

Coaches' Committee Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2020 at 8PM via Zoom

Mission: Create opportunities and provide resources to promote excellence in Maine swimming.

Vision: Maine Swimming: You CAN get there from here!.

Core Values: Sportsmanship, Excellence, Leadership, Fun

ATTENDEES: Kyle Bauer, Matt Baxter, Collin Chamberlain, Marcel Da Ponte, Trevor Edmunds, Keli Gillespie, Leanne Gravel, Fritz Homans, Lia Langeveld, Todd Larlee, Lindsay McMahon, Matt Montgomery, Paul Monyok, Jay Morissette, Taylor Rogers, Brian Savage, Mike Schmidt, Morgan Schreiber, John Smith, Marie Weferling (8:17), Vanessa Williamson, Jim Willis, TJ Willis (9PM)

Meeting called to order by Jay at 8:02PM

Jay reports that at TPC has proposed some changes to the calendar that may be brought forth at BOD and HOD. Jay notes that the Coaches' Committee only gets one vote at HOD.

Proposal introduces some changes due to low participation at current meets, expenses and issues with travel, among other things. TPC in charge of the schedule and to help create meets that work in line with our Mission and Vision Statements. Where is "there" in the Vision Statement? Could be different for each coach.

D1 Meet: Currently held in early November, proposal to move to early October. Mike currently attends the meet and he likes the current event list. Sponge said a central location would help the meet a ton as it is now at Husson. Kyle noted MMD or KVV might be better. Matt M. said he liked the idea of the proposed one day meet vs the current two. Jay asked if new proposal would bring in more swimmers. Marcel noted this meet relies heavily on YMCA teams. HSC hosted and only had 10 swimmers out of 188 total swimmers. Most of the 188 were KVV and BYB. If centrally located might draw more USA only teams. Matt M. asks what purpose of D1 Meet? Really a beginning meet to start the racing season "c" level. Start of a progression. Matt M suggested potentially three D1 Meets – one north, one central, one southern. Then D2 meet just one or two. This would require less travel. Sponge suggests maybe two meets so as not to dilute the meet too much. Where is the north/south divide? Freeport? Kyle reported that most of his older kids are not swimming in early October. LRSC has kids playing other sports. Mary Ellen reports that we used to have two meets but attendance was too low for two meets. Taylor noted it would probably be older kids for her that would come. Jay states most agree that D1 needs tweaking.

D2 Meet: Similar arguments as for D1. Currently run in January at Bates and looking to move to November. Not heavily attended at Bates and a lot of the proposals suggested by the TPC are worth investigating.

Regional Meets: Marcel noted this would essentially be what Winter Champs Trials is now. Giving it a new name with awards, medals, ribbons, t-shirt vendor catering to the swimmer is either definitely not going to make it to Age Group Meet or Senior Meet or to the swimmer who is trying to get there. For a lot of the kids this would be their championship meet for the last weekend in January. Potentially hosted at Bath. Senior cuts and Age Group Cuts cannot compete in those events. Jay clarifies this is part of Marcel's progression. Jay asked if the Winter Trials meet is a successful, viable meet the way it currently is. Jay thinks the meet works terrific. He likes the format and what it is trying to do. He would be hesitant to eliminate it as it is working. Marcel notes we would not be eliminating it, just renaming it. Matt B says moving that meet to January opens up March to allow for a Senior event for better timing for Sectionals and YMCA Nationals. Jim feels this meet works in March because it is going to be hard to have high school swimmers do a two day meet in January before the high school season is over. There is

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no LSC in USA-S under 2000 swimmers that holds both a senior and age group meet. Next year we only have pool for 1 weekend. Taylor asks for middle ground like mid to late February for a Regional meet. Jim said we went away from that because it didn't work. Taylor said it might be worth reconsidering. John Smith suggests April for Regionals meet. Jim said you can't keep pushing meets back and still support Eastern Zone meets. Jay – if we want to cater to the higher level swimmers, the TPC proposal makes sense. If catering to the lower levels swimmers the current schedule makes sense. Keli likes the Trials meet. SEALs kids just focus on cut time at the Trials meet so maybe having awards for kids who won't get to champs it could be motivating. Regional meet would be north/south ideally but may not work. Jay asked that other than finding a new weekend, why not still keep the meet as the Trials meet. Marcel says just to freshen it up. Kids see a different meet sometimes it helps. Collin noted that pushing it to January eliminates the emergency of the meet which is what makes it special. Leanne – the Trial meet used to be more of a Bronze meet with a lot of awards and it just was watered down secondary meet. In an LSC where we don't have a lot of swimmers, we cannot copy the larger LSCs that have the numbers for all of these meets. Our top level swimmers need to go out of LSC for the bigger meets. Jay agrees and likes the sense of urgency in the Trials meet. Jay not opposed to finding a new weekend but really feels this meet meets our Mission and Vision Statement. Jay said a Senior meet and bronze meet format just didn't work, not that it shouldn't be revisited. Sponge says that's correct but we now need to find something to pull the great swimmers of the LSC together for a super fast meet. Matt B notes that NES will be here as soon as Colby opens so we should have a plan to have a meet that brings the NES swimmers up. Colby won't be open for another year. John Smith says that these ideas were brought up because a lot of high school swimmers that are not the better swimmers love high school because they contribute to the team and get awards. If we reward kids at Trials for being an athlete and all the hard work they do would be special. Leanne suggests that teams award the swimmers. The amount of money that was spent on the Bronze meet almost made champs understated. Marcel said we definitely have to have awards at the Trials meet. Leanne "everybody swims everybody wins" doesn't work. Marcel wants to reward swimmers for being successful at the meet even if they don't make cuts

