

Approved April 25th, 2010

Summer Swimming Closing Presidents Meeting Minutes

Sunday September 13th, 2009 1:30-3:30pm

K.C. Irving Center, Acadia University

Attendance: Eric Balsler (Summer Swim Representative), Sue Jackson (President, Swim NS), Bette El-Hawary (ED, Swim NS), Wendy Hudson (Summer Officials Coordinator), Mike Dowell (MM), Mervin Goodyear (BB), Norma Patterson (BWB), Heather Travers (BB), Kerstin Henger (WB), Kim Adams (WB), Sharlene VanRoessel (KM), Michelle Raiche-Marsden (CHH), Laura Barrett (CHH), Kelley Polley (WW), Jane Lordly (Lunenburg Mariners), M.J. Laing (SMBB)

Conference Call: Deanne Kelley (BWB), Andy Kerr (BSK)

Regrets: Sandi Graham-Muise (MD), Mike Laffin (BWB), Kerri-Lynn Washington (CS)

1. **Call to Order and Opening Remarks-** Eric Balsler called the meeting to order at 1:40pm.

→ Eric welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Additions & Approval of Agenda-**

→ *Motion to approve the agenda with no additions.*

Moved by Kelley Polley/Michelle Raiche-Marsden

Motion carried

3. **Business Arising from May 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes-**

Kim Adams was in attendance not Tracy Lake representing Windsor Bluefins.

→ *Motion to approve the minutes with the above amendment.*

Moved by Michelle Raiche-Marsden/Kim Adams

Motion carried

4. **Summer Swimming Representative Report:**

→ Eric has attended a few Swim Nova Scotia Board Meetings.

5. **Swim Nova Scotia-** Bette extended a thank you from the three summer coordinators for a great summer. They enjoyed working with all of the clubs and appreciated all of the feedback from everyone to help improve their learning curve. The invitational meets all ran fairly smooth and the advance entries were greatly appreciated; all of the meets were able to start on time and many finished ahead of schedule.

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6. **Officials** –

- Written report was circulated. There were 25 clinics that took place this summer.
- Wendy stated that the rule for notifying athletes about disqualifications is to go either to the athlete or the coach. Michelle stated that it is preferred that the notification go to the athlete; in most cases the coach's are stating the same errors to the swimmers and it is nice to have it reinforced by the officials.
- There were a high number of disqualifications this summer; Kentville expressed a concern with the lack of resources allowed on deck. Discussion took place on the number of coaches allowed on deck and the lack of space. We have come a long way with opening up a space on deck for coaches during all of the invitational meets. Suggestion for Kentville to have an additional parent/volunteer take the coaching course and become a registered coach; or make a special request to the host clubs for an additional person to be allowed on deck to assist the coach.
- Suggestion to start disqualifications earlier in the season to try to limit the number of DQ's at Provincials. Everyone appreciates having limited DQ's during the first two swim meets. Clubs are reminded to encourage coaches to only send swimmers with legal strokes to swim meets.
- Thanks to Wendy Hudson for all her hard work with the Officials this summer. The on deck mentoring was very helpful this summer.
- Suggestion to have regional clinics and have them set up in advance. If clubs could come to the May Meeting with a list of dates/locations of clinics they can be advertised. It was noted that most clubs do not know who the new families will be until the end of June. It would be ideal to run the level I clinics locally and the III and higher clinics regionally. It is a good idea for coaches to take the stroke and turn clinic.

7. **Summer Provincials Report**- Submitted by Kim Adams

- Windsor was very pleased with how the event ran.
- There was a suggestion to develop a policy governing changes due to weather for Provincials (scheduling, scoring, etc). Discussion on the importance of having a contingency plan in place in advance.

A sub-committee will be struck. Committee members: Michelle Raiche-Marsden, Kim Adams, Kelley Polley, Merv Goodyear, Deanne Kelley, Wendy Hudson and Bette El-Hawary.

