

Midlakes 2009 Spring Meeting
Wednesday, 18 March 2009
Location: Newport Hills

A. Welcome and Club Role Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Representatives from all clubs were in attendance except for High Woodlands.

B. Dive Report

Penny Yantis announced that 6 clubs (MIBC, MICC, MSC, STC, PL and NH) have diving programs with approximately 150 kids in total. The season has 5 meets and concludes with a championship. No experience is necessary and the program focuses on safety and skill building. Interest in diving can result in placement with a club that has a diving program in the League. Parents are recruited as judges. For more information, contact payantis@hotmail.com.

C. Water Polo Report

Eric Bartleson stated that 14 teams are participating in Water Polo this season. The program runs in August and is about 3 weeks. The schedule is to be determined.

D. Budget and Financials

All handouts from Nancy Anderson are posted on the website. The handouts contained the following information: current bank account balances, contact information, monies and paperwork due dates, 2009 League Budget.

Monies and Paperwork Due Now: Copies of insurance from each club as well as team fees. Certificates of Insurance for Clubs must be turned in even if they expire mid-season.

Monies and Paperwork Due 06/08/09: Roster of people on swim team and check for \$9 per participant.

Every Midlakes Swim Club is required to have a Midlakes Hold Harmless Agreement signed by each participating swimmer for the current season. The club is required to have this information on file for the duration of the season.

Each Midlakes Swim Club must submit a Midlakes Hold Harmless Club Compliance Form to the League by June 7, 2009.

E. Operating Plan

a. Approval of 2009 Operating Plan

Jeff Lowell discussed the proposed By-Law and Operating Plan Changes. The past Operating Plan doesn't allow for flexibility for situations presented this year. (Attached is a copy of the proposed changes.)

Section "O" of the Operating Plan will include the language: 15 & Over = Eligibility for the "15 & Over" designation is those swimmers age 15 thru high school graduation up to and including age 19. Questions or modifications may be submitted to the Board for consideration.

The changes were voted on as a whole rather than individually.

Joanie Chinn (KGG) proposed to approve the changes that were suggested by the League. The motion was seconded.

Accepted by a unanimous vote.

b. Calendar

Joan Wold noted that type of scheduling conflicts the League experienced this year will become more common in the future – perhaps occurring every other year.

c. A-Champs Discussion

Ron Griffin noted that all Championship options are very good. The four options considered:

Option #1

Three timed finals: Seniors 7/20; Jr Girls 7/21; Jr Boys 7/22

This options forgoes an A-Championship meet and scores these three meets as the finals.

Option #2

Prelims: Seniors 7/20; Jr Girls 7/21; Jr Boys 7/22

A-Champs: Sunday July 26th

This option provides for an A-Champ meet at Newport Hills. The meet will be run as a "Top 12" finals. The availability of Officials may be at issue due to PNS. The board is confident that we can supplement with Midlakes Club Officials to adequately cover the meet.

Option #3

Prelims: Seniors 7/20; Jr Girls 7/21; Jr Boys 7/22

A-Champs: Tuesday July 28th

This option provides for an A-Champ meet at Mercer Island Beach Club. The meet will be run as a "Top 8" finals. The availability of Officials would not be affected.

Option #4

Prelims: Seniors 7/27; Jr Girls 7/28; Jr Boys 7/29

A-Champs: Friday 7/31

This option provides for an A-Champ meet at Newport Hills on Friday evening, but extends the season one full week. The meet will be run as a "Top 12" finals. The availability of Officials would not be affected.

This issue is being revisited because the Fall vote could not be ratified since the appropriate changes in the Operating Plan had not been approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

The discussion included:

Scheduling: vacation plans have been made based on the Fall vote.

PNS Conflict: swimmers will have to make a choice.

Financial Implications: extending the season impacts clubs' financial commitments to coaches.

Participation/Fairness: If only "Top 8" are scored, the event is less inclusive – most likely year-round swimmers will only qualify and smaller clubs will be shut out of the meet.

Scoring: Timed Finals can score all 16 positions.

Timed Finals: reasonable event that won't move the season and can score all 16 positions.

MIBC event: club doesn't have experience with this type of event and doesn't want to over-commit the club. Considerations include: new pool, neighbor issues, and how to do an event with 1000+ kids and spectators. If given a chance, MIBC can see what changes need to be made in the future so it can become a more inclusive event if hosted there again.

There was a vote between Timed Finals and having a Championship Event.

Timed Finals received 23 votes.

Championship Event received 13 votes.

