

**MCSL Reps Meeting Agenda  
April 23, 2020**

Meeting called to order via Zoom at 8:02 pm by Kathy Aitken, MCSL President

**No team sign-in was performed.** Teams that did not vote in the online budget voting were: Bethesda, Clarksburg Town Center, Flower Hill, King Farm, Old Farm, Olney Mill

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

- Kathy extended a welcome to all and a special thank you to all health care workers, researchers and scientists, and any others supporting our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, plus all the essential workers serving our community. The Executive Board extends our deepest gratitude to you.
- The MCSL Board has met and at this time we will address the plan for COVID-19:
  - Government decisions will determine the opening of pools and recreational facilities, and the procedures that must be followed if pools re-open.
  - While the government and the CDC will set the recommendations about pool re-openings, we in the MCSL are the experts on how our swim meets are run.
  - We know that based on the CDC guidelines for social distancing & the projections being made now and in the foreseeable future, there is no way that some of our MCSL swim meets can operate in a safe manner.
  - The MCSL's utmost concern is for the safety of our athletes and volunteers, and also for our community.
  - Therefore, we have made the decision that we will not be able to run the Coaches Long Course meet, the Individual and All-Stars Relays meets, the Divisional Championship meets, and the Divisional Relay Carnival meets.
  - We cannot have large championship meets that involve the coming together of six teams in a division, or league-wide meets that involve thousands of people coming together.
  - We do not know if Governor Hogan will open pools for this summer, or if he does, when that will be.
  - The Board is still hopeful that we may be able to have some type of a competitive season. We do not know what that season could look like, and we do not want to make any hasty decisions.
  - We are moving our May team reps meeting to Thursday, May 21, which is the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend. At that time, we hope to have a better idea of whether the government will permit the outdoor pools to open, and if allowed to open, the timing of such openings and the level of "social distancing" restrictions that will be in place. We foresee the possibility of some pools not opening, even if the government permits their opening. We also foresee if pools do open, some pools may choose not to field a swim team.
  - We anticipate that our season will look different this summer. A traditional dual meet is highly unlikely, as we know some form of social distancing will be required.

## MCSL Reps Meeting

- As such, the Board has begun planning what a “modified” dual meet season, under strict social distancing restrictions, could potentially look like, for example: virtual swim meets.
  - There exists the possibility the season could be abbreviated and/or delayed.
  - We do not have firm information or plans for this, so we hope to provide better information at the May meeting.
  - There are many factors to consider; however, the health and well-being of our athletes and families will first and foremost.
  - We have decided that we are not issuing team invoices for dues at this meeting. When we have a better idea of what the season will look like, we may ask for dues or we may reduce the dues this season.
  - Even if we are unable to have a season because of COVID-19, the MCSL financial situation is very healthy and stable. We will be able to begin a 2021 season without revenue from dues and sponsors in 2020. We are doing well with our finances, so fortunately, we do not have to worry about money.
  - One item we have to cover today is the voting of the 2020 MCSL budget. In a few moments we will do this.
  - If you have any questions during this meeting, please put them in the chat. We ask that questions be asked only by team reps.
- Kathy then directed the meeting to the budget vote:
    - The only income we are now projecting is dues from member teams, but that could change.
    - We will not have any advertising revenue this season.
    - We had to place an early order for the awards (pre-pandemic); however, they can be re-used next year.
    - Scott Witkin ran the budget vote online.
    - The budget passed by the majority of the Team Reps.

### **Around the Horn:**

Scott Witkin – Clinics, [officials@mcsl.org](mailto:officials@mcsl.org)

- All Montgomery County Recreation facilities are closed until further notice. Our clinics that were scheduled in May and June were all “in-person clinics,” which are now being cancelled.
- We have decided to bump all MCSL official certifications by one year. This applies to all currently certified MCSL officials. For example: if an official has an 18 next to their name, that will be changed to 19 (meaning the certification expires in 2021). If they have a 19, they will be changed to 20 (meaning the certification expires in 2022).
- If we have some type of a season, we may offer an online S&T, starter and maybe a referee clinic in June.

