

**Proposals for Montana Swimming Fall 2015 H.O.D. Meeting
Helena, Montana – October 11, 2015**

Proposal #1

Submitted by: Linda Priddy and Richard Allen
Proposal to MT LSC HOD Fall 2015

Purpose: To further clarify the scoring and penalty status for “exhibition” swimmers in the 15-16 and 17-21 Age Group finals.

Recommendation: MTS Committee recommends to reject due to MTS direction is to run the higher level meets consistent with what swimmers will encounter within USAS higher level meets.

Proposal: “MT Swimming defined “Exhibition” athletes will be renamed “non-scoring” athletes and be included under the USA Swimming definitions of “non-scoring” and “alternates” for the purposes of assessing penalties during finals for an event during all MT LSC championship meets.”

For the duration of this proposal the term “exhibition” has been replaced by “non-scoring” except where “exhibition” has been quoted from a policy or procedure or other document or in the case to preserve historical context.

Procedure: Immediately following the passing of the scratch deadline for all finalists and alternates in an event, the Meet Administrative Official shall identify those athletes who will be placed into the finals heats as “non-scoring” athletes in the 15-16 and 17-21 Age Groups which, due to scratch vacancies, are to be moved into empty lanes for that event. Further, the Administrative Official shall notify the Meet Referee who shall be responsible for ensuring these identified athletes are notified through the following means: the athletes’ name shall be announced over the same system used for the initial finalists and alternates, the athletes shall be listed on the finalist score sheet and an “X” shall be placed next to their name on the finalists score sheet, the finalists score sheet shall be posted at the swim venue not later than 1 hour prior to the beginning of warm-ups for finals, and the identified “non-scoring” athletes shall be afforded the same penalty protections as the first and second alternate athletes for said finals (i.e. “...shall not be penalized if unavailable to compete in the finals.” USA Swimming 2015 Rule book Section 207.11.6.D(2)).

Rationale:

Current MT Swimming Policy: “Combine the 15-16 and 17-21 Age-groups at the Long Course and Short Course State Meets at Finals. Offer A and B finals for this Age-group and score to 16 places. Guaranteed at least 8 places for 15-16 and 17-21 Age-groups. Empty lanes will be filled with the next fastest 15 and over swimmers as **exhibition swimmers**. Athletes will be scored as 15-16 and 17-21.” [emphasis added] received from Dr. Tony Popp MT Swimming Chair.

MT Swimming currently generally follows the Administrative Conduct of USA Swimming Championships as described in Article 207.11 of the USA Swimming Rulebook for its championship meets. The scratch procedures outlined in Article 207.11.6C explain that athletes who fail to participate in a preliminary event once seeded “will be barred from all further individual and relay events of that day.” Article 207.11.6D(1) further states that “Any swimmer qualifying for a C, B, or A (bonus and consolation final or) final race in an individual event who fails to compete in said final shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet, except as noted in paragraph E.” In Article 207.11.6D(2) the Rulebook clearly states that “In the event of withdrawal or barring of a swimmer from competition the Referee shall fill the C, B, or A (bonus and consolation final or) final, when possible, with the next qualified swimmer(s). First and second alternates shall be announced along with the final qualifiers. These alternates shall not be penalized if unavailable to compete in the finals.” Furthermore, MT Swimming applies Article 102.5.6B: “Finals – The order of heats during the finals of a preliminaries and finals meet may be reversed, with the B and C (consolation and

bonus) heats, if any, swum following the A (final) heat. In the event of scratches, the empty lanes may be filled by moving the swimmers up in order from the slower heats and by using the available alternates in the slowest heat without reseeding the heats. For heats other than team selection finals where athletes are not provided any recognition other than the opportunity to swim (e.g., scoring points, earning prize money, etc.) **alternates** may be inserted into empty lanes in any heat regardless of order swum.” to its Championship meet format for the 15-16 and 17-21 Age Group events.

