

Montana Swimming Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2008

Guesthouse Inn & Suites, Helena, Montana

General Chairperson Niki Bronec called the 2008 Semi-Annual Meeting of Montana Swimming to order on Sunday October 5, 2008, at Guesthouse Inn & Suites, Helena, Montana. The list of attendees and written reports are attached to the original minutes. A quorum was present and the meeting proceeded.

Minutes for the spring 2008 meeting were emailed to all members and copies were made available at the meeting.

Minutes were passed.

Reports from Officers, Coordinators and Committee Chairs were emailed out. There were no questions.

Old Business

Zones:

41 athletes attended. 311 races were swum with 180 best times achieved and 8 champs. 2 athletes qualified for Junior Nat. in Texas in December. 12 and under swimmers swam well. The athletes got along. 5 MT officials were at Zones.

Convention:

Andrew Bovard and Kasey Robinson reported that it went well. Athletes were split up by zones. They made list of goals i.e.: more connection with LSC, be connected nationally and with LSC via Face Book. HOD got a lot done. Larry requested they write 2 things to help improve convention.

Larry stated that the suit issue will take effect May 15, 2009. This restriction being that 12 and under swimmers cannot wear full body suits in LSC or age group meets. They can be worn in any senior meet. Boys cannot wear anything past the knee. It will be up to the meet referee to enforce this rule.

A senior meet has been developed inside Western Zone. 15 and over meet will be held the following week of zones. It will be a three and a half day event. Sr. Section time will not be used. This meet will be in Hawaii following the age group Zones championship. On Sunday, April 9, following the open water swim, warm-ups will begin for the senior championship. The meet will then be held the following Monday through Wednesday, April 10-12, 2009. This meet will never be held at the elevation of 2000 or less. Athletes will be representing their own club not LSC. This came from Mark Schubert, senior committee.

Question asked: Will the athletes have to stay the entire time in Hawaii or can they choose one or the other. Will Montana pay for the coach's ticket and room while at the zones meet? For the senior meet the individual club or someone else is responsible.

Hawaii is working with the airlines on discounts for travel to Hawaii for zones meet.

Susan spent 5+ hours in meetings. Things that were discussed: suits, big emphasis on open water swims. There is a CD available regarding providing opportunities for age group swimmers, college swimmers and coaches.

Other:

Timing Equipment: The question is...is it time to disband the timing trailers. Only 4 clubs do not have their own timing equipment. \$1500 to \$2000 is spent per year for repairs. Merle has information on the purchase of various timing systems. Timing trailers will be used through long course season. They will then be brought together and the

equipment will be evened out between the two in preparation to be auctioned off via email. The trailers will be ready at LC state.

To host a state meet the host will be required to have touch pads.

Proposal: MT Swimming to send out a proposal to clubs (one vote per club) by Nov. 15 to sell off timing equipment. Club email or call by the deadline.

Passed

Question: Where will the money received from the auction go? This sale will happen prior to the fall HOD meeting so it can be decided the meeting, as to where the money will go.

New Business

Approval of Records appointment scratched.

Susan: Camp/Clinic Committee did a great job, coaches did a great. There were not very many athletes that attended and so there was a lot of one on one. Eric Shulky, a physical therapist from Bozeman Active Physical therapy was great. Speakers were great. Budget was \$3000.00. There was a loss of \$1100.00. The Committee did discuss cancelling but did not in order to get the clinic launched. Feedback from the athletes was good. Susan felt it was a success, the numbers just weren't there. Feedback was to not bill it as a novice/beginner clinic but the idea was to try and gear it toward them. The physical therapist was great and he will travel for free. An effort is being made to get more doctors, nutritionist, etc to talk at the clinics and to move the clinics around the state.

Time standards have been updated. 2009-2012 TUSS is available.

Boys 13-14 may have a typographical error. It will be checked prior to posting.

Budget:

Larry: The proposed budget has \$800.00 negative.

Equipment repairs are included in the budget to keep trailers going until they are sold off.

Question: What is the income from the trailers. It depends on how much they are used.

Entry fees should not be dropped, if not increased next year. Other LSCs have higher fees which allow them to afford more camps and support older swimmers.

Negative net over the last few years isn't good. Next year may come with some kind of increase. There was not proposal for an increase because of Zones. This passed.

Committee Application Forms:

They can be found on the MT web page.

Zones will be held August 4-8

Host for Long Course State:

Vote for Bozeman or Helena. Bozeman won... will host the 2009 Long Course State Meet

Long Course Schedule was set.

Election of Officers:

Coaches Rep: Gary was appointed until May, 2009.

Records Coordinator: Butch Gerbrandt (1 year)

Officials Committee Chair: Merle Gunderson

General Chair: Niki Bronec

Administrative Vice-Chair: Brian Robinson

Program Development Vice Chair: Susan Huckeby

Treasurer: Larry Johnson

Susan, Larry and Butch positions were motioned, seconded and passed by acclimation.

