

## Proposals for MT Swimming House of Delegates

Fall 2013

### John Heryla Proposals

I would like to submit the following 2 proposals to the House of Delegates, relating to the annual B-C Championship Meet qualifications. I would add the caveat that if one of these proposals is accepted, I would withdraw the 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal.

John Heryla

Brief:

The B-C Championship Meet has evolved into a dual-purpose meet over the years. Its primary purpose has been to offer a Championship Meet to the approximately 70% of the Montana swimmers who do not qualify to attend the "State" Meet. The Meet's secondary purpose has become for it to be a "last chance" meet to allow swimmers to qualify for "State". My first proposal allows the Meet to continue in its dual-purpose role. The second proposal would in effect scale the meet back to allow it to only function solely as a "non-state State meet".

The current rules for entry qualifications for the B-C Championship Meet unfairly exclude certain swimmers by applying an uneven use of the standards in determining who may enter and who may not enter the meet. The questionable issue revolves around swimmers who have "B" times in some event. As the rules now stand, swimmers with "B" times and below may enter and compete at the B-C meet, provided they have not qualified to attend the MT Swimming State Championship Meet.

This requirement seems counter-productive to me. We allow "B" swimmers who do qualify for state yet to swim and compete at the BC meet, but exclude "B" swimmers who may have the same time and ability in a particular event, simply because they have already made a "BB" time in some other event. A "B" time swimmer is a "B" time swimmer in a particular event, no matter how well they may swim in other events. And as we are all well aware, with the exception of those events with fewer than 8 swimmers entered, a "B" time is rarely good enough to get a swimmer on the podium at State, so let these swimmers have their moment in the sun at the B-C meet where they can earn a medal with that time.

I would like to support a change that will apply the entry standards evenly across the board. I, personally, believe that the first Proposal is the best way to address the issue and maintain the spirit and integrity of the meet, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal also corrects the inequity with a bit harsher application. The second proposal might have the impact of reducing the attendance at the B-C Meet.

### Proposal 1

Allow all swimmers with "B" times to compete at the BC meet, regardless of their State qualification status.

Replace the ELIGIBILITY language in the B-C Championship Meet contract to read:

ELIGIBILITY: All swimmers must be registered athletes with USA Swimming and Montana Swimming for 20xx. Swimmers may enter any event in which they do NOT have a "BB" time or better, in any course (SCY,LCM, SCM), since January (20xx – 1). Swimmers 8 & under may enter any event for which they do not have a state qualifying time in any course.

January (20xx-1) will be replaced with the actual date of the previous year's January. I.E. in Feb 2014 the date will read January 2013.

### Proposal 2

Allow only swimmers who have not achieved any rated time to compete at the B-C meet. Replace the ELIGIBILITY language in the B-C Championship Meet contract to read:

ELIGIBILITY: All swimmers must be registered athletes with USA Swimming and Montana Swimming for 20xx. Swimmers may enter any event in which they do NOT have a "B" time or better, in any course (SCY, LCM, SCM), since January (20xx – 1). Swimmers 8 & under may enter any event for which they do not have a state qualifying time in any course.

#### Susan Huckleby/MT Swimming Officials Proposals

Before I leave for zones here are what the officials discussed for proposals in a not very polished form. I haven't talked to the Hallgrimson's yet about naming the award after Mark.

Susan

#### Proposal 3

The MT Swimming Officials would like to request funding of up to \$100 per year for an annual award recognizing the outstanding stroke and turn official in the LSC. The award will be voted upon by the officials at their annual meeting and only officials certified as a chief judge or stroke and turn are eligible to receive the award.

#### Proposal 4

In seeding the 15-21 year old finals at championship meets, if there are full heats of 15-16 and 17-21 year olds in any event, the heats would be seeded by age group rather than by time.

#### Proposal 5

Montana Swimming would promote swimming within the state to encourage young people and their families to join Montana Swimming. Promotions would include public service announcements, press releases, and other information to promote the sport of swimming. (The new permanent office staff person would be in charge of the promotions.)

Submitted by the Montana Swimming Officials

#### Richard Allen Proposals

##### **Proposal 6:**

(This is part of the Senior Development job, who is Jade and he has no problem doing this and he feels he already has money to do this. He said he can do Long Course and short course)

The time period for scoring IM Xtreme Challenge and IM Ready Challenge for MT Swimming members will be commensurate with the dates published on the USA Swimming website. "An IMX or IM Ready score is only established after a swimmer has swum all of the events required for their age group in a sanctioned meet since the start of the current season; both short and long course seasons start September 1 and end August 31 for IMX/IMR purposes."

##### *Justification:*

Currently, MT Swimming limits the time period for scoring IMX and IMR athletes to the short course season. Reasons for this are varied and include a lack of funds for awards when MT Swimming desires to recognize these athletes as much as possible and that MT has so few long course meets that MT Swimming thought it might be difficult to encourage athletes to continue with the program. There are many swimmers in MT who only compete

during the long course season and to deny these athletes similar opportunities for recognition as those who swim short course is unacceptable.