Article 207.11.6D(2) does not specifically identify the “next qualified swimmer(s)” as “alternates” and MT Swimming has interpreted the term “alternates” in the final sentence to only pertain to the specifically identified “First and second alternates” in the second to last sentence in this rule. This proposal expands the narrow definition of “alternates” used by MT Swimming to include all “next qualified swimmer(s)” and further extends the penalty protections afforded the identified alternates to all “alternates” under the expanded definition while maintaining the reward of points for accomplishment to only the initial finalists, first and second alternates.

During the 2015 MT Swimming Short Course State Championships held in Butte, MT, an athlete initially identified as an “exhibition” athlete was placed into the finals following the scratch period for the qualified swimmers and then failed to swim in the finals for that event. The interpretation of the MT Swimming rules and procedures resulted in that “exhibition” athlete being penalized as though she were a finalist for that event (initially barred from competing for the rest of the meet and points being taken from her team). Through the process afforded that athlete to challenge the disqualification and penalty, a protest review committee was convened and the athlete was allowed to swim in the rest of her events during preliminary heats only but was barred from further finals, relays, and scoring points for her team during the remainder of the meet.

Under MT Swimming procedures, “exhibition” swimmers are not allowed to achieve points for themselves or their team during a final in which they swim as an “exhibition” swimmer (USA Swimming defines this athlete as a non-scoring swimmer). It is unfair, then, to penalize these same non-scoring swimmers as though they were qualified finalists when they are assigned and fail to swim in the finals for that event. Alternatively, when an identified alternate (first or second alternate) swims in a final, they are allowed to achieve points both for themselves and their team, yet they are not penalized if they fail to swim in that same finals event (Article 207.11.6D(2)). Clearly, the intent of the term “alternates” in the final sentence of Article 207.11.6D(2) was to include all swimmers who did not initially qualify as finalists for that event but who subsequently were placed into empty lanes by the Referee.

Proposal #2

Submitted by: Dave Berkoff

Recommendation: To approve with suggested amendments by Dave B.

I would like to propose the following legislation this fall.

Selection of Montana Head and Assistant Coaches of the Year.

1. Eligibility. Candidates for the Montana Head Coach or Assistant Coach of the Year must be: (a) the Head Coach or Assistant Coach of a USAS registered team located within Montana; (b) in good standing with USAS and Montana Swimming; and (c) employed by the same Montana team for the previous calendar year.
2. Term. ~~The Coach of the Year designation shall have a term of January 1 to December 31 of the year selection occurred. (e.g. if selected in 2014, one is the coach of the year for 2014.)~~

Term will run September 1st of the year through August 31st of the following year. (edit per Dave B.)

3. Nominations. Candidates for the Montana Head Coach or Assistant Coach of the Year must be nominated by another Montana Swimming member in good standing. ~~Nominations must be delivered to the Montana Swimming Chairperson by September 30 each year prior to the annual fall meeting.~~
4. Submissions. All nominations shall include a written submission describing the nominee's coaching accomplishments during the prior season along with a short statement about the coach. Nominations will be due at the same time as Long Course State Meet Entries. (edit per Dave B.)
5. Criteria. Coach of the Year criteria include, but are not limited to: (1) the nominee coach's positive impact on the nominee's athletes and/or Montana Swimming; (2) overall and relative improvement by the nominee coach's athletes during the previous season; (3) overall and relative success at the LSC, Regional, and National level by the nominee coach's athletes during the previous season; (4) team scoring at the Montana LSC, Regional, and National Championships during the previous season; and (5) achievements by the nominee's athletes including USAS scholastic All-American, National Age Group Top 10 Rankings, State Records, and swimming volunteerism during the previous season.
6. Posting. The Montana Swimming Chairperson shall post the names of all nominees for Head Coach and Assistant Coach of the Year and any written submissions supporting the nomination on the Montana Swimming website after the close of nominations and prior to the ~~fall House of Delegates Meeting~~. Montana State Long Course Championship.
7. Selection. ~~Montana Coaches of the Year shall be selected at the annual Fall House of Delegates Meeting.~~ All registered coaches in good standing with USAS and Montana Swimming are eligible to vote for one nominee for Head Coach of the Year and one nominee for Assistant Coach of the Year. Voting will occur at the Montana Long Course State Meet. ~~Coaches who are not present at the annual House of Delegates Meeting may forward their selection to the Montana Swimming Chairperson prior to selection in writing or via email.~~ No proxies shall be permitted.
8. Zones Team. The Montana Swimming Head Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year will normally serve as the lead coaches for the Montana Age Group and Senior Zones Teams. The Head Coach of the Year will have the right of first refusal in selecting whether to serve as lead coach for the Age Group or Senior Zones meets. If one or both of the Montana Coaches of the Year cannot or choose not to participate in the Zones meets, the Montana Swimming Executive Committee shall select replacements for those positions.