10 Minute break (10:53)

Other:

In regards to voting, the US Swimming Athletes are allowed 20% of possible votes not the number of attendees and so 2 more athletes need to be appointed. Gen. Chair will appoint athletes at large, possibly 4 needed.

Proposals:

A motion was made to combine proposals 1 and 5. Passed.

Proposal 1 – Allow the 8 and Unders to swim the 100 Free at the Long Course State Meet.

Rationale – The 8&U can swim 7 events at the short course state meet, yet are limited to only 4 for the long course state meet. By adding the 100 free, this will allow more swimmers, and may attract those 8 and unders who might not come as they cannot swim that many events.

The criteria would be as followed. Take the 8 and Under 50 time, double it and add 8 seconds. So the standards would be as follows:

GIRLS			BOYS		
LCM	SCM	YARD	LCM	SCM	YARD
2:04.98	1:52.38	1:41.58	2:00.58	1:52.18	1:41.38

Submitted by Lynn Shrader

Proposal 5 - 8 and Under time standard for 100 free

- The time standard for the 8 and under 100 yard/meter freestyle should be referred to program development to be set in accordance with Montana Swimming policies.

Rationale: According to our MT Swimming policies, the 8 and under time standards are reviewed and updated, if needed, every four years by the program development vice chair. Those 8 and under times (for 50 and 100 yard/meter distances) are set as 120% of the USA Swimming TUSS time standards for the 10 and under age group. These times will be review this fall after the new time standards are released. If we set the 100 free time standard so it is based in the same manner as the other 8 and under times then we have less confusion.

Submitted by Susan Huckleby

8 and under 100 free will be added in the long course season, the standard will be determined by the professional development chair.

No discussion

Proposal 1 & 5 Passed

When the 8 and under 100 free will be swum needs to be determined.

A motion was made to table and have it go to committee by March meeting.

Motion was passed. The Executive board will vote.

Proposal 2 - National meet reimbursement:

- A.) Reimburse all Montana Swimming registered athletes who participate at a national championship level meet \$300 per meet. Qualifying meets include Senior Nationals, Junior Nationals, the US Open, Olympic Trials, National Disability Championships and Nationals Disability Trails. Swimmers should request the reimbursement from the MT Swimming treasurer after the meet.
- B.) Reimburse one Montana Swimming registered coach who attends and coaches Montana Swimming registered athletes at a national championship level meet \$300 per meet. Qualifying meets include Senior Nationals, Junior Nationals, the US Open, Olympic Trials, National Disability Championships and Nationals Disability Trails. The coach should request the reimbursement from the MT Swimming treasurer after the meet.

Submitted by Susan Huckleby

Part A - Motion to accept, seconded.

Discussion:

6 meets per year, the number of swimmers vary from year to year.

The passing of part A and the budget... the math does not add up. The budget will have to be reopened.

Larry suggests to reopen the budget and gives a reminder of the Nagashima Fund and that people can make donations to it.

Part A Passed

Part B – Motion to reject, seconded

Discussion:

There was a disagreement, there is need to have representation at big meets. Athletes need to have a coach present. It is important to the swimmers to have a familiar coach.

A disagreement was stated in supporting just one coach, what if two coaches go?

The proposal was deliberately written for one coach because of budget. Athletes get the money first, then if there is no money just the athletes go to the meet.

Vote - Mixed

Amendment: MT Swimming pledge a maximum of \$600.00 per year or no more than \$300.00 per one coach or maximum of \$300.00 per meet or a minimum of \$200.00 per coach. For the upper level athlete, the big meets are very important.

Proposal placed back on the table.

The amendment was to fund each national meet a total of \$300.00 for coach's travel per meet.

Passed

Proposal 3 - Native American Championship Meet

- Montana Swimming should host a Native American Championship meet in 2009. Montana Swimming should provide financial support in the amount of \$1500 for the meet.

Rationale: This meet was held in Colorado in 2007 and attracted Native American swimmers from across the country including an outstanding swimmer from North Carolina. Colorado was unable to host the meet in 2008. I am working with persons in Colorado and the Ute tribe to hopefully hold this meet in Montana. USA Swimming is actively promoting diversity. If you look at Montana, what's one of the largest minority groups in our state? Native Americans. There were a couple of Montana swimmers who attended this championship meet in Colorado and I believe we would have quite a few more Native American swimmers from Montana competing at the meet if it were held in Montana. The Ute tribe has contact information for the tribes and USA Swimming was very helpful in publicizing the meet.

Submitted by Susan Huckleby

Motion to accept, seconded

Discussion: Does the meet truly promote diversity or does it single out? The purpose is to find more Native American swimmers or designate current Native American swimmers. MT Swimming would not handle the meet but in order to get minorities involved, we need to get it going. It would be good press for MT swimming.

In opposition, where would this work in the budget? Also promoting diversity might single out a certain group. This could set them apart more than bring them together. More homework needs to be done before voting. Native American tribes need to be partners in this.