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8. **Old Business**- We will seed all relays at Provincials by time.

9. **New Business**-

i. **Summer Swim Rep**- This is a one year term expiring in May.

ii. **Split Age Groups at Meets**- Al Scott submitted a proposal via the Bedford Beavers earlier this summer; Eric Balsler circulated a summary of the feedback via email. The background was to shorten the amount of time that families/athletes are at a swim meet by splitting the swim meet day in half by age group. Michelle stated that research shows that competition length does not have an impact on attrition in the older age group. The current evidence supports older athletes attend meets by geographic location not length of the meet. Sharlene suggested virtual meets so fewer swimmers are at one meet and having the times posted online. Discussion. Sandi Graham-Muise had emailed Bette with her comments, the concern from Milton was that the relays are a real concern for small teams; we often depend on swimmers swimming up.

Motion: That the Summer Swim Council of Swim Nova Scotia adopt or introduce by way of a trial implementation in at least two swim meets for the 2010 season, the concept or proposal circulated to the membership in July 2009, that would work to reduce the time commitment for a significant portion of swimmers and their families to attend the regular season meets.

Moved by Merv Goodyear/Mike Dowell. 4 in favor, 6 opposed. Motion defeated.

iii. **Review and clarification of rules governing 'delay of meet' and of 'medical conditions' preventing swimmers from participating in an event**- The referee is in control of the decision to allow athletes to swim or not to swim due to medical conditions. They also can decide to allow them to swim later, etc.

iv. **Warm Up Procedures**- The proposal listed various methods to try; the one that we tried this summer did not work well. Wendy suggested splitting warm-ups by age group- 15 minutes for the 8 & under, 20 minutes for 9-10, 25 minutes 11-12, 30 minutes 13 & over. Kelley suggested 15 minute blocks, lanes would be assigned by the host club based on expected numbers; the Waeg had a concern with the maximum bathing capacity at one time. Deanne stated that Bridgewater had a concern as well. Recommendation for next summer for clubs to try the suggestion from Wendy if they would like.

v. **13-14 Boys Access to Provincials**- Michelle stated that the numbers are low in the 13-14 boys age group. Qualifying times

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would need to be adjusted in this age group, doing this would mean additional heats at Provincials (1-2). All of the age groups were reviewed, but the concern is only the 13-14 age group. Michelle will bring a recommendation to the May meeting.

vi. Proposal to Change to Winter Swimming Exclusion Policy- A proposal was brought forward to amend the current policy to read: *Swimmers registered in winter programs for any given winter season must sit out the following summer and winter season before they are allowed to swim in the summer again.* Discussion took place on this request. Swimmers can swim during the regular season at invitational meets as exhibition and can train with a summer club. Athletes can submit an appeal to Swim Nova Scotia. The rule will remain as it currently is.

vii. Round Table Discussion-

→ Middleton would like to host a meet in the future. Suggest splitting the meet with Bridgetown. Recommend that clubs try to organize meets in the same geographic location in the future.

→ In the absence of the meet manager a co-meet manager should be named during Provincials.

→ The financial impacts from Provincials were minimal to Windsor. The summer swimming entry fees go to Swim Nova Scotia to offset the administrative costs of running swim meets throughout the season and Provincials. The registration fees go towards covering wages, salaries, office costs, insurance, etc. A financial statement from Swim Nova Scotia will be available at the May meeting.

→ Does a smaller committee need to be struck? Suggestion to have an email group? A smaller committee may be struck to meet once over the winter to present to the President's Council.

→ Merv noted that this summer was excellent. The cardless meets ran very smoothly and made the meets run efficiently. The weather was great for all of the invitational meets.

10. **Next Meeting-** Sunday May 2nd, 2010 1:30pm in Wolfville with conference call capabilities.

11. **Adjournment-** 4:05pm Motion to adjourn by Kelley Polley.