that they typically try to do trials two weeks before champs in order to make entries easier. Emma Farnham said having it the weekend of states would be difficult for Y swimmers so it would be better to move trials to March 12-13. Leaving it on the same day as states would make it easier for USA swimmers. Ethan Schulz said that with Covid still lingering it might be best to keep the number limited and have the swimmers that already qualified have more swims. Abby Hollis said that she agreed with Ethan Schulz that moving trials would be best.

Emma Farnham made a motion to move trials to March 12-13, second by Ethan Schulz. Everyone was in favor.

**Moving Champs from UMO to Bath**

Mary Ellen said that UMO would be significantly more expensive than Bath. Maine Swimming does have the money to cover either venue but it is not as fiscally responsible to go to UMO. UMO is well over \$20,000 and Bath will be between \$10,000 and \$13,000. The other issue is that UMO is in control of the Covid protocols and the meet could be pulled even the week before. At Bath Sponge is in control of the pool so unless guidelines change we will have champs. Ali Bragg asked if anyone was opposed to moving it to Bath. Emma Farnham said that it makes sense to move it but the only question would be spectators since there is less space. Mary Ellen said either facility we have it we would limit spectators. At UMO everybody has to



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be vaccinated or have a negative Covid test to be a spectator. UMO would be limited spectators or viewers in the field house. Bath is thinking they would limit it to one spectator per family. Brim Peabody said that we should move it especially in college UMO has had to switch or cancel meets due to Covid so it is not very reliable.

Ethan Schulz made a motion to move Winter Champs to Bath, second by Ali Bragg. Maria Saltysiak asked if masks are mandated at Bath. Mary Ellen said that the city of Bath is mandating masks as of (1/20/22). Everyone was in favor.

### **Making Winter Champs a 3 Day Meet Instead of 3.5 Days**

Mary Ellen Tynan explained that this was discussed because of the cost of the extra half day. There are also a limited number of swimmers that have times in the 1000 and the 11-12 400 IM. Mary Ellen showed the new event schedule. The 1000 would be moved after the 400 IM on Friday. Ethan Schulz asked if the 1000 would be a timed final. Mary Ellen said the top 8 of each would swim at night and everybody else would swim at prelims. Brim Peabody asked how much the extra half day is. Mary Ellen said the UMO would be several thousand and at Bath Sponge would need to close the facility. Coaches coming from the north would prefer to not have to spend an extra night. There would be more swimmers in relays if it wasn't on Thursday since there is school that day. It is more of a logistical thing rather than a cost thing.

Ethan Schulz made a motion to move the meet format to a 3 day meet, second by Abby Hollis. Ethan Schulz asked if any events were being taken out. Mary Ellen said that there will still be the same events just in a different order. TPC will finalize the order of events. McKayla Kendall asked to see the events from prior years. She noticed that there is no 100 breast which is typically Friday night. Emma Farnham said that last year it was on Sunday but Mary Ellen said it would be back on Friday. Brim abstained from the vote. Everybody else was in favor.

### **Changing the Bonus Structure**

The coaches recommended that if a swimmer has a qualifying time in a stroke they can swim other events in that stroke (200 yards or shorter). If a 13-14 or open swimmer qualifies in the 200 IM they can bonus in the 400 IM and vice-versa. If a swimmer has the 1000 they can bonus the 1650 and vice-versa. A swimmer needs to have a time in an event in order to swim it at champs.



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Any swimmer who gets 1st or 2nd at trials and doesn't get the cut time is not eligible for bonus events. McKayla Kendall said that if somebody qualified for the 200 IM they would only be able to bonus the 400 IM which might not be their best event. She said that if the goal is to provide the opportunity for swimmers to get more swims they should be able to do 50 free and 100 free as well. Emma Farnham said that what McKayla Kendall said makes sense. Brim Peabody said that having more options is better. McKayla said that maybe there is a way to be able to swim in the stroke they qualify for and the freestyle events. Mary Ellen asked what if swimmers were allowed to swim up to 6 events if they had at least one qualifying time and a time in their other events. (1-5, 2-4, 3-3, 4-2, 5-1). Ali Bragg said that is how they do it at sectionals and ISCA. Ethan Schulz asked about how this new structure would be worded. Brim asked what the max number of individual events is. Mary Ellen said six for 13 & up and nine for 12 & under. Brim Peabody said that he didn't like that you can get one cut time and swim 6 events. McKayla Kendall asked about having a secondary time standard. Ethan Schulz said that if we decide to do up to six events then we should have secondary time standards. Mary Ellen said that she would rather not have secondary standards this late. Mary Ellen said that there are a variety of bonus combinations. Brim Peabody said that we could up the number of bonus swims.