**Proposal 7: withdrawn**

MT Swimming will use funds from the purchase of Specialty License plates to purchase awards for the Short Course portion of the IMX and IMR Challenge program.

*Justification:*

Awards for the IMX/IMR Challenge last year cost MT Swimming a little under \$300. To date, specialty license plate sales have resulted in just under \$600.

**Proposal 8 withdrawn**

Billings Aquatic Club will donate the awards for the Long Course portion of the IMX and IMR Challenge program for a period of three years (2014 – 2017) after which MT Swimming will assume responsibility for supplying these awards.

*Justification:*

BAC is one of the largest swim clubs in Montana and as such believes we should be actively involved in recognizing excellence in MT Swimming Athletes throughout the state. The period of three years should allow MT Swimming to build a more solid foundation of yearly revenue through the ongoing purchase of Specialty License Plates and Corporate Donors allowing MT Swimming to assume this cost at that time.

**Proposal 9:**

MT Swimming will use \$5,000 of its 2014 general budget to invest in the two travel funds already managed by the LSC for MT Swimming Athletes who qualify for and attend higher level meets - \$2,500 each. This is in addition to currently budgeted funds, if any. Additional funding sources/plans for these accounts will be established by the Executive Committee of MT Swimming and presented at the Spring HOD Meeting.

*Justification:*

Many clubs within USA Swimming are already recognizing the need to establish scholarships for underprivileged, financially challenged, underserved athletes to participate in the sport of swimming at the club level and have begun the process to complete this. There are fewer organizations that have funds to help offset the financial burden of success in the sport of swimming. USA Swimming has an account that helps offset national level meet travel expenses and MT Swimming has similar funds but has not chosen to invest in these funds annually. The athletes who qualify for higher level meets face similar expenses as those who compete at the national and junior national meets and are equally representatives of MT Swimming. Their work and effort to achieve these goals should not be crushed simply because their families cannot afford to travel to the meet without some assistance. MT Swimming should, as much as feasible, support the efforts of these athletes and provide financial support to those families whose athlete would otherwise not be able to represent themselves, their club and MT Swimming during these higher level meets. Additional and ongoing funding for this endowment could be achieved through taking a percentage of every corporate sponsor's donation added to a percentage of every championship meet's registration fees. Each MT Swimming affiliated club could also pledge to raise \$500 a year for the fund. The

particulars of ongoing funding can be developed by the Executive Committee of the MT Swimming Board of Directors.

### Jake and Shelly Sobek Proposals

Thank you for putting these together for the HOD Meeting. Below are our 2 proposals. If Lanni wants to add any comments to the OME one, please feel free. Thanks!

Coach Jade and Coach Shelly

#### Proposal #10 Submitted by Jade Sobek/Kenji Aoki

Swimmers that are invited by USA-S to attend a “Select Camp” (National, Zone, National Diversity, Zone Diversity) may submit in writing to be reimbursed up to \$300 for travel to the MT Swimming Treasurer. Reimbursement can be submitted after completion of the camp and up to 3 months after the last day of camp and must include receipt for flight or if attended by car, mileage will be reimbursed at the government rate.

Rational: Swimmers that have invested to become a larger part of USA Swimming and represent Montana should be supported by MT Swimming as they bring back knowledge and experience to their teammates and other MT Swimmers from their participation in these “by invitation only” camps. Swimmers are only allowed to attend each of these camps once per year USA-S rules, so there will not be an overwhelming amount of money going to any one swimmer.

#### Proposal 11

MT Swimming will use the OME system to register for the State Meets.

Rational: The OME system is the most accurate system to register for times, updated registration information and accuracy. The system will also automatically account for Altitude adjusted times. It is a simple system to use and will save the meet registrar many hours verifying registrations and entry times. Payments can be submitted by credit card or Team Check , unless MT Swimming would not like to pay the fees for Credit Card transactions.

### Craig Smith Proposal

#### **Proposal 12**

**Location:** 5.1.6 D of Mt Swimming Official Policy and Procedure.

**Purpose:** Meet entry fees are Mt Swimming’s 2nd highest revenue item and there currently is no penalty for clubs who fail to or delay payment. These fees are a portion of the fees collected by the club in advance so should pose no impact as long as they stay current

#### **Proposed Addition (underlined):**

5.1 Sanctions/Approval

.6 Reports and Remittances

D. Financial Statement - The financial report and per athlete fee balance shall be mailed to the MT-S General Chair or designee within forty-five (45) days of the conclusion of the meet. A \$100 late fee will be assessed for reports and payments not received to MT Swimming within forty-five (45) days of the

conclusion of the meet. In addition, the club will not be able to receive a sanction until the meet fee and penalty are paid in full.

**Effective Date:** Immediately