

## MCSL Reps Meeting

### MCSL Reps Meeting Agenda April 8, 2021

Meeting called to order via Zoom at 8:03 pm by Kathy Aitken, MCSL President

Team Sign In: Done via the voting form. 84 teams signed in to the meeting.

Team dialed in on phone: Ashton

Teams not signed in: Bethesda, North Creek, and Upper County

Kathy Aitken, President, [president@mcsl.org](mailto:president@mcsl.org)

- Kathy opened the meeting with a welcome to all the reps and a thank you for attending tonight.
- Kathy asked the reps to hold questions until we present all information. We believe that this will help with the flow of the meeting.

Kristine – Introduced 4 sponsors who are with us tonight

- Paul Gorgol – from Pools, Patios, and Porches. They are a gold sponsor and can provide swim suits and a range of apparel, spirit wear and team items.
- Theresa Finn – Hammerhead Swim caps. They are a bronze sponsor of the MCSL and have a unique, swim-safe swim cap.
- Kathleen McDermott – from MetroLogo. They are a bronze sponsor of the MCSL and provide a full range of spirit wear and team items.
- Michael Morris – from Capital Sport and Swim. A long-time gold sponsor of the MCSL, they can provide swim suits, t-shirts, spirit wear and many other team items.

Kathy – Online Voting for Bylaws & MCSL Budget

- The Board has proposed a change to the bylaws, which Kathy read out loud to the reps. The proposed change involves an amendment to article 11 which deals with remote meetings. The new language would allow us to meet and vote remotely for MCSL meetings.
- Beverly (Treasurer) reviewed the proposed 2021 budget, showing proposed income and expenses based on assumptions of how many teams will participate this year.
- The voting link was then provided to team reps (one vote per team).
- The voting form will also count as your attendance for tonight's meeting.
- Both the bylaws changes and the budget passed unanimously by the reps.

Kathy – Covid-19 Planning

- The Covid-19 policy for practice was sent out to the team reps in advance of this meeting. We did receive over 50 questions. We ask that you hold on putting additional questions in the chat box until we get through all the material.
- Kathy then introduced the Covid subcommittee – Scott Witkin, Tom Allison, Gabe Ossi, Marty Cohen and Rebecca Fayed. They have put in an extraordinary amount of time on the waivers and protocols.

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- The policy and procedures granted to us by Montgomery County allow for 6 swimmers/lane for practices (this is the document we emailed out in advance)
- We will now go through the different questions/topics that were pre-submitted to us by team reps. (There were many duplicate questions, so you may not hear your exact question).

### Questions:

1. If the county were to loosen restrictions in the future, could we amend our waiver? Should things change that would significantly change our protocols, the Board will review and make a decision if we should file for an amendment.
2. Can you clarify the break between practice groups? The break between practice groups is to insure we do not have 36 athletes coming in with 36 athletes leaving at the same time, potentially violating physical distancing. There is no set time amount of time for the break. However, it should be long enough for the prior group to clear the MCSL practice space.
3. When will the meet protocols be submitted/approved? We are planning to submit for the competition waiver by this Monday and hope to have an approval in place by the end of this month. We will communicate the status of this as soon as possible. Meet volunteers and officials staffing is not expected to vary significantly from traditional meets.
4. What guidance can you give for pre team? The practice waiver is intended to cover activities that take place in the MCSL practice area. If teams want to provide pre team or lessons outside the designated MCSL practice area, those practices would not be covered under MCSL practice protocols and the County letter of approval, and must be in compliance with all other Covid regulations that cover the facility.
5. Will MCSL provide waiver language and a template? Yes, MCSL will provide member teams with a template with the required language. We are in final review and will distribute shortly. Teams must insure that as part of athlete registration, each parent or guardian receives a copy of the waiver and signs it. The waiver can be done via paper or electronically, e.g. put into Swimtopia.
6. Can you clarify what you mean by “other parts of the pool/facility?” We recognize that the use of the word “facility” has caused some confusion. Our intention is that this is the practice area for MCSL practices. It is not our intent to restrict use of other areas of the facility during practice times. Of course, the number of participants at MCSL practices, plus any other people on-site, will have to fall within the facility’s county-imposed restrictions. We will clarify this point with the county when we submit our meet protocols. We will include an amendment to clarify our intent and change the word “facility” to “MCSL practice area,” which includes the lanes and deck space being utilized for practices.
7. What about spectators? Spectators will not be permitted. This is one way we can limit number of people in the MCSL practice area and at meets.
8. Can you clarify the temperature checks and where they should be done? Temperature checks are required to be done prior to arriving at the facility. They are meant to be done at home.