Dave

Proposal #3

Submitted by: Kris Hall

In order to benefit the athletes of Montana Swimming, I'd like to submit three proposals for the next time changes can be made in MT Swimming rules or policies. Please thoughtfully consider the following three proposals:

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends to reject due to USAS will not recognize mixed age relays and our championship meets need to be consistent with USAS rules.

K1) Create an "18 and Under" Relay category for Boys and Girls for the (200 & 400 Freestyle and the 200 Medley Relays) to be swum during Finals at the Montana SC and LC State Championship Meets: Adding an "18 and Under" Relay category to the existing age group relays at Long Course and Short Course State where teams could field a relay with athletes of multiple 18 and under age groups. This proposal would allow teams that are unable to field relays by the existing age categories to benefit from the team spirit and comradery of relay participation. This proposal could benefit every team but would bring smaller teams into the forum of relay participation. At 2015 SC State, several relay events (boys in particular) had only two or three relay teams participating, meaning 14 of 16 teams had kids whom might be able to participate in a relay if we added this additional age category.

Proposal #4

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends to reject. There is already provision in USAS regs which provide for mixed gender relays and MTS should follow these rules during championship meets.

~~K2) — Add “Mixed Gender” Relay category for every age group, including the new 18 and Under category, for the (200 & 400 Freestyle & 200 Medley Relays) for Montana SC and LC State Championship Meets: Adding the mixed relays allows boys and girls to team up to compete together, encouraging cross-sex comradery and team spirit. It also allows smaller teams with fewer members a greater possibility of being able to offer relay opportunities to their athletes, given that only two athletes per sex, per age group are needed. Adding this event could afford boys, whom historically comprise just a little more than a third of all athletes participating in state, a better opportunity to participate in a relay at State. At 2015 SC State, several relay events (boys in particular) had only two or three relay teams participating, meaning 14 of 16 teams had kids whom might be able to participate in a relay if we added this additional age category. Let’s give all athletes a greater chance to benefit from the comradery, team spirit and team-mate support that relays offer.~~

The following is the edit and info from the author. Which may be used by host teams:

2) Add “Mixed Gender” 200 & 400 Freestyle & 200 & 400 Medley Relay events for each age group (as allowed for under USAS 102.1.2) for Montana SC and LC State Championship Meets.

Purpose: Adding the mixed relays allows boys and girls to team up and compete together, encouraging cross-sex comradery and team spirit. Mixed Relays allow smaller teams with fewer members a greater possibility of being able to field relays, given that only two athletes per sex, per age group are needed. Adding this event could afford boys, whom historically comprise just a little more than a third of all athletes participating in state, better odds of participating in a relay at State. At 2015 SC State, several relay events (boys in particular) had only two or three relay teams participating, meaning 14 of 16 teams had kids whom might be able to participate in a relay if the LSC adopted this mixed category. Let’s give all athletes a greater chance to benefit from the comradery, team spirit and team-mate support offered by relay participation. If there are concerns over timeline impact, consider that many events could likely be combined, subject to Referee discretion, so the impact might be minimal when contrasted with the benefits offered to athletes of smaller teams.

USAS Rule References

205.8..3 Age group championship meet events shall be selected from the recognized events in 102.1.2.

102.1.2 AGE GROUPEVENTS — Competitions may be composed of events selected from the following recognized list of events or other such events/meet types as may be sanctioned by the LSC.

