

## MCSL Reps Meeting

### MCSL Reps Meeting Agenda March 11, 2021

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

Team Sign In: done via a sign-in link posted at the beginning and during the meeting. 79 teams signed in to the meeting. Teams not signed in: Ashton, Bethesda, King Farm, Norbeck Hills, New Mark Commons, North Creek, Olney Mill, Upper County, and Westleigh.

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

- Kathy opened the meeting with a welcome to 2021, our second meeting of team reps. Some housekeeping items: please keep microphones on mute, please hold questions until all the information has been presented, and we will go through the written questions in the chat at the end of the meeting
- Thank you for all the work you are doing for the league and your teams

Kristine – introduction of sponsors with us tonight

- Kristine introduced Joe Flaherty, from Joe Flaherty's Dolphins (JFD) swim team. Joe has been a MCSL gold sponsor for a long time.
- Joe can offer coaches' training and head-start swim practices to MCSL teams. He has a flyer if you would like your swimmers to start swimming this spring, ahead of the season. Please visit the JFD website for more info and/or to contact Joe: [www.jfdolphins.com](http://www.jfdolphins.com). You can also find Joe on our MCSL sponsors page.

Kathy – MCSL Bylaws

- The Board has some proposed changes to the bylaws, which Kathy read out loud to the reps
- We will send these changes to the reps to review and we will vote on them at next month's meeting (April)
- The proposed changes to the bylaws involve Article 11 – Remote Meetings
- It is required that you receive the proposed changes in writing and they will be emailed out to all team reps. Reps will vote on the bylaws changes at the April meeting.

Kathy - Covid-19 Response and Planning for Season 2021

- At the February reps meeting we discussed how the MCSL Board will prepare and submit a waiver to Montgomery County to request permission for the MCSL and member teams to operate this season (practices and competition)
- The current status of our waiver is that it is written and in final formatting stages. We are in communications with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation for their opinion. We plan to have the waiver for practices submitted to the county within next 7 days. We based our proposed policies and procedures on what has already been approved for Potomac Valley Swimming (PVS) teams. We know it will be important to

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have a practice waiver ready for when the pools open in May. Therefore, we will be submitting that one first.

- Along with waiver, we will request a Zoom meeting with the county Department of Health and Services (DHHS) where we can talk to them about our proposed policies, procedures and meet protocols. We are closely watching the roll-out of vaccines continue to hope restrictions decrease. We plan to have procedures in place for whatever the situation is in May.
- Kathy then introduced several of the team members working on the waiver/waiver process and they will provide an update.
- Rebecca – There are 2 documents that are being prepared for county review – 1) policies and procedures for practices, and 2) protocol for MCSL meets. All PVS teams have their Covid-19 policies on their websites. We are mirroring what PVS has submitted to the county. There are lots of procedures in the waiver request, e.g. positioning of the swimmers, what happens if swimmer gets sick, etc. Reps may look at other PVS team policies and procedures online if they would like examples. For PVS meets, PVS puts the policies and procedures for competition in their meet announcements.
- Marty – Shared with the reps the results of the Team Rep 2021 Survey. The Board sent out the survey at the end of February to all teams to gauge early plans on participation this season. We received 83 responses to the survey (of 88 teams) and the results are pretty clear – people really want to have a season! We think we will have ~80 teams competing this summer. Only one team indicated they definitely would not be able to participate this summer.
- Marty – The waiver for practices should be submitted to the county in the next 7 days. A waiver for competition will follow. Right now, there are no meets (i.e. no swim competition) occurring in Montgomery County. We will need to engage in dual conversations with the county about competition. We have looked at a myriad of alternatives for competition, but we are primarily focused on dual meets. Our desired state is “Single site/single session” – which is a normal dual meet between two teams at the same site in one session. This is how we have run A meets in the past. We have drafted a protocol for this, but we have other versions, too. We are hoping for an “almost normal” dual meet season, if the county agrees to our proposal. The protocols would call for reduced attendance on the pool deck (e.g. up to 66 swimmers per team, plus coaches, officials, volunteers). We do have several backups, too, in the event the county says no and we need even more reduced capacity on deck. For example, we could break the dual meet into two sessions – one for boys, one for girls. We have also looked at various scenarios for Divisionals. We are not looking at Relay Carnival meets right now. And we have not given up on Coaches LC or Individual All Stars, although they would need to be modified if we are able to run them.
- Gabe – In trying to figure out how to discuss dual meets with county, Gabe performed some math to see how we could implement dual meets across 88 pools. Gabe discovered a website online and was able to draw circumferences on Google maps around the pool areas of different member teams. Gabe is confident that most pools have enough room for a safe dual meet. At some point, we will need for reps to give the

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Board some indication of how you will stage and social distance the swimmers in a dual meet scenario. Reps will need to certify they can meet the requirements the county will likely have for us, if the county gives us approval to run in-person dual meets.