Vice President – Liz Novatny, [rules@mcsl.org](mailto:rules@mcsl.org), [awards@mcsl.org](mailto:awards@mcsl.org)

- Team transfers – we have received several so far and are still accepting transfer requests. They will be reviewed and approved as they are received.

## MCSL Reps Meeting

- Awards – the company that makes our awards is closed due to COVID-19. We are hoping to receive the awards by mid-May (TBD).

Jim Garner, SSL Hours/Colorado Starters, [rules@mcsl.org](mailto:rules@mcsl.org)

- Whether we have a season or not, kids can earn SSL hours if their pool is open and if they are doing something to earn the hours.
- Please send an email to Jim to request permission to grant SSL hours and send a copy of your team's liability insurance. If you do not yet have the insurance, that is okay, you can send that in later to Jim.
- A league-wide order for Colorado starters will not be placed until we know what we are going to do this summer. We will discuss more in May.

Bob Hincke and Eric Smith, Automation, [web@mcsl.org](mailto:web@mcsl.org)

- If you do not have a team login, please email [web@mcsl.org](mailto:web@mcsl.org). It is very important you keep your team information updated on the website (team reps names, emails, etc.).

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

- Earlier this week, someone made a little hoax and was distributing something that said MCSL had cancelled the 2020 season
- Please be assured that any information about our season will come to you first, directly from us. Information will come via email from the Secretary of the MCSL (Kristine) or on the front page of our website. Messages on Facebook or any other social media are not reliable sources of information.

### Questions from the Chat:

- What will happen to 18-year-old swimmers? No decisions have been made, as we do not know what our season will look like. We will discuss more at the May meeting.
- What about the Sarah E. Auer Scholarship? Scott Witkin will contact the Auer family to see how they want to handle.
- If an individual pool does not open due to HOA decisions, will the team have to withdraw from the MCSL? No, teams that do not open do not have to withdraw from MCSL. You would just not join for the summer. We want and need all teams back in 2021.
- I am a Team rep and I am not receiving the emails? Please log in to the MCSL website and double-check your team information and the email addresses currently listed. Several typos in email addresses have recently been caught, so please carefully check the spelling of all email addresses. Before any email is sent to the team reps, a new download of all emails is performed. If you do not know your MCSL login, please email [web@mcsl.org](mailto:web@mcsl.org).
- What is happening with MCSL clinics and virtual training? May and June dates for officials' clinics are being cancelled. We will set online clinic dates, likely in June, once we know better where things stand.

## MCSL Reps Meeting

- What about current officials and their extension? Yes, the officials on your team will get an extra year of certification automatically added, i.e. every official will get a one-year bump. This will reduce the need for existing officials having to re-certify this year.
- If a team opts out, can I transfer my swimmer to a different team? Yes, but you must fill out the transfer form and follow team transfer rules. The same applies if you wish to transfer back to your original team next year.
- What would a virtual meet entail? In general, it could be that swimmers from Team A swim the events in their correct lane (every other lane) at their own pool. Team B would do the same at their pool. Both teams send in their times. This is only an example. We have not yet worked through specific details.
- What about division placements? The division placements in 2020 will likely carry to 2021, as we are anticipating that this season will not be a traditional season. We will discuss more next month.
- Can Kathy repeat her opening remarks on what the league is doing for COVID-19? Kathy repeated her opening comments and decisions made by the MCSL Executive Board (please see beginning of the meeting minutes).

### **Meeting Close:**

- President Kathy Aitken closed the meeting thanking everyone for their support and graciousness.
- The MCSL Executive Board wishes and prays for your health and safety, and that all in our community continue to make good choices.
- We will see you all on Thursday, May 21 for our next meeting.

### **Special Note to Team Reps:**

We do ask that all Team Reps keep the Board informed about what your HOA/pools are doing, as you learn more. Please also email us if you decide you cannot field a team this summer. Please email [board@mcsl.org](mailto:board@mcsl.org) with your information. Thank you.

NEXT MEETING: May 21, 2020 Virtual via Zoom (please note date change)

General meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Minutes submitted by Kristine Frohman, Secretary