10 Years and Younger 11, 12 Years

50, 100, 200, 400m/500y freestyle 50, 100, 200, 400m/500y, 800m/1000y, 1500m/1650y freestyle
50, 100 backstroke 50, 100, 200 backstroke
50, 100 breaststroke 50, 100, 200 breaststroke
50, 100 butterfly 50, 100, 200 butterfly
100, 200 individual medley 100, 200, 400 individual medley
200 freestyle relay 200, 400 freestyle relay
200 medley relay 200, 400 medley relay

200 mixed gender freestyle relay 200, 400 mixed gender freestyle relay

200 mixed gender medley relay 200, 400 mixed gender medley relay

13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 Years

50, 100, 200, 400m/500y, 800m/1000y, 1500m/1650y freestyle
100, 200 backstroke
100, 200 breaststroke
100, 200 butterfly
200, 400 individual medley
200, 400, 800 freestyle relay
200, 400 medley relay

200, 400, 800 mixed gender freestyle relay

200, 400 mixed gender medley relay

Proposal #5

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends approval as follows per author's edit:

1) Create a Division II Championship Team Trophy for the Montana LC and SC State Meets. The existing Team Trophy would be awarded for Division I. Teams participating at State would be ranked by total number of athletes registered to each team. The top half of teams entered State, will be placed in Division I, the lower half will be placed in Division II.

Purpose: To bring more excitement, comradery and rivalry among Montana's smaller teams hailing from smaller communities by creating a second "Team Championship" division for teams with fewer athletes participating at LC and SC State Championships. Y Championship meets and some LSC's separate team awards into size divisions. Adding a second division would be fun and breathe freshness and excitement into teams who don't think about "Team" award categories because they are too far out of the running due to lower total athlete numbers.

~~K3) Create Two Team Trophy Divisions at the Montana LC and SC State Meets, adding a new Division 2 based upon 25 or fewer athlete team size participating. To bring more excitement, comradery and rivalry among Montana's smaller teams hailing from smaller communities by creating a second "Team Championship" division for teams with 25 or fewer athletes participating at the Montana LC and SC State Championships. Continue to award our existing team trophies to Division 1 Teams (with 26 or more athletes entered). Create a Division 2 Team category for teams with 25 or fewer athletes entered. Y Championship Meets and some LSC's separate Team Awards into size divisions. Adding a second division would be fun and breathe freshness and excitement into teams who don't think about "Team" award categories because they are too far out of the running due to low numbers.~~

Proposal #6

Submitted by: Jim Cherewatenko

Update proposal 1 to following:

Entry Deadline: All entries must be received no later than **11:59 PM (MDT or MST), Wednesday; 9 days prior to first day of meet**, and must be made online beginning, **date OME opens for entries**, prior to the deadline date. E-mail entries will be accepted for individual swimmers and not entire team entries.

Late Entry Deadline: Entries for first time qualifying swims must be received by **11:59 PM (MDT or MST), Saturday, 6 days prior to first day of meet**, entered only by e-mail. These entries may not be used to improve the seed time of a previously submitted entry. Late entries **for new qualifying swims** will be accepted but will pay double the entry fee (again updating times after **the late entry deadline** is not permitted). **No addition of swimmers, added events, relays or changes will be allowed after the late entry date.**

~~Regular State Championship meet entries (short and long course) are due 10 days prior to the meet start date. Late entries 9 (?8) days prior to meet start, with double fee late entry charge. No changes or entries will be accepted after the late entry date for each championship meet. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.~~

Proposal # 7

Submitted by: Jim Cherewatenko

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends approval.

Officials shall not officiate and coach at the same meet on the same day regardless of session number.

Proposal # 8

Submitted by: Jim Cherewatenko

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends approval.

Montana Swimming LSC will financially support (fund) and award “years of service” pins to all active and current officials on an annual basis. “years of service” pin awards will be presented to Montana Swimming Officials at the Montana LSC annual fall officials meeting in October each year. If not in attendance at the annual meeting, pins will be distributed throughout the remainder of the short course season by the officials chair or his/her designee. A cumulative total of three years may be ordered at one time to realize a savings on individual pin costs at the officials chair discretion.

