

Minutes MESI Crisis Management

May 27, 2021 at 10:00AM 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, Taylor Rogers, Brian Savage

Absent: Kristy Barry, Maddie Buck, Holly Hatch, Jim Willis

Guest: Mary Ellen Tynan

Taylor calls to order at 10:08 AM.

Sanctioning Guidelines – Henry screen share. The state squirreled away the Community Sports Guidelines without telling anyone. Governor’s press release states they are retiring everything. Supposed to link to generic CDC guidelines. Governor’s order also states businesses and others can adopt policies regarding vaccination in order to require mask wearing. Henry recommends we issue the sanction guidelines one last time so we don’t delete. Basically says this guidance is issued so teams can return to normal post COVID. However, facilities can issue additional facility requirements and teams need to work within those.

Taylor – use term “transition away from COVID” as opposed to “return to normal.”

Mary Ellen – reviewed USA Swimming continued sanction requirements including pre-seeded meets, COVID language, etc. until at least July 31. Mary Ellen suggested we get away from “return to competition” language as we have been competing.

Marcel – do we need to do affirmation forms and waivers? Taylor suggest we create a template for all clubs to use and track themselves. In the fall, all teams should have a statement in their registration or they can use the MESI template and it is team responsibility. Henry suggests the per meet affirmation is no longer required. Now can do a new one time affirmation that attests you are either fully vaccinated or you will follow the quarantine or other guidelines and you accept the risks of COVID. Mary Ellen shares screen of USA Swimming guidelines will in effect. The limit will never exceed the fire marshal limit in the facility. Sponge – the simpler the better. Make template as generic as possible and create a bridge document until USA Swimming removes their restrictions.

Henry continues: Allowed types of meets – approved or sanctioned multi-team or dual/tri/invitational meets. Non-sanctioned meets still allowed. Proposes no intra-squad meets any more. They don’t encourage competition and difficult to administer (no money to MESI, lack of training for officials). No intra-squad will begin June 14th. Discussion about YMCA task force and whether or not YMCA and high school times will count for MESI champs. Remove details on non-sanctioned meet. Mary Ellen would like more time to sanction maybe 14 days for an open meet. Henry will clean it up. Rest of document to provide clarity to parents or community beyond us and best practices. Best for teams not to share lanes if possible.

Taylor would like to require facemask. Henry had encourage. Mary Ellen asked what the state says. State says “encourage”. No one wants to tackle requiring that. Affirmation form will cover us. Add language to template – “if you are entered into this meet here is what I understand – all of my athletes, coaches, volunteers have signed the waiver”. For next season, we need to discuss comprehensive single document. Make it super simple. Will need to work with teams during registration. Mary Ellen notes Team Unify makes it really simple. Photo and video release is very important. All teams need to take responsibility for this. Remove athletes and spectator sections of the document and combined with coaches.

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Mary Ellen – meets coming up June 4 and 5th, update documents as necessary.

Henry leaves meeting. He will update and share with Mary Ellen and then we can post. Mary Ellen will put USA template in the document. Checklist can even be in the template.

Sponge asked why SEALs need intra-squad meet and Taylor relayed information from Keith. Taylor encouraged him to reach out to other teams, but Marcel never heard from them.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ellen Tynan