

Illinois / Missouri Area YMCA Swim Committee

Minutes

May 7, 2006

The Illinois / Missouri Area YMCA Swim Committee held a regular business meeting at the Bloomington YMCA on May 7, 2006, with a quorum present for the conduct of business. Bruce Bickner, the Area Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:55 AM. Bruce passed around a roster for any updating.

1. Ron Marion was introduced as the new District Chair for the St. Louis District and Dustin Perry as a new representative for St. Louis.
2. The minutes of the Committee's meeting of October 2, 2005 were presented and approved as submitted by the Area Secretary.
3. The Treasurer's financial report as of May 1, 2006, showing a balance of \$2,106.67, was approved.
4. Joliet YMCA presented their report on the 2006 Area Championship Meet. George Galounis, the Meet Director, gave the report. George thanked a number of Area Committee members for their help in the operation of the meet. A 10-page report was distributed with details of the various aspects of the meet. The total profit on the meet was \$23,995.61.
 - A. The Committee clarified the issue of the Friday night session eligibility. A swimmer does not have to be entered in the Championship Meet on Saturday or Sunday to swim Friday, does need to be YMCA member in good standing.
 - B. Time Trials on Saturday and Sunday are limited to the swimmers entered in the Championship Meet on Saturday or Sunday.
 - C. It was reiterated that the number of coaches on deck for the meet is based upon the standard used for the YMCA National Meets.
 - D. Rome Yount observed that the opposite gender swimmers on deck each respective day are clogging up the available deck space. It needs to be stressed to coaches at the Friday night meeting that swimmers need to clear the deck in a timely manner.
 - E. The host team needs to have approx. 6 timers in reserve to keep the meet running in a smooth manner.
 - F. The host team should plan on having officials from the local area to run the Sunday evening time trial.
5. The Area Records will be updated along with the handbook by the Area Secretary in the next 30 days.

6. Don Smith reported on the plans for the 2007 Area Championship Meet. Don talked about the University of Missouri looking forward to the YMCA hosting the meet at their facility. He has a commitment letter from the University for the Meet. Jefferson City YMCA is still in negotiations with the University on how concessions will operate. Jefferson City will have a list of hotels to post on the website within 30 to 45 days. The pool will be set up with blocks at both ends of the pool; all swimmers finishing at the start end of the pool. The relay take-off pads will be turned off.
7. Ron Marion presented the proposed time standards for the 2007 Championship Meet, with one correction. A motion was made with a second to approved the 2007 qualifying times. The motion passed. Rome Yount will outline to the District Chairs, the format for submitting future results to Ron.
8. Rome Yount gave his report as Area Webmaster. He distributed a printed report with the activity on the website and the information currently posted. There is still various information missing on the site by some of the Districts. All efforts will be made to bring everything up to date. Around the time of the Championship Meets, there were 5516 hits on the site.
9. The Officials Committee report was presented by Steve McGriff, the chair. The main discussion centered on the fly kick during the breaststroke pull out. It is estimated that approx. 30 % of swimmers use the technique, and it was not a problem for the officials during the meet.
10. 2006 Area Summer Championship, Monday July 17, 2006 – Elgin YMCA will be distributing the meet packets as soon as they receive the sanction number. All committee members agreed that in the event one of the teams from the southern part of the Area stepped forward to host a similar meet in that region, the committee would support such a move.
11. Ed Stranc reported on the YMCA National Committee Meeting held March 31 and April 1, 2006 in Ft. Lauderdale. The main topic of discussion centered on the YMCA adopting the USA Swimming Technical Rules in lieu of NCAA Rules. A suggestion was made to compose a paper that teams could attach to their heat sheets regarding the changes in an effort to educate parents and swimming fans.
12. Old Business:
 - A. The rule change to waive the 5' depth requirement at the turn end of the pool was brought off the table. A discussion ensued regarding the possible increase in the number of pools available for the Area Championship if the second and fourth 8 & under relay swimmers start in the water. A motion was made with a second to approve the following:

“In awarding the bid for the Area Championship Meet, it is the preference to have a minimum of 5’ of water and fixed starting blocks at both ends of the pool, however a pool with less than 5’ at the turn end would be considered by the Committee. If a pool has less than 5’ of water at the turn end, 8 & under relays would have the second and fourth swimmers starting in the water”

- B. Area Demographics: Bruce Bickner reported on the surveys he received from teams in the Chicago, Northwest and Town & Country Districts. The consensus is to leave the alignment as is. However Brian Bickner raised concerns that the Northwest District is growing at a fast rate and could be 1200 swimmer next winter season. The committee agreed to table further discussion with Northwest and Town & Country leadership to consider a possible resolution prior to the fall meeting.

13. New Business:

- A. A motion was made with a second to replace all mention of NCAA Rules in the Area Rules and Bylaws with USA Swimming Technical Rules. The motion was tabled for further discussion and vote at the fall meeting.
- B. A motion was made with a second to limit the Area Officers terms to two consecutive terms. After a brief discussion the motion was tabled for further discussion and vote at the fall meeting.
- C. An alternate vendor is being pursued for the Area & District awards. A proposal will be presented at the fall meeting.
- D. A recommendation was made that any changes in the interpretation or application of the rules be presented at the Friday night coaches meeting so as to avoid any misconceptions.
- E. A motion was made with a second to change all 8 & under events at the Area Championship to time finals events. Further, the awards for the first half of the 8 & under events be presented at the 500 free break and the second half of awards presented directly after the last relay event. The motion was tabled for further discussion and vote at the fall meeting.
- F. Election of officers:
 - Area Chair – Ed Stranc Jr. was elected by acclamation
 - Area Secretary – Dennis Norton Sr. was elected by acclamation
 - Area Treasurer – Dean Bromann was elected by ballot.

The Committee thanked Rome Yount for his assistance in making arrangements for the meeting. The Committee also expressed thanks to Bruce Bickner, for his leadership and years of service to the committee, as he leaves office.

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The next meeting of the Area Committee will be October 1, 2006 at the Bloomington YMCA to begin at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Stranc Jr.
Area Secretary