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9. Can you clarify the swimmer lane assignments and can they vary by practice? Swimmers are not required to be in the same lane/group throughout the season. This is up to the coach and the team based on your approach to practice. However, for efficiency purposes, lane/group assignments should be clearly communicated in advance of each practice.
10. Can a team still practice under the waiver if they do not participate in meets? It is our desire and intention to have all 2021 members participate in both practices and meets. However, if a team has an exceptional circumstance with their pool or board that will not allow them to participate in meets, the team may request a waiver of the meet commitment from the MCSL executive board.
11. When will the meet protocols be released? We will release them to you as soon as possible. It will not be possible to pre-release them to you before we submit to the county.
12. Why do we have to do 6 feet of physical distancing vs. 3 feet (e.g. the CDC has recently said it is okay to do 3 feet in schools)? If you go to the county website, you will see that 6 feet of physical distancing is referenced in facility guidelines. Unless the county changes the 6 feet guideline, we must be in compliance. The MCSL Board is not in a position to recommend the right guidelines for physical distancing. We defer to the county. We are also not privy to studies done in school vs. at a pool. We do note in our submission to the county that our activity will be conducted outdoors and swimming is a non-contact sport.
13. May we get a copy of the county letter of approval? Yes, we will provide that to member teams.
14. Can you clarify emergency use of the bathrooms? The practice protocol does not prohibit the emergency use of bathroom facilities. The protocol does not allow for use of the changing facilities or the showers.
15. Can you clarify what is meant by “given a bag at practice?” We recognize this is a misinterpretation. Athletes are not provided a bag upon arrival. They are provided a lane assignment and bag location, e.g. a place or location to place their swim bag during their assigned practice time.
16. Will MCSL provide the waiver language? Yes, we will provide this to the teams.
17. Can you provide an illustration of the 6 swimmers/lane positioning? Yes, we will provide this to the teams.
18. Are meets allowed to be streamed? Streaming is currently anticipated under the Meet Protocol.
19. What type of Covid reporting will be required? If there is a positive test or close contact that is reportable to MCSL, no personal information is required to be provided. MCSL simply needs to know of the presence of a reportable test or close contact so that we know what is going on in the league.

### Gabe – Team Reps Reporting Workbook

- Gabe developed and reviewed a workbook he is working on that will be sent out to Team Reps over the next week. You can use this workbook to measure your pool to

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determine if you have enough space to run an A meet under the proposed meet protocols.

- We will let you know what we need for you to do

### Rebecca – Waiver & Release of Liability

- We are currently working a draft and we will review it with team reps shortly for your review and inclusion.
- The waiver will need to be part of your registration. If you have electronic registration, you can consider adding it and have people click through it and agree as they go. This can serve as their electronic signature.
- We will need for every team rep to agree to follow the required protocols.
- The MCSL Board will not be policing and enforcing each team. We need for the reps to monitor their practices and meets. There are potentially serious consequences if a team fails to follow the required protocols. For example, neighbors could complain of violations or the county may do their own inspections. If violations are discovered, this could jeopardize our entire league. Ramifications for individual teams that are found in violation could include suspension from the MCSL, or worst case, being forever barred from the MCSL.
- It will be very important for reps to stress to their teams the potential consequences of non-compliance and to make everyone (e.g. parents, swimmers, officials, etc.) aware of their duties and responsibilities.

