

Minutes MESI Crisis Management
February 22, 2021 at 2:00PM 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, Henry Clauson, Marcel Da Ponte, Holly Hatch, Taylor Rogers, Brian Savage, Jim Willis

Absent: Kristy Barry, Maddie Buck,

Guest: Mary Ellen Tynan

Taylor calls to order at 2:05 PM.

Taylor – Do we need to update the guidelines to make sure everyone knows what expectations are?

Henry – So many sanction requests overwhelming, but teams seem to be doing well but teams seem to be doing what they need to do. Mary Ellen asked if relays should be in every other lane. Henry agreed. It should be added. Henry plans to loosen restrictions on referees. DQ slips can be used and Meet Ref should have right to run it as they wish. There needs to be more consistency in officiating across meets. Nothing new in state requirements but the 50 person limit is really holding us back. Other states do ration basis per square foot and Maine may be heading that way. Cohort also binding us but seems to be more of a recommendation. There is a school assessment on Feb 26th but they have been timing with other changes so we should pay attention to that.

Taylor asked for 1-2 page document for what is expected for an approved meet. Maybe a comparison in a table to explain the differences? Mary Ellen report that MMD YMCA meets are not adequately officiated. His approved meets will be adequately officiating. None of the MMD YMCA only meets will be allowed for champs. Taylor asked for clarification of officiating at YMCA vs approval vs USA. Henry responded that qualified people must be in those positions. Clubs are interpreting differently. Henry trying to create a positive culture in USA Swimming.

Sponge reports that has always been a shortage of officials Teams don't take accountability. Henry said on the USA side we have made it easier to become an official. Some clubs have really taken advantage of it. Kyle (MMD) is well aware of his need and we are helping it towards it. Other clubs just aren't doing it. IF a club that is not doing it and they lack officials their meets should not count for USA. Taylor would like clarification for sanction and approved meet officiating requirements. Henry clarifies there is a great variety in the level and competency of officiating in Maine. Requirement might say one official but must be "qualified official" meaning someone with experience. Mary Ellen noted that not just approved meets but if we are taking times for champs, the YMCA meets must be properly certified. Jim noted that the Maine YMCA is very liberal with respect to officiating. They allow high school even. Henry - But the YMCA must have two level 2 at their meet but it is very inconsistent across the y league. We are creating guidelines to make it a little easier and streamlined to move from YMCA to USA.

Mary Ellen reported that one other issue we are having with the intra-squad meets is that Meet Directors feel like they can do whatever they want. Once the meet starts the Meet Referee is in charge not the Meet Director. Hard to monitor because it is going on within the own club and Henry said there is great variation. Really hard to monitor. If there is a dual meet the Meet Referee will be in charge.

Mary Ellen reported that we may are in a Meet Director shortage. CMA has one meet director and hard to have only one. Henry said becoming a Meet Director under the intra-squad is just not real. Need real experience. SEAL also has only one Meet Director. Every site should have two certified Meet Directors and AOs.



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Henry leaves meeting.

Mary Ellen asked if we should run a Meet director Clinic. Jim asked that if we do one we have a nice power point and presentable. It would benefit to have a real presentation. Should be about an hour. Taylor noted we set expectation that new people read the handbook ahead of time and be discussion based but realistically that will not happen. Jim asked if we should have test beforehand but better to have after. Taylor asked Mary Ellen to find out where it is stated how long documents must be kept.

Concerns about champs since TPC meeting this week.

1. What will we do with unattached swimmers for champs? There are TCST swimmers. What do we do with the two cohort scenario? They may end up nowhere? TCST won't register their team. IF they don't attach they can't swim? Jim – as members of USA Swimming they have a right to participate. Contact Vanessa and ask her to let us know if she may have a group of unattached swimmers. COVID restrictions are enough for us to not offer champs to them.
2. YMCA times for Winter Champs – YMCA meets are not being properly officiated and possible cheating of times. Some teams are doing great and others are doing whatever they want.

Jim leaves meeting.

3. If YMCA swimmers want to attach to another team they cannot if they are swimming YMCA. Just register the team. Mary Ellen will reach out to Vanessa.
4. Mary Ellen asked Sponge about questionable YMCA times. He said he would question at least two of the four approved meet times. Sponge said there are more time than MMD that should not be counted. What should we do? Should we count YMCA times for champs? No one on the YMCAs are reaching out for help. Times have no backup times. Supposedly certified by AO. Only need to supply AO name.

Holly leaves meeting.

5. Also reports of 12 & unders wearing tech suits at YMCA intra-squad meets. Times should not count. How do we find out and what do we do?

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ellen Tynan