### Liz – Rules and Transferring Teams

- The MCSL Team Transfer form will be up on the website from March 15 to May 1
- We did not have a 2020 season, so whatever team you swam for in 2019 is the last team you swam for in considering transfers
- The MCSL handbook documents team transfers. Reps may look online to see the rules required for filing a team transfer report.

### Beverly - Treasury

- Normally we present the MCSL budget at the March meeting and vote on it. We will hold off and do this at the April meeting
- Beverly will send out invoices for each team this month. Please make sure your team information is updated on the MCSL website to receive your invoice
- Payments (dues) are due by the April reps meeting
- Payment will be needed to give you the ribbons, materials, etc. for the upcoming season
- Also on your invoice will be the 2019 splash fees from the 2019 league-wide meets (e.g. All Stars). Note: 2019 splash fees normally would have been billed on your 2020 invoice. But since we did not have a season, 2020 invoices were never sent out.
- What you will see on your invoice - \$400 for your 2021 dues and any 2019 splash fees from the last season: \$4/swimmer for an individual event, \$8/relay team.
- You will get your invoice via email over the weekend

### Around the Horn:

- Scott – the clinic schedule is now posted on the official's page on the MCSL website. We will open clinic registration as we get closer to the season. Please check your officials' roster. Officials will need to recertify if they have a '19 or earlier next to their name. All clinics will be conducted online this year due to Covid. There will be several clinics for first time S&T judges.
- Bob – Please login and update your team information on the MCSL website so you get any email and announcements. If you do not have your team's login, please email [web@mcsl.org](mailto:web@mcsl.org) and we will send you the login credentials for your team
- Eric – Now is the time to please check your team computers. We will continue to use Meet Manager like last season. Please let [web@mcsl.org](mailto:web@mcsl.org) know if you need anything.
- Kristine – Reiterated to please update your team data on the MCSL website. Kristine uses those emails in the communications to all the reps. Often, when a team rep is not receiving emails from MCSL, it is because there is a typo in the email address. We continue to get several "undeliverable" in the reps email distributions, so please remove/correct old emails.
- Andrew – The updated team info on the website will be used to populate this year's MCSL handbook. We are considering the handbook to be a PDF this year; we are still

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deciding. If a PDF, the handbook would be available on phones, computers, will have color ads, etc.

- Marty – nothing to report
- Jim – We will have Colorado prices next month for starters
- Tom – nothing to report
- Jessica – nothing to report
- Gabe – nothing to report
- Rebecca – The meet protocol that the Board is drafting for the county in our waiver process will address the processes and procedures for where officials should stand, where timers stand, where the swimmers are, etc. (this is an answer to a question in chat window).
- Liz – normally in May all team reps pick up their bags at our May reps meeting in Rockville. Liz has all the ribbons and materials for this season. Liz is thinking how we will get this to out to the reps in May, assuming we have some kind of season and the May meeting is on Zoom. We will discuss this more next month.

Question in the Chat Window – Kathy facilitated the questions and answers

1. Social distancing – Social distancing will be addressed in the meet protocols that we are developing. We will also have mandatory team reps and coach training on the protocols
2. Coach Jobs on MCSL Website – The turn-around time for posting a job is one day usually. Please resend any postings to Eric if you would like a coach job posted and it hasn't been posted yet (email: [web@mcsl.org](mailto:web@mcsl.org))
3. Adults getting vaccinated, will this be considered in our plan? Reminder, we will follow whatever the county says. We do not know how things will be in May. We have to make a policy that will take into consideration what is the safest way we can run a season. We will likely need to follow a format that works for everyone, e.g. everyone must wear a mask even if you have been vaccinated. We will know more in the upcoming months.
4. If you need your team login info, please email: [web@mcsl.org](mailto:web@mcsl.org)
5. Automation software – The automation software will remain the same for 2021 season
6. Team rankings – we will use the ones from 2019
7. If a team does not return for this season but plans to come back in 2020, how will we seed them next year? We will determine in the off-season how to place them back in the seeding for 2022
8. Swimmers in A meets - Teams can decide who swims A meets. B meets may be tough, as you will likely not be able to have large B meets with 2 teams. Teams should consider intra-squad meets to get the rest of your team swimming in competition. Intra-squad meets will give your swimmers the opportunity to get times and can help fill the void. You may want to swim intra-squad meets every Wednesday if your pool will permit.
9. Meet files – The meet files will be updated to include the new event order and will include 19-year-old swimmers
10. B meets – The waiver we submit to the county with respect to competition will apply to any meet (e.g. A meets and B meets). Normally MCSL does not govern rules around B meets. But this year any competition will need to be done in accordance with the waiver

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we are submitting to the county. We are hoping they will approve “dual meet, single site” with no spectators and strict limits on the number of people in the pool area. Things could change and we will keep you posted.