### Marty – 19-year-old Swimmers

- Last year the Board came up with a policy on 19-year old swimmers with the thought we would have a normal 2021 swim season.
- A 19-year-old swimmer is an athlete who is 19-years-old as of June 1, 2021, who missed their last year of eligibility as an 18-year-old swimmer.
- We put together guidelines for participation last year for these athletes. They could participate in their own 19-year-old events, would not score in dual meets except the open age medley, and could participate in MCSL championship meets.
- At the current time, it is not looking like we will be able to have relay carnival meets. We are holding out hope that we can do individual Coaches LC and individual All-Stars, but they are not a given at this time. Our meet protocols have focused on dual meets, intra-squad meets and time trials.
- For the 19-year-olds, it is unfortunately not working out the way we had hoped for them
- We are also confident that with our meet protocols, A meets will naturally run longer and we will have space constraints on deck.
- Adding 19-year-old swimmers to the mix will add 10 additional heats and lengthen A meets by 25-30 minutes. It will also add additional people to the pool deck.
- Given these logistical complications, the Board relooked at 19-year-old swimmers. We came up with 3 potential options that will be put out for a member vote.
  - Option 1: Allow 19-year-olds to participate as decided last year. They would swim in their own heats, are not eligible to score except the open medley relay,

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may participate in championship meets should we have them. (More details on this option are available on the MCSL website, as this was the option decided last year under the assumption we would have a more normal season).

- Option 2: Allow 19-year olds to participate but in an expanded 15-19 age group. They would participate like the other 15-18 swimmers, are eligible to score points, and may participate in championship meets should we have them. This option would not result in additional heats or additional swimmers at A meets.
- Option 3: Do not allow 19-year-olds to participate given protocol restrictions.
- We will send the team reps the three options in greater detail along with an online voting form. We ask that each team review the options with their coaches and respective pool boards as necessary and submit one vote per team by Friday, April 16.
- If we get one option that gets > 50% of the vote, that will be the one we go with. If all three options are close, we may do an additional vote on the top two.

### Liz – Vice President, Rules and Awards update

- Liz reminded team reps of the transfer rules. Our last season was 2019, so if anyone is changing teams from their 2019 team, a transfer form may be required.
- Transfer forms are open now and due by May 1. The Board will respond by May 15.
- Awards Update:
  - The May meeting is when we typically hand out awards and bags to each team
  - Assuming we have a season, we will distribute awards next month (TBD on the process to pick up your bag)
  - Liz has B meet ribbons, finisher ribbons, etc. If you would like any, please email [awards@mcsl.org](mailto:awards@mcsl.org).

### Around the Horn

- Jim – Jim shared the prices for new starters or accessories from Colorado. If you need to place an order, please reach out to Jim at [rules@mcsl.org](mailto:rules@mcsl.org).
- Scott – The clinic schedule is posted and we will start registration in May. Reps are encouraged to share the clinic schedule with officials. Please note that there are separate S&T clinics for newly certifying S&T officials.
- Kristine – nothing to report
- Rebecca – nothing to report
- Tom – nothing to report
- Jessica – nothing to report
- Dave – nothing to report
- Marty – nothing to report
- Gabe – nothing to report
- Bob – Please review your team's information on the MCSL website and make sure the right names and contact information is up there. If you need your login information, please email [web@mcsl.org](mailto:web@mcsl.org)
- Eric – please check and make sure team computers work. If you need Meet Manager software, please email [web@mcsl.org](mailto:web@mcsl.org)

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- Andrew – nothing to report
- Beverly – Please remember that your invoices are due this month in order to receive your ribbons and bags in May. County pool invoices were sent directly to Melanie at the Montgomery County recreation department.