Proposal # 9

Submitted by Jim Cherewatenko

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends to reject based on leaving such details up to the host team. The MTS official's chair may make such suggestions to teams hosting championship meets.

Montana Swimming will recognize all officials present at both the short course state meet and the long course state meet as a group, on deck, before the national anthem and prior to prelims on one of the three days of each meet.

Proposal # 10

Submitted by Jim Cherewatenko (hold over or table for spring meeting?)

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends to table for Spring HOD meeting agenda.

Move Montana Age Group Short Course State Championship Meet to April of each year.

Proposal # 11

Submitted by: Kristen Mark

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends to reject due to the criteria already in place for this purpose.

Outreach Membership proposal

Montana Swimming will offer a year round reduced rate athlete outreach membership to provide opportunities in swimming for economically disadvantaged swimmers in the LSC. The outreach fee will not exceed \$7.00.

Each club should identify swimmers who may qualify for the outreach membership when the swimmer registers with the club. Each club shall be responsible to inform athletes of the availability of this membership. It is the responsibility of the club registrar to keep the necessary documentation or information that shows the athlete qualifies for the membership.

Families may qualify for a year round athlete outreach membership in several ways including, but not limited to, qualifying for the Federal free or reduced hot lunch program, Food Stamps (SNAP) program, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), TANF, WIC, foster children, participation in Head Start, Medicaid, Medicare, Healthy Montana Kids Plus, Healthy Montana Kids, homeless, runaway, migrant, is a member of the club on a reduced or free scholarship, or their income is within the Federal Poverty

Guidelines. Families who have a person receiving unemployment benefits may also qualify for an outreach membership.

If a family's financial status changes during the year due to a loss of a job or other financial circumstances, a swimmer may apply to change his/her registration from a regular membership to an outreach membership and the difference in cost will be refunded by Montana Swimming to the swimmer's club to be refunded to the swimmer.

Rationale:

Many Montana families struggle financially. We would like to encourage swimmers to join our teams and one way we can do that is by offering an outreach membership that encourages low income families to be involved in swimming. Expanding the outreach definition allows qualified swimmers who are home schooled and those who attend religious schools to participate in the program.

Many families are ashamed of their financial status and are reluctant to come forward asking for assistance. Families are much more likely to do so if the proof of outreach membership is handled by the club. The club will keep the information confidential.

Every day families struggle to make ends meet due to the harsh economic time in which we currently live. According to the Bureau of Labor statistics, the number of unemployed persons was 9.3 million. Many people don't have the discretionary income that they once had for extracurricular activities due to an unforeseen job loss that has adversely impacted income in a negative way. Outreach membership plays a vital role in bridging the gap. A Montana Swimming outreach membership offers qualified individuals the opportunity to become a Montana Swimming year-round athlete member at a reduced fee. Many families in Montana live at or below the poverty levels. This is one way Montana Swimming can make a positive difference in a swimmer's life. We encourage clubs to offer scholarships to assist low income families to participate in swimming.

Proposal #12

Submitted by: Kristen Mark

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends to reject due to criteria already in place for this purpose.

I propose that Montana Swimming designate the Hardin Otters Swim Team as an outreach team, effective September 1, 2015.

The Hardin Otters Swim Team was established in 1991 in cooperation with the Hardin School District, and occupies the Hardin Community Activity Center which was funded by the coal board. Hardin is the county seat of Big Horn County, over 70% of which is designated to Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian reservations. 54% of families in the county have income at or below the federal poverty level. The entire school district qualifies for federal free hot lunch program and breakfast in the classroom.

In the past, up until last year, the Hardin Otters Swim Team was designated as an outreach team. This designation allows many families to participate who could not otherwise afford the fee. Because our fees must remain low in order to provide an opportunity for the youth of our community to participate in aquatics, our expenses are paid through meets. Parental involvement is vital to allowing our team to host meets and to remain part of the Montana Swimming community. During the last year when we did not have the outreach designation our parental involvement was not sufficient to maintain a team for the long term.

