

Illinois YMCA Swimming
Minutes of the Northwest District Committee Meeting on
September 15, 2013

The Northwest District Committee of Illinois YMCA Swimming held a meeting on September 15, 2013 at the Kishwaukee YMCA in DeKalb, IL. All ten teams were present (Belvidere, Dixon, Freeport, Illinois Valley, Kewanee, Kishwaukee, Ottawa, Rock River Valley, Sage and Streator).

The Meeting was called to order at 10:32 AM.

A motion was made to approve the January minutes. This motion was approved.

The District still needs a letter from the Executive Director from the Sage Y stating who their representative on the Northwest District Committee is.

The Northwest District Committee's Roster was passed around, and everyone updated their contact information.

Brian Bickner gave the financial report. The District has \$426.58 with an inventory of 517 medals. It was noted that these medals will be used at 2014 District Meet first, and then the State's new District medal will be issued. The financial report was approved.

The District reviewed the May State Meeting minutes.

The District reviewed the State's Conference call minutes regarding the new state format. The District expressed the following feelings about the proposed new format of the State meet. These items will be expressed to the State Committee at the October 6 meeting.

- The new format favors the bigger teams
- The new events will scare new / younger swimmers from joining our programs
- Even with the two above concerns, the District couldn't come up with any alternative formats
- The District is okay with the proposed entry limits per swimmer
- The District would like to keep the December 1 age up date. This will help smaller teams who don't have many swimmers. It was mentioned the age up date at Nationals

maybe the first day of the meet, but they only have one age group for this meet. Aging up on the first day of the meet will cause swimmers in 5 different age groups to potentially move up for this meet after swimming in a younger age group all season. Furthermore, it was stated this rule is different than USA Swimming, so teams with USA swimmers could have the benefit of being at the top of the age group, when they are at the bottom of the age group in USA Swimming.

- The District would like to see all 3 heats of the relays for swimmers ages 11 and older be swum at the same time. The proposed format of 2 heats in prelims and 1 in finals is not preferred by the District.
- The District would like the qualifying times for the State meet to be achieved during the current season (since September 1), rather than from March 1 of the previous year.
- The District would like to see the parades eliminated from the meet to improve the time line. We feel this time line is too long. Furthermore, these swimmers will be recognized after the event when they receive their awards. They don't need to be recognized twice.
- If the parades are left in the meet, the District would like to see a time line cap set for the meet (i.e. 8:30 PM). If at any point the time line for the meet is running after 8:30 PM, then the parades should be eliminated.
- The District had questions about how relays times were going to be proved. For example, if a team's four fastest swimmers swim the qualifying time in all relay events, can the team enter these relays with four, slower swimmers? What happens if a team qualifies a relay with four swimmers, and one or more swimmers ages up prior to the meet?
- How many events can a swimmer enter at the State Meet? For example, can a swimmer enter 8 events and scratch two at the meet?
- Once all the rules have been decided, it is mandatory that the State Committee provide the teams with a new and accurate set of rules.
- The District also wanted some clarification on the new Officials' rule stating a Level 2 must work at all Y meets for the meet to count. The District would like to see a delay in the implementation of this rule, so teams can get officials certified.

The District tabled the review of the 2013 District meet until our October meeting.

The District discussed some ideas for a potentially new District Meet. Teams were asked to consider the items below. We will discuss them at our October meeting, in addition to determining the District meet format.

- Will we have time to run Jr. District and District events at the same meet? If so, how?
- What events are we going to offer?
- What events, if any, are going to be offered as prelim/finals?
- Each team should bring a list of expected number of swimmers on their team for the upcoming season.

The District talked about how the State's event changes will affect Invitational meets and dual meets. The Early Bird Meet will be offering the 200 stroke events. The Barb Wire is going to be a 2 day meet with all the state events offered with the exception of the 1650 Freestyle and the 800 Freestyle relay. Teams are free to try any event order for their dual meets.

The State Rules have not been published yet; therefore, Brian could not distribute them.

The District tabled the setting of our District's time standards until the October Meeting. However, Brian will distribute a proposed set of time standards based on a percentage of the State's time standards prior to this meeting.

The District elected new State Committee Members for the upcoming year. Brian Bickner (DCST), Lori Keller (SAGE), Todd Mueller (RAYS) and Paul Weil (DIXN) were elected. Brian was also elected as District Chairperson.

Everyone was reminded of this year's Virtual YMCA National Meet on October 12 – 20.

Upcoming events are as follows:

- Sunday, October 6 – IL YMCA State Meeting in Sycamore at 9:00 AM at The Fred D. Foster Conference Center located at The Foster & Buick Law Group at 2040 Aberdeen Court in Sycamore.

- Sunday, October 20 – Northwest District Meeting at Kishwaukee YMCA at 10:30 AM.
- Sunday, December 1 – Coaches Credentials are due to Dave Hedden.

The District discussed trainings.

- Officials – Todd, Lori and Brian will let the District know of any upcoming training sessions.
- Coaches – Colleen noted that the American Red Cross has a new Safety Training for Swim Coaches. Part of this training will be on-line. She will email information about any upcoming training sessions when they become available.

The next District Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, October 20, 2013 at 10:30 AM at the Kishwaukee YMCA.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Bickner
Northwest District Chairperson