

Technical Planning Meeting

Date: 8/20/2011

Maverick Activity Center, Arlington, TX

Attendees:

Sherry Gentry – ATAC *

Jeff Jones – LAC *

Brian Dangelmaier – MARS *

Tony Tullbane – MAC

Dan McDonough – FA

Chris Rowe – FA

Patrick Henry – TRS

Hayden Henry – TRS *

Maggie Shook – COR *

Mike Gentry – ATAC *

* Indicates member of Technical Planning Committee

Meeting was called to order by Sherry Gentry at 1:20PM.

Opening remarks;

Sherry explained that the primary purpose for the meeting was to discuss the bonus rule. Other topics were to be discussed after completion of the bonus rules. She also emphasized that the 2012 calendar had been finalized and any calendar discussions would apply to 2013.

In October, 2010, approximately 25 – 30 coaches recommended a rule to allow swimmers to be able to enter an A or BB meet with only one or two of the respective times and swim up to two additional (bonus) events not longer than 200 (yds or meters).

We have had a while to swim within the parameters of the current bonus rule and as we have evaluated its application, some suggestions have been submitted and are worthy of review and discussion.

Sherry read the two suggestions that had been submitted;

1) Do away with bonus swims. If you are qualified for a meet, swim it. If you aren't, you can't. You have to wait your turn. *(this suggestion included extensive commentary that are not part of the actual proposal)*

2). Bonus rule - if a swimmer is entered in 1-2 events with the A (and or BB) time, they get 2 bonus swims. If a swimmer is entered in 3 or more swims with the A (or BB) time they are allowed to swim any event up to the meet limit.

Maggie expressed a sentiment that everyone wants a change. She encouraged the attendees to remember that we are planning for age group competition and not just for the elite swimmers. We also

need to consider the impact and focus on the families of the swimmers. Suggestion #2 seems to make good sense, but often swimmers had to go to another meet to swim something longer than 200.

Hayden expressed his opinion that keeping a bonus rule is very important to the swimmers. If a swimmer who is actually qualified for one event goes to a meet and is able to swim more than one event, it is a much better experience for the athlete. He agreed with suggestion #2 .

Maggie motioned that we select option 2, removing the distance limitation in place today for bonus swims. Brian seconded.

The motion was voted and approved unanimously. Only the members of TPC voted.

With the application of bonus swims as voted, it was also noted that the meet host must have some amount of options to manage the size and timelines for the meet, such as limiting the daily number of swims to a number less than 5, or limiting the distance events to top 24 seed.

Sherry indicated that upon HOD approval of the bonus proposal, the new bonus rule can be effective Oct 1, 2011.

Additional topics of discussion:

Next year A/BB Champs meet will be on top of sectionals and a week before Zones. There was discussion about managing a large meet again, including the possibility of running prelims in two separate pools and combining results electronically for determining finalists. Pools would have to be split by teams (for the sake of families).

Hayden commented that if we used two pools that were pretty close together, like Keller and Southlake, something like that could work.

Use Real Time to post results at both pools and then find a way to electronically scratch.

Maggie distributed a list of Thoughts and Comments from Coaches. I have attached the copy to the email. The following notes resulted from the discussion of those comments. I will use reference numbers to the original document.

1. Patrick would like exceptions distributed to all teams bidding on the calendar before the bid meeting, not at the meeting, but early enough to be able to review and have questions.
2. Not sure how possible it is to guarantee the 50 relay split will be captured. Recommend all teams to identify whether it is possible to do that in the pool configuration bid.
3. Publish the Bids and Venues prior to the bid meeting.
4. Bid room, so noted.
5. done
6. Review this year's rotations.
7. For review
8. So noted, for consideration
9. Done

10. So noted
11. Ok and so noted
12. Award delivery, comments noted
13. Ok, understood
14. No committee member shall be excluded from a committee decision.
15. Done
16. Allow adjustments, such as number of sessions and start times, to be made by the Referee and Meet Director, following correct consistent procedures.
17. Must be flexible to be able to add sessions, or pools to run large meets (following proper procedures)
18. Will look at the late entry position once again.
19. A/BB Champs discussion comments are at the top of this discussion session, in this document.
20. Same as 19
21. For 2013
22. For 2013
23. Free Market discussion – most people attending like the ideas with parameters for certain topics like meet entries. We decided to further define and develop the concept and process for implementing that approach in North Texas. Set limits, pool requirements, swimmer count. Champs meets would be protected meets and run in a more structured approach. Dan has experience with this approach and Patrick has observations and comments about things to stay away from to protect the interest of the swimmers. This format allows entire teams to stay together at a meet, since all meets would be invitational. This promotes team unity by bringing everyone together at all levels of swimming.
Patrick suggested we consider piloting a program like Free Market invitational with parameters. Multiple teams would bid and when the first meet fills up, the overflow can swim at another location.

Sherry requested that the Technical Planning Committee and 3 or 4 people familiar with the Free Market concept help organize a presentation for HOD. Possibly integrate a couple of months of Free Market format as a trial.

Sherry would like to start discussions using email format.

Meeting concluded at 3:00PM.

If you have any additional comments on important discussion points I may have missed please let me know and I will make corrections.