Verbal vote to close, second vote with show of hands.

Failed

Proposal 4 - Northern Plains All Star Meet

- MT Swimming should support the Northern Plains All Star meet. Montana Swimming should allocate funds if a Montana Swimming team is sent to the meet.

Rationale: The Northern Plains All Star meet was a four LSC meet between MT, WY, ND and SD. Montana hosted the meet two years ago. The meet was not held last year. Wyoming is really interested in the meet and actively promoted it in their LSC as did North Dakota. Wyoming is possibly interested in hosting the meet if the meet could be held in the long course season. I am talking with Wyoming Swimming to see if the meet could be held again and would encourage MT Swimming to support it. It could possibly be used as an all star meet and we could send our Junior and Senior All Star team members (along with other swimmers to fill out the roster) and use this meet as a reward for the all stars in place of the towels and camp with funding for the all star towels and camp going towards meet expenses. The funding issue could be addressed in the future by either the Executive Board or at the May meeting. Wyoming initially thought about hosting the meet in June in Gillette.

Submitted by Susan Huckleby

Motion to accept, seconded

Discussion: Previous minutes state support for this.

Vote by show of hands

Passed

Proposal 6 - Athlete of the year

We propose that there is a clarification on the criteria for the current Athlete of the Year Award. The criteria are as follows;

- This award shall be based strictly upon an athlete's performance.
- They should be chosen by the highest level of achievements. These achievements can be generally measured as follows: Olympic Trials Cut, National Cut or U.S. Open Cut, Junior National Cut or Grand Prix, Senior Sectional Cut, Zones

Rationale: We have based this criteria off of the U.S. Swimming Athlete of the Year Award. We think that it would recognize those who have achieved great success in athletics, even if they maybe don't have strong academics. A swimmer may win this award more than once, example being Michael Phelps. He won this award numerous times because he has continued to achieve the most success in the pool. This could also happen on a smaller scale in a smaller place, such as Montana. If this happens then it may be possible the same swimmer deserves to receive the award twice or more. This would also follow the name of the award and make it more about athletics than anything else.

Submitted by Kasey Robinson, Senior Athlete Rep. and Andrew Bovard, Junior Athlete Rep.

Motion to accept, seconded

Discussion: Change the qualifications based on performance not the person. How do we go about this and where does it stop?

Amendment: Male and female athlete of the year (friendly)

Make it more objective (stats) than subjective (passion). This does not take an athlete with disabilities. If there are two athletes with the same cuts, then it would go to vote. To clear it up, have 2 athletes at convention: Athlete of the year and Performance of the Year.

Passed

Proposal 7 - Sportsmen of the Year Award

We would like to propose that we add an award for sportsman of the year. The criteria for this award would be as follows:

- The swimmer must be a junior or a senior in high school.
- The swimmer should be one that has meant a lot to their team through their hard work and dedication to the sport.
- They have maintained good academics and have been involved in the community.
- They have shown great character as a strong teammate.
- This award is for both a female and a male each year.

Rationale: This award would be more opportunity to recognize those outstanding student athletes that work hard behind the scenes to help others around them. It would clear up some of the difficulties and confusion with just having an athlete of the year. Lastly, it would allow four swimmers to be awarded for individual hard work rather than just two.

Submitted by Kasey Robinson, Senior Athlete Rep. and Andrew Bovard Junior Athlete Rep.

Motion to accept, seconded

Passed

Proposal 8 - Athlete Representative Proposal

We would like to propose that the rule stating that the athlete representative must alternate between genders each year be abolished. And adopt the qualification to be an athlete, of either gender, that has at least one current senior sectional time.

Rational: We would like to maintain that they must be 16 years of age. We think that they need to have at least senior sectional level experience in order to be able to comprehend and add to meetings at the U.S. swimming conference and the House of Delegates Meeting. We also think with the lower number of senior level swimmers in Montana having a boy or girl to select from will give Montana an opportunity to pick the best possible representative. Lastly it will also give all the athletes with these qualifications a chance to run for representative, by eliminating the chance of them missing the year of opportunity because of gender.

Submitted by Kasey Robinson Senior Athlete Rep. and Andrew Bovard Junior Athlete Rep.

NOTE: If passed this would be considered a By-Law change. Final approval will have to come from USA Swimming.

Motion to accept, seconded

Discussion: question of how it is now with alternating male female, how will that affect a club that does not have a swimmer with a senior cut. A recommendation to fail this because of predigest, it implies that an athlete would not be a good representative because they are not fast enough.

Amendment to no time standards and not specify male or female.

Motion to accept as amended, seconded

Passed

Clarification by Larry that proposal 8 is not a by-law change so it does not need to be sent to US Swimming.

A suggestion was made for a request to US Swimming for MT current by-laws.

Motion to destroy ballots, seconded.

Adjournment

General Chairperson Niki Bronec adjourned the meeting at 12:56