Age Groups Champs: Proposed for late March and with Senior meet would eliminate current champs. Jim clarifies – if you make the Senior cut then you cannot swim that event at the Age Group Meet. Jay said we have tried all formats over the years. Matt B and Marcel ask why bother to have a TPC if everyone just wants to keep things the same. Anyone who goes to the Senior meet cannot compete in those events at the Age Group Meet how does that make fast swimming at Maine. Leanne asked what is trying to be accomplished. We have a pyramid with a few swimmers at the top and they need to go away to find competition. Jim proposes we keep the schedule the same for the next year. Jim does not believe a championship meet in March works but it would in December. It would take the place of the Bowdoin Open. John suggests that we hold Senior meet in early March and invite New England swimmers to the Bath. Leanne does not think it is right to undermine all that Brad has done and pull that meet from him. Jay asks if Brad will tweak his meet. Jay says it is not a good meet. Needs real cut times. Taylor notes that TPC is working with Brad to decrease meet by 25% and start moving the cut times to 13-14 A times. Jay says the purpose of the TPC is to fix things that are not working and not change the things that are working. We do have meets that need changing. Marie agrees with Marcel. TPC worked hard on this but not moving forward. Jim said if Brad gets the same amount of he won't care. Mary

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Ellen noted that Brad does is not worried about the money. He wants to cut the meet by 25%. Just are going to come down a lot and many swimmers are not going to make the meet. Fritz notes that the Bowdoin Open is the most elite meet in MESI. We want to invite NES but they don't want us. Sponge says NES teams don't like him. Fritz says it's about associations. Pick up the phone and make a relationship. Jay – we can't do much for NES because we don't have good pools. Fritz asked if we are certain that Colby will actually open the pool to us. Kyle says that for a year Colby will not open to us so keeping things the same would be best for one more year. Fritz stated that Brad and Bowdoin College and UMO have really been there for us and we cannot push them aside when/if Colby opens. We need to keep our relationships with them healthy.

Jim has a tweak for Winter Champs. Do a super-final with all the 13 & overs. Marcel is concerned about time but that will make it faster. Matt B questioning why we would do a super final if we don't want separate age group and senior meets. Jay said it should be an HOD discussion but Jim says it needs to be resolved here. Need a consensus here. TJ notes we all agree on the changes to the Developmental Meets, but since we don't know how Colby works out, but to wait and see how that works out. Kyle says it should go YMCA Meet, Age Group Meet then Senior Meet in week increments. Taylor would rather see the Senior Meet in the winter. Jay keeps stating this group only gets one vote but Jim reinforces that most of the people here also get a vote. Jim does feel there should be a trials/finals meet in January and should be open to all the swimmers with a different format.

Proposals:

D1 and D2 in agreement so move forward

Do we need to vote on a change for Trials? Sponge likes the way it works like SYOA works. Let's find the meets that work and go with those. Jim says traditional SYOA better for 13 & under swimmers. Maybe find something for Senior swimmers somewhere around that time. Kyle notes that Pentathlons and IMX meets are more interesting. He will probably run his IMX meet again. Taylor likes meets where YMCA kids have the opportunity to swim different events. Taylor wants more than IMX, Bowdoin Open and Trials. Kyle suggested moving PBAY to run Pentathlon earlier. Morgan agrees. Taylor notes it is really up to the individual teams planning their meets.

Jim proposes that we incorporate the Senior meet with the Bowdoin Open next year, run Trials meet after YMCA states and we have March 18-21st for Bowdoin for Champs. Taylor seconds. Discussion: that leaves only one week before Sectionals. Can we move champs up a weekend? Bowdoin only available the 18th-21st. If UMO available the weekend before would everyone want the meet at UMO to give more rest for those going to Sectionals and YMCA Nationals. Marcel and Matt B go to Central Zone because of timing and Collin noted that some teams go to Plantation Sectionals. Jim said we need to focus on Eastern Zone Sectionals. Taylor said we need to focus the calendar based on where our teams go because most of our teams go to YNATS. Matt B said even though he adjusts his schedule we should still plan around the Eastern Zone. Marie said there are Sectional Meets every weekend so can't avoid it. Leanne always goes to the Eastern Zone after Winter Champs. Taylor suggests we check with UMO before we take formal vote. TJ says we should not go the weekend before at UMO because swimmers

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don't want to go there. Sponge says that coaches don't want to go to UMO. We need to try to meet the needs of our higher level athletes too. Taylor will touch base with Holly to try to ask. May be hard with everything shut down. Motion to table the vote, seconded. Passes unanimously. Mary Ellen clarifies the process that Coaches' Committee will meet again before BOD.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14PM