

## **MCSL Reps Meeting Agenda June 9, 2016**

**Meeting called to order at EOB at 8:01 pm by Scott Witkin**

**Teams not signed in as present: Ashton, Diamond Farm, East Gate, King Farm, Lakelands, Long Branch, Merrimack Park, Mill Creek Towne, Potomac Glen, Quail Valley, River Falls, Twinbrook,**

**Scott Witkin, President, [president@mcsl.org](mailto:president@mcsl.org)**

- Goes over the agenda for this evening's meeting, including the Coaches and Meet Management Clinics

**Scott Bogren, Advertising Chair**

- This evening's presenter: Daleview/Six Flags

**Jim Garner, Rules**

- Jim has the starter unit for the team that ordered one for this season

**Scott Bogren, Secretary**

- DQ Slips and Take Off Slips for each team are on the tables – please note that additional slips are included for teams hosting Divisionals and Relay Carnival

**Jim Garner, Rules**

- Introduces a proposed rule change (attached below) that is significant and that has come to the Board from a team. The proposed change is for the 15-18 age categories to swim 50s and not 100s with the possible exception of Freestyle. The rule will be voted on next March but we wanted to bring it to the Team Reps attention early because it is significant.

**Eric Smith, Automation**

- Please check your computers if you haven't already. Also, make sure your automation staff submits the week 3 results in a timely manner, as they're used for long course entries.

**Marty Cohen,**

- Coaches Long Course will need timers. When it gets to All-Stars, we will discuss at the July meeting and this is where we will need staffing assistance. Marty reminds Team Reps about the new rule about teams providing volunteers commensurate with the number of swimmers.

**Andrew Arai, Treasurer**

- Covers the advertising income (\$12.5K) for the year and the bank balance (\$78K) for the league.

**Scott Bogren, Advertising**

- Aardvark will have officials shirts available in the next 7-10 days. Capital Sport and Swim has them in stock.

**Scott Witkin, President, [president@mcsl.org](mailto:president@mcsl.org)**

- Iona Brown Award description is now live on the MCSL web page
- Clinics: Scott has officials guides if anyone wants one. We've had 400 officials go through clinics thus far. Scott thanks Connecticut Belair and Flower Hill for the use of their pools for clinics. This weekend and then next Tuesday are the last opportunities for officials
- Paperwork: Scott reminds Team Reps to keep the meet paperwork through the end of the season for all home meets.
- Calendar: We will vote on next season's calendar at the July meeting

**Liz Novotny, [awards@mcsl.org](mailto:awards@mcsl.org)**

- The B meet ribbons order form is on-line and three teams need to pick up their ribbons from the May meeting

**Kathy Aitken, records**

- Cover the record process because last year we had a record broken on week one

**Scott Witkin, President, [president@mcsl.org](mailto:president@mcsl.org)**

- Technical rules changes updates:
  - Video will not be used by officials, now in the rule book.
  - The swim up rule has been changed to deal with "expected availability at the time of the exchange."
  - DQs will now be taken care of before the next event begins.
  - Rule interpretation change: it is not permissible for a swimmer to leave the wall on their backs when leaving the wall on the freestyle leg of the IM or in the medley relay (where it's more likely the issue).

**Coaches/Meet Management Break Outs**

**NEXT MEETING: July 14, 2016 EOB, Rockville, MD**

*General meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.*

*Minutes submitted by Scott Bogren, Secretary*

## RULES CHANGE PROPOSAL FROM AN MCSL TEAM

We would like MCSL to consider a rule change to reduce the 15-18 year old events to 50 meters with a possible exception for freestyle.

### Rationale:

Swimming 50s would be more fun, it could potentially keep more swimmers interested in summer swimming, and it would decrease the competitive advantage of year round swimmers. I think it would be worth a thoughtful discussion among the board as well as among all the team reps as to if this potential change would better support the "purpose of the league" keeping in mind the "words of wisdom" from the MCSL Meet Management Handbook that "This is for the kids. If they are having fun, it is all worth it in the end."

The potential advantage is that possibly more swimmers will hang around summer swimming instead of just the year round swimmers. It would make swimming as a 15-18 more fun (which is part of the goal) and decrease the competitive advantage for year round swimmers. Swimming 3 100s at a quick summer meet is a lot for the non-year round swimmers.

### Additional rationale from the drafter:

1. The neighboring summer leagues (not that MCSL needs to be like them) have 50s for the 15-18 (NVSL has all 50s and Prince Mont has all 50s except for freestyle, which is a 100).
2. It would likely keep swimmers on the team during the 15-18 years instead of having kids drop off the team. Swimming 100s definitely favors year round swimmers, whose training makes it much easier for them to swim this distance. If the league went to all 50s, it would be MUCH easier for kids to swim these events. In the current system, a swimmer could swim 350 yards in 4 races in one meet (over less than 2 hours). This would be reduced to 200 yards - something much more manageable for a non-year round swimmer.
3. It would help advance the goals of the league - The goals of the program include helping young people establish a love for the sport of swimming, advanced aquatic skills, teamwork, and the principles of good sportsmanship. Maybe you would keep summer swimmers around and interested enough so they would make swimming more of a life-long sport (e.g. club swimming in college, masters swimming, etc.) MCSL has reached a very competitive level - I personally am not sure this is good for the league or the community. If you look at the goals of the league - fast swimming and setting records isn't one of the goals. Just make it more fun!!!!
4. It would shorten meets - no harm in that!!!

There are some negatives about changing the rule...

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1. Some do winter swimming with a goal of doing well during the summer. (I would argue that by the time kids are 15-18, this is probably much less true.)
2. This sets MCSL apart from other local leagues.... and it's how it has always been.