It is the wish of the Hardin Otter Swim Team that, with the support offered by outreach designation, our club

can remain an active participant in Montana Swimming and continue to provide access to the Hardin Community Activity Center as a location for sanctioned swimming competition.

Sincerely,

Kristen Mark,

Hardin Otter Swim Team, Board President

Proposal # 13

Proposals 13 – 17 Submitted by: Susan Huckleby

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends to reject due to current criteria and rules already set and functioning well.

All time trials and dual meets involving 50 swimmers or less will not be required to pay the per swimmer surcharge to Montana Swimming. Unattached swimmers should not be considered a team at any meet because they represent no team/club in competition per USA Swimming rules and therefore should be allowed to complete in dual and single team meets without affecting the team count.

Rationale: Small time trials are needed and often in cities with two teams, the teams will combine to hold a time trial. This past year few of these time trials were held simply because of the requirement to pay the per swimmer fee. Most are held during practice time and involve few swimmers. Similarly small dual meets especially those held during practice time benefit our swimmers but few have been held this past year because of the requirement to pay the per swimmer fee. The income lost is minimal compared to the benefit to our swimmers and teams. Include unattached swimmers to give them the opportunity to compete at these small meets.

Proposal # 14

Recommendation: MTS committee recommends to reject as the meet director and referee can include this detail in the meet contract.

Montana Swimming will host an open time trial for any Montana Swimming registered athlete to be held in conjunction with the Junior BC Championships.

Rationale: There should be a time trial held by the LSC during the Junior BC meet that's open to any Montana Swimming athlete. For the host team to hold the time trial has proven to be more costly than necessary.

Proposal # 15

Recommendation: MTS committee makes no recommendation. We want to be consistent in following USAS rules in our championship meets, however, we want to make the best opportunities for swimmers with the pool lane structure within our LSC.

Scoring and awarding at all Montana Swimming championship meets (including SC State, Senior Championships, Junior BC Championships, and LC State) shall follow USA Swimming rules for scoring. Specifically for meets held:

In a six lane pool, scoring to six places and awards to twelve places.
In a seven lane pool, scoring to seven places and awards to fourteen places.
In an eight lane pool, scoring to eight place and awards to sixteen places.
In a nine lane pool, scoring to nine places and awards to eighteen places.
In a ten lane pool, scoring to ten places and awards to twenty places.

Rationale: To score and award at all our championship meets in accordance with the USA Swimming rules.

Proposal # 16

Recommendation: MTS Executive committee recommends to reject due to MTS direction to be consistent with USAS in running championship meets.

At any Montana Swimming championship meet when prelim-finals events are contested, all qualifying alternates and all non-scoring non-qualified swimmers ages 15-21 who may be moved into finals to fill the empty lanes in a heat shall **not** be penalized if the swimmer fails to appear at the blocks to swim the event in finals.

Rationale: Non-qualifying non scoring 15-21 year olds moved into finals to fill empty lanes in a heat may not realize they are in finals and may fail to appear for finals. Alternates may not realize there has been a scratch in finals and therefore e may not appear at finals. Let's not penalize these swimmers.

Proposal # 17

Recommendation: To be discussed as a budget item. However, there is some funding already available and we question the validity of \$3500 spent on just two swimmers.

Allocate funds to send at least two swimmers and two adults to the 2016 Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Camp in Salt Lake City. Costs include \$240 per person registration fee and transportation costs to and from Salt Lake City.

I'm unsure how much to allocate for transportation at this time. As a suggestion perhaps allocate \$3500 with the budget to be adjusted for actual costs incurred. This camp is held every other year. The camp coaches are national recognized coaches and there will also be at least one national athlete at the camp. It is a terrific experience for our athletes to attend. Each LSC may send two athletes (with up to four alternates - depending upon the number of athletes actually attending the camp it is possible for another of our Montana athletes to also attend at the LSC cost) plus the diversity chair and a coach. Camp information will be available in October. The camp will be held in July.

Susan Huckleby