

Midlakes Swim League Fall Meeting

Wednesday, 14 October 2009

Location: Newport Hills Swim and Tennis Club

A. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

B. Welcome

Ron Griffin welcomed everyone and discussed why Midlakes is a fantastic organization – provides competitive swim events, helps develop better athletes/swimmers, provides a fun environment, and helps to foster sportsmanship. In the 2009 season, there were 3600 swimmers in the League from 26 clubs.

a. Awards and Recognition

The coaches award offers a way to recognize them for all of the support, guidance, instruction, and time that they give to the swimmers. Next year, Divisional coaches will be nominated and from that the Coach of the Year will be voted on to remain fair. This year's winner was Laura Halter from Edgebrook.

Also recognized for their efforts and time were Susan Sutich (Awards Chair) and Nancy Anderson (Treasurer). While Nancy will be stepping down, she will continue to do the League's taxes.

b. Issues/Protests

i. Lysted Law requirements

This is the concussion law that the League is expected to follow. The League (and its participating clubs) must sign off on this if pools outside the organization are used. This is the same idea as the Hold Harmless forms. Each pool manager is aware of this.

ii. Recognition of Officials

Officials make the events authentic by having the kids follow the rules. They are often not recognized for the work they do behind the scenes. Clubs should consider creative ways to recognize Officials participating in meets. For example, Edgebrook provides meal vouchers.

iii. Influence of alcohol at meets

This issue continues to show up over the years. The League is unable to do anything more other than offering signs and

guidelines. If there are issues, the Division Representative should be notified first. It may be that each Division deal with this internally since there is no real enforcement mechanism available to the League. Despite that alcohol continues to be an issue, it is important to recognize that there are many clubs who are good hosts – offering ice cream socials for example.

iv. Swimwear technology

USA Swim has issued a revision of its technology standards. Boy may not wear anything longer than jammers (nothing above the waist or below the knees). Girls also may not wear anything below the knees or over the neck.

v. Meet turnout

Please remember to be a good guest at hosting pools. Notifying the home team is necessary if there is a change in attendance.

C. Treasurer's Report

a. Issues/reports

Virginia Graham Baker Regulation was approved by the Legislature in 2008 that addresses drainage requirements for pools and spas. This past year the clubs/League were given an allowance since not all 26 pools were in compliance. The current insurance policies have been purchased at \$2200. However, \$8000 – \$10,000 more must be budgeted if the pools continue to be out of compliance. As of last year, 20/26 pools were not in compliance. Many pools throughout the state are in similar positions. In the next season, the insurance policies and costs will need to be examined again.

In the 2009 budget, the shared income was a little low. The money (\$1600) set aside for the Waterpolo time clock wasn't used. Also no money was spent on officials' uniforms. For a recession year, the numbers are still good. With 3,713 swimmers each paying \$9/swimmer for insurance and championship fees the League can continue to support clubs that are hosting Champs. While paying the \$9 fee upfront can affect a club's budget, it allows the League to use \$4000 to help offset cost of hosting championship events.

\$9000 was made in B Champ/A Champ sales.

The 2010 budget forecast is very similar. The League may have a small cash profit as long as the budget isn't exceeded.

- b. End of board term –
Nominations for the League Treasurer will be actively recruited since no one was nominated during the meeting.

D. VP's Report

- a. Midlakes Mission Statement
A mission statement would help to direct activities for the League and participating clubs. It would be a statement of purpose of the by-laws. Over the years, the mission of the League has become cloudy and is needed to offer some philosophical guidance for clubs. In order to develop a mission statement, a committee would be formed. In the future, it may be posted on the website and allow for comments/suggestions.
- b. Divisional Alignment
 - i. *Tam O'Shanter to Div. 3 and Kingsgate gators to Div. 4*
 - ii. *Somerset to Div. 2 and Norwood to Div. 3*
 - iii. *Fairwood to Div. 1 and MICC to Div. 2*

E. Dive and Waterpolo Report

- a. Waterpolo
Each pool should go through the Health Department and have testing done to determine the work to be done on the pool and for needed permits. The flow system, gravity/suction drains, hair entrapment, and finger entrapment need to be examined and changes addressed if needed. The Health Department currently has about 500 pool structures that need to be examined. The Consumer Protection Agency will enforce the Virginia Graham Baker law for every water park and play pool. Each club needs to make sure that they are in compliance.

Waterpolo's goal is to expand this year. Clubs that already have a program will be encouraged to make the program stronger. The season is short and quick – about 3 weeks. For clubs that don't have a team, a mechanism may need to be developed to connect interested players with a club that has an existing program – similar to the Dive program.

- b. Dive

Midlakes continues to connect interested kids to a club that has an existing program. The program is intended to be a safe, introductory program.

F. Replacements for Existing Open Board Positions

- a. Nominations for League Treasurer
Nominations are open to replace Nancy Anderson as League Treasurer. None were forthcoming.
- b. Nomination for replacement of Awards Chair
Lisa Mead (OL) was nominated and unanimously approved as the Awards Chair.
- c. General
Cindy McGee put together a chart that shows which clubs have been represented at the League level for volunteers. It is suggested that clubs that have not provided League level volunteers be actively recruited from. Parent reps and pool managers are willing to send emails to their members looking for nominations. Consideration may be needed for fining clubs for not providing volunteers or requiring them to hire out the position.

G. New Business

- a. A-Champs (*tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 24th, 2010 at KCAC*)
Eric Bartleson to determine dates of swim season, championship events and B-dq times to reflect 2009 season times.
- b. Discussion of Midlakes website and communication for 2009 season
The website is a tremendous resource for the League. The value of having a site is the information (such as how to run a meet) that clubs may be in need of and use. Cindy has been very responsive to the League needs and updates. She is to be commended for doing a fabulous job. Please note that Waterpolo and Dive have their own website.
- c. Evaluation process
There are some paid positions in Midlakes – waterpolo reps, individuals who offer clinics, waterpolo program director, computer services offered by Jeff Lowell, and the Communications Director. Midlakes has never evaluated these employees. A mechanism for accountability could

formalize the process for paid employees. This would be of benefit to both the League and the paid individuals.

d. Proposal of new Board positions

The three proposed positions would report to the VP.

i. League Championship Coordinator

Kate Emerson will fill this ad-hoc/non-voting position. She will offer clubs the resources they are seeking when hosting a championship event. This position will help to streamline paperwork and update Midlakes information so that it is consistent.

ii. Championship Shirt Chairperson

Rebecca Thornton will head this position that formalizes the coordination and sale of T-shirts at championship events.

iii. League Marketing Coordinator

Press releases to the community will be done through this position. It would get information out in the community about the League. In years past, the Bellevue Journal American carried the scores of the meets. Other community newspapers may be a good resource in this manner also.

H. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

I. Clubs Meet by Division