### Kathy - Questions in the Chat Window

1. B meet protocol – Yes, the competition protocols will apply to A, B, intra-squad meets and time trials. If you operate any kind of swim meet under the guise of MCSL, you must follow the competition protocols and guidelines. We recognize that we normally do not get involved in B meets or intra-squad meets, but this year will be different.
2. Please clarify the definition of “facility” - Our guidelines to the county are meant to govern the MCSL “practice area,” not the other areas of the facility. We will clarify this with the county.
3. Between Memorial Day and when MCPS is out for the summer, the way it is written now suggests we cannot practice in afternoons when the pool is open? Yes, we will clarify this with the county. (The team rep suggested we use this example in our amendment to the county to help clarify what we mean).
4. Did we consider shifting the season to July-Aug? Yes, we considered it briefly, but many coaches are teachers and do not want to go into August. We do not think this will work for many teams.
5. B meet protocol (again) – if you run a B meet you will have to follow the same protocols. You may want to consider fun intra-squad meets every Wednesday night instead.
6. The 2020 outline for 19-year-olds, is that available? – Yes, the original plan for 19-year-old swimmers is on the MCSL website.
7. Why are we saying 19-year-old swimmers can't return? We are not saying that. We now know that the season we hoped for, and originally planned for, will not be. We are letting our membership make the decision on how we handle 19-year-old swimmers given the reality of the protocols you will need to implement.
8. How do we get payment to you? If you wish to order a new starter, let Jim know at [rules@mcsl.org](mailto:rules@mcsl.org). To pay your dues, send your team check to Beverly at MCSL. Team reps should have her address from the invoice. You can also email [treasurer@mcsl.org](mailto:treasurer@mcsl.org).
9. Protocols for meets – We will get this out as soon as possible, once we hear back from the county. We will set up training dates for you and your coaches.
10. Automation training clinics – Eric responded that there is no information yet on dates for these clinics. However, they will be virtual and they will be held towards the end of May to early June. We are planning for 2 training sessions. We also have some new training videos that will be uploaded to You Tube.
11. How many teams will be participating? Based on the results of the recent survey, we expect about 5 or fewer teams are unlikely to participate.
12. Can we see a draft of the meet guidelines before they are submitted to the county? No, unfortunately, we are not in a position to share this before we submit. We will share once we hear back from the county.
13. If my pool is big enough for more than 136 swimmers (68x2), can I do time trials this way if I can maintain proper physical distancing? No, the waiver we are submitting has a

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cap of 136 swimmers for competition (68x2). If your pool is large, you will still have to abide by the cap. If your pool is small, you may have to use other areas of your pool to meet physical distancing requirements.

14. The dates for the dual meet schedule do not seem correct on the website? The dates on the main page of the website are correct. Time trials should be held on June 12 with the first A meet on June 19. Rebecca then pointed out that if you are looking at your division schedule, those are last year's dates. Your personalized calendar still reflects 2020. It will not be updated until we finalize all the teams and the final divisions. There is a possibility we may have to do a re-ranking.
15. 19-year-old swimmers – There are 3 options to vote on. You will receive additional information on the 3 options. The Board will go with whatever the membership decides.
16. Are the 136 swimmers in competition (68x2) a hard limit? Yes. If you have > 136 swimmers for time trials, you may need to consider dividing them into groups.
17. The Montgomery County April 5<sup>th</sup> guidelines on pools seems to imply 50% less than less summer. What are the Board thoughts on this? We are disappointed, but we believe we have a good case and good metrics/numbers to present to the county. Kathy has the opportunity to attend a meeting with the county on behalf of MCSL.
18. The county website says a letter of approval is needed to compete or practice. Do we need to do anything? No, you do not need to request anything for practices – this is done. We did it for all teams in the MCSL. We are getting ready to submit for a letter of approval for meets and competition. You do not need to do anything directly with the county.
19. Do other parts of the pool have to close to others during practice? No, the pool does not necessarily have to close to others during your MCSL practice if your capacity numbers are higher for your pool and you can insure proper physical distancing guidelines. When it comes to meets, our protocols may supersede your facility guidelines (TBD).

### Kathy – Concluding words

- Thank you for all you do for your team and the league.
- This is a challenging time with still much unknown. We know it is frustrating to plan the season this way.
- Please be assured we are working diligently on the meet protocols and we will share ASAP once more is known.
- We wish you good health and much peace during this time.
- You will soon receive information on voting regarding 19-year-olds and the pool measuring we will need for you to do.

NEXT MEETING: May 13, 2021 8pm (Zoom)

General meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm

Minutes submitted by Kristine Frohman, Secretary