

April/May 2016 Mixer Meet Report

On April 30th and May 1st Montana Swimming held the Third “Mixer Meet” from a recommendation for LSC’s that have a population of less than 2500 to get more interest in the sport.

Basic Format of the Event

We had 103 Register and 94 participating swimmers for the weekend. 7 swimmers represented BTST/BY/PWST/and KATS, all others were BOZ. There were 59 (63%) girls and 35 boys (37%). There were 50 swimmers 10 and under (53%) and 44 swimmers 11 and over (47%). Cost was \$30 to participate. Swimmers 11 and over engaged in 1.5 hours of water time in Saturday morning that was training and social interactive focused. Swimmers chose a stroke or sprint/middle distance/distance freestyle and got to work with a coach for their lane. Mid-day we did some team building/get to know you activities and relay races and age separated Dogeball games. Just before lunch, swimmers had a 5-10 minute Safe Sport Session with Coach Shelly (LSC Safe Sport Chair) to review what Safe boundaries are and why we should be aware of them. An afternoon 3 hour swim session was planned for all participants with rotation of skill development and working with multiple coaches, they worked through starts, turns and strokes and had a chance to work with each coach at the event. There was also 45 minutes of game time in which 10 and unders played kickboard tag, and 11 and overs played water polo. There were also snacks, 2 lunches and dinner provided to athletes. Upon Arrival, Swimmers received a Cooler, MT Swimming Logo bumper sticker, and USA Swimming sticker, pencil and Tattoos to promote our sport. Additional lifesaver award and other prizes were also given throughout the event.

Attending Coaches Comments

We had 6 BOZ coaches attend, with no other interest from other MT Coaches-3 emails were sent out to coaches to try to get support for the meet. Each group was about 16-17 swimmers. We also incorporated ways that the kids got to meet each coach during dryland team building sessions. Coaches had a great time interacting with all kids. Saturday’s event ran from 7:15am for 11 and overs and 9:30am for 10 and unders (check-in) to 6:00pm pick-up. Sunday’s meet ran from about 8:00am (warm-ups) to about noon and included pizza lunch at the end. We took the advise from coaches at the first mixer event and let 11 and overs start early, and had 10 and unders start later and that seemed to work much better. Coaches appreciated the older swimmers and their desire to fill leadership roles. Many opportunities were given for older swimmers to fill leadership roles and that was an exciting thing for coaches to see kids develop these skills.

Participant Survey Results

Survey’s were distributed to all participants via an online platform and collected from 50 participants after the event to try to help us plan for a future Mixer Meet. Below are the results of that survey.

Almost all surveys collected said they would return to a future Mixer Event. Of those, 20% said “no matter where it was held,” and 74% said “as long as it was within a 3 hour drive.” 2 “other” comments were collected (they both said they would if it was in Bozeman), 2% saying they would not participate again.

From the Survey Swimmers/parents ranked from 1-7 what was the best part about the mixer meet. Here are the results:

	Average Ranking
1. Meeting other Montana Swimmers/Building new Friendships	5.70
2. Gaining Leadership experience	4.55
3. Interactive dryland games/relays	4.46
4. Learning new swimming skills	4.45

	Average Ranking
5. Working with new Coaches	4.04
6. Competing for official times	2.72
7. Competing in relays (non-conventional relays)	2.58

Comment's section:

- To try to get more swim teams to come to the event. It's a great way for teams in Montana to get to know each other
- The kids love this event! They come home pumped up for the season. Love that it is in Bozeman too
- It would be great to have other teams with coaches & swimmers attend the event. It was a positive experience for our swimmer and a great way to kick off long course season.
- Loved this event. Low key, wonderful, fun!
- This is such a fun weekend for new families and veteran swim families! It would have been cool if there would have been more swimmers and coaches there from other towns like the previous year. Great job coaches and volunteers!
- This is a great event. We have to figure out how to talk the rest of Montana in to it.
- I would love to see more in attendance from around the state, especially other coaches. Thank you to the Barracuda coaches for all their work. I love that this is a fun experience for the kids. I hope it continues to be unsanctioned and allows the kids to be silly when they don't get this opportunity very often in the sport. They need to still be kids!!

Budget Breakdown:

Income from Meet Fees for event: \$8850

- MT Swimming paid host \$6,000
- Meet Fees Collected \$2850

Expenses: Total-\$6521.47

- Participation awards: \$2,025.85
- Gift Card Awards/prizes: \$275
- Food (2 lunches, 1 dinner and snacks): \$3,149.03
- Water Coolers/Dodge balls/items to serve food: \$81.59
- Payment to Coaches: \$990

Remaining Expenses not yet paid and Estimates:

- Pool \$400
- Gym \$40
- Cafeteria \$140

Anticipated Profit to Host Team: \$1,748.53

Recommendations: Continue to provide this event for Montana Swimmers in increase the mix of teams participating. Thank you to Montana Swimming for creating this event, we hope to see it increase in attendance and more coach participation from other teams.

Submitted by Coach Jade and Coach Shelly Sobek