11. Concessions – If we have to abide by some type of restriction in order to get a waiver for competition, there will not be concessions allowed. Concessions has been a no-go with the county to date.
12. B Meets - Any activity including B meets must be conducted under the terms of the waiver. Our waiver will be a request for competition (all types)
13. Automatic timing software – are any teams using it? If you are, please chat directly to Debra Bunker (on the chat). From the MCSL standpoint, you cannot use automatic timing for an A meet. This is covered in the MCSL handbook. Teams must come to MCSL Rules Committee if they want to use automatic timing. You may do whatever you would like for a B meet. But for an A meet, you must first check with the Board.
14. What is the definition of a “Dual Site / Single site” meet – this is regular dual meet as you know it. Both teams are at the same pool for the meet. But there would be reductions in officials and volunteers, along with limitations on how many athletes can attend. No spectators would be allowed. This is our best hope for dual meet competition this summer. A virtual dual meet would be an option if we have restrictions and need a lower number of people on deck. We could also have a girls and boys session option. There will be a limit on the number swimmers this season, so if you then fast forward to B meets, the same limitations will hold. At B meets we will not be able to hold large meets with multi-heats. B meets may need to look like A meets. Intra-squad meets may be an option in lieu of B meets and that would allow for more of one team’s swimmers to compete at any one time.
15. Will spectators be allowed? No. If we are granted a competition waiver, all teams will have to comply with the terms of the waiver. Not allowing spectators is an easy way to regulate and reduce the number of people on deck. Teams may want to stream their meets, like PVS is currently doing, so spectators can watch the meet online.
16. PVS meets have touchpads – how will we do timing? Nothing has been formalized yet. We are creating in our procedures where timers would stand, such that everyone is social distanced.
17. If a team cannot have a season due to HOA restrictions, can a swimmer switch teams? Yes, a swimmer can apply for a transfer to another team if their team is not coming back
18. Swimmers who graduated last year – Yes, they can swim this year
19. Can a home team enforce stricter Covid-19 policies? Possibly, please review with the Board, [board@mcsl.org](mailto:board@mcsl.org).
20. When do we make a decision on participation? Probably May. We are currently planning for a restricted season
21. Seniors last year – Yes, 19-year-olds may swim this year
22. Policies on 8 & U swimmers – The coach would be responsible for 8 & U swimmers. Our model also has Marshalls on the pool deck. Parents would not be allowed on deck
23. Concession – food trucks? Rules would be made about what is permitted on pool premises. You would have to go to your own pool board on food trucks being allowed in

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your parking lot. We may also need to have a conversation with county. We can bring it up with the county

24. Could Intra-squad meets be run in a 66x2 format like A meets? Yes intra-squad meets will allow you to swim more swimmers (66x2). *(Note: the 66 swimmers per team was the number of swimmers needed to fill a dual A meet, discussed earlier in the meeting. After this meeting and re-checking the math, the number is actually 68 per team for a dual meet, or 68x2 for both teams).*
25. Does 66 maximum swimmers apply to in-house competition? Yes, the 66 maximum swimmers per team would apply to any competitive meet. We are going to the county with our protocols, structure and support for competition. *(Note: we have updated this to 68 swimmers per team for a dual meet)*
26. Would a dual meet limit the number of adults present or just the number of kids? It would for both. We will let Andrew talk about the encouraging information he brought to the Board in the last hour before the reps meeting.
27. Andrew – Many good things going on now - vaccinations are going well, the number of cases is dropping, and we hope there will be enough vaccinations for all adults by the end of May. None of the vaccines are approved for children under 16. So children will be an open question this season. We know that children tend to have less severe disease, but they almost certainly pass it on to other adults or children. It is also not known if vaccinations stop the spread. Vaccinations are more proven to reduce severity and death, but we do not yet know about spread. Ultimately, we will follow the guidance of the CDC and Montgomery County. Montgomery County has been more restrictive.
28. How can we raise money without concessions? Please consider other ways of fundraising. For example, consider a restaurant fundraiser. Or do a Google search on how teams can fundraise. You may want to get together with other swim team reps you know to brainstorm ways you can fundraise.
29. Can you explain again the “66 per team?” – Marty clarified that in the modeling with respect to a competition waiver, we have determined that 66 swimmers are needed from each team to fill their events at a dual A meet. So  $66 \times 2 =$  the number of swimmers for a dual A meet. *(Note: after this meeting, we re-reviewed the numbers and we actually need 68 swimmers per team, or 68x2 total).*
30. B meet vs. intra-squad – the protocols will cover all types of competition
31. Intra-squad Meets – These types of meets, which are