Timed Finals Dates and Locations:

July 20: Seniors at Mercer Island Beach Club

July 21: Junior Girls at Edgebrook

July 22: Junior Boys at Mercer Island Country Club

Thank you to Newport Hills and Mercer Island Beach Club for providing options.

T-Shirts: Sylvia's is willing to print up and distribute Championship shirts to clubs. The League needs a volunteer to coordinate with Sylvia's.

F. Communication Director Report

Cindy McGee provided each club with a form to update club information. It was to be turned in at the end of the meeting.

New Look and Layout to the Website: logos included, and new pages (coaches information, club anecdotes, and suggestions).

Update Information:

Changes only made if a form is submitted – officials should complete the form.

Some clubs have bad links to their websites.

Update email addresses and include which club is being represented.

Hold Harmless Club Compliance Form: While the date on the form states 2008, please write in 2009.

G. Officials Report

Scott Allen was unable to attend the meeting and Jeff Lowell presented his report.

Club Officials: The concept behind the "club officials representative" would be a person from each club who is volunteering already as an official who would be willing to take the communication aspect on. Many clubs have such a person so this would formalize the communication channel. It would also allow the League to be more consistent and have a way to address concerns as they arise

Officials Training: Officials Training will be held as follows at Newport Hills Swim & Tennis Club. The first 2 hours are for everyone; starters and referees will stay for the final hour for that portion. All officials are expected to attend – this is not an optional training.

Saturday May 16 9:30am-12:30pm

Wednesday May 20 6-9pm

Thursday May 28 6-9pm

There are no major rule changes for this year. There is a USA Swimming Rules clarification and some swimwear changes - no leggings or full-body swim suits are allowed for 12 & unders.

There will also be an opportunity on Sunday May 17th from 9am - 12noon for a practice session during an interclub meet to be held at Newport Hills. Officials are able to come on deck to view (not judge) some swims so they can get a feel for what to look for in their jobs.

Officials Communication Link: A "lead" or "head" communications person at each club who will take the responsibility to communicate with their officials should be identified. If it is not the parent rep, then another person who will be sure to inform their officials and provide each official's email so it can be added to the Officials Weekly Update distribution list.

Questions should be brought up to Scott Allen: Scott.Allen@univarusa.com.

H. Mentoring Plan for Coaches

Jeff Lowell discussed starting a coach mentoring plan that will be posted on the website in the future. Candis Brink, Laura Halter, and Larry Royce have offered to help out with this program. The philosophy that this program would be based off of is that Midlakes is a teaching league. How to coach the sport and coach the correct way would be addressed in the program. This would allow for coaches to ask questions, retain coaches and become better at their job.

The Mentoring Plan could include: how to help kids progress, time trials, communicating with parents regarding entering participants in championships and concluding with a follow-up at the end of the season.

I. New Business

Candis Brink noted that the Lake Washington School District (LWSD) is making budget cuts that will force the Juanita Pool to close on 08/31/09. This pool has offered life guard training as well as swimming lessons and will leave a noted gap in the swim community. Please fill out the budget survey and make comments on saving the pool.

<http://www.lwsd.org/News/2009-2010-Budget/Pages/default.aspx#survey>

Laura Halter gave the SPLASH report.

- May 2008 – the Bellevue Club Swim Team Booster Club and Bellevue Club swimmers held their SPLASH-a-thon, raising \$20,000 for SPLASH.
- October/November 2008 – the Bellevue Aquatic Feasibility Study was completed by the Bellevue Parks Department and presented to the City of Bellevue Parks Board with a favorable response.
- December 2008 – SPLASH co-sponsored an appearance by Olympic Champion Ryan Lochte at the Pacific Northwest Swimming Championships.
- SPLASH is scheduled to brief the Bellevue City Council about the results of the Bellevue Aquatic Feasibility Study. The date is still undetermined, but can be checked at the City Council's agenda (which is updated frequently). http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_agendas_2009.htm

J. Division Discussion

The role of the Division Representative is the 1st place of contact for clubs as they compete, being aware of the goings-on in the division and reporting to the Communication Director when championships are held.

A Division I Representative is needed.

K. Adjorn

The League meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m. to determine Divisional issues.

B Champ Locations submitted to Cindy McGee:

- Division I – Newport Hills
- Division II – Strattonwood and Norwood
- Division III – Kingsgate Royals
- Division IV – Tam O'Shanter
- Division V - Woodridge

Respectfully submitted by Carol Anne Yamamoto.