McKayla Kendall made a motion to do (1-3,2-2, 3-1) for a bonus of up to 4 events and the swimmer must have a time in the event, second by Ethan Schulz. Everybody was in favor.

### **Coaches Deck Passes**

The swimmers choose not to make a recommendation over the coaching for champs.

### **Moving High School Swim to the Fall**

Jeff Ward began by talking about the way that high school and USA swimming overlap. He said that he has been bothered as a coach when coaches from both teams don't communicate. The other way is from a training standpoint when a swimmer is trying to train for a championship meet. He wants to talk to Maine Swimming about moving high school swimming to the fall. The Maine high school meet would fall on the first weekend in November. Overlapping in the fall is easier and there will be more facilities available in the fall. The high school state meet might be able to go back to a trials finals format. After the change is made two sport athletes won't be affected after the first couple of years. There is no natural affiliation between swimming and a



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fall sport. After a couple years you might get winter athletes joining fall high school swim. There is a short term cost but not a long term cost. He then asked if it would be helpful if he outlined his plan for us to discuss at our next meeting. Mary Ellen explained that the Athletes Committee meets whenever there is something important to discuss. Jeff Ward then said he hoped we could discuss it within the next month. Mary Ellen asked if there were any strong initial feelings. McKayla Kendall asked if it was Jeff Ward's idea that our committee would go to the MPA with this idea for a change. Jeff Ward said that to get things to change a high school needs to propose the change. Despite that the athletes will have a strong voice. Jeff Ward wanted to poll the athletes to find out how many two sport athletes there are to determine the short term impact. McKayla Kendall said that the high school swim coaches are sometimes coaches of fall sports. McKayla said that she does three different sports and having a fall sport allows her to do something different and make new friends outside of swimming. Jeff Ward asked what other sports McKayla Kendall plays. She said that she plays soccer and lacrosse. Jeff Ward said that he needs to check about the coaches that coach multiple sports. He then asked if there would be a reason why she couldn't do a high school winter sport. Maybe not her in particular but other swimmers down the line. McKayla Kendall said that some people might be able to do that but since this proposal is mostly for club swimmers they could already do a high school winter sport if they wanted to and also do club swimming. Mary Ellen Tynan said that the season is difficult but that the restrictions that the MPA puts on the swimmers is stricter than in just about any other LSC. The coaches can't coach high school and club at the same time. Ali Bragg said that you might lose a lot of high school swimmers who just do swimming as a fun winter sport because they already have an established fall sport. Abby Hollis said that we would most likely lose a lot of high school swimmers who just swim high school for fun and also some club swimmers who might not want to endure two swim seasons in a row. Emma Farnham said that people in other states don't have to go to their high school practices but that the culture we have would make it difficult for that to happen. McKayla Kendall said that if we are trying to reform high school swimming there are a lot of little steps. Maybe the practice rules would be easier to change rather than the season. Ali Bragg said that we would have to limit the number of missed high school practices because people would skip high school practice a lot. Mary Ellen said that different states have different guidelines but that its still important that club swimmers go to high school practice in order to keep the team aspect. At the same time we don't get the best coaching at high school because our club coaches aren't allowed to do both. Emma Farnham said that in Maine it



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is hard to get pool time in Maine so high school practices are shorter in comparison to other states. Jeff Ward said that he will do some polling and look into what other states are doing. Ehtan Schulz said that even getting small changes will be difficult because the MPA doesn't outline each sport, they just have general guidelines. He said that the team reps might be a good resource as well.

**To- Do List:**

- 1.) Continue to think about high school swim and changing guidelines and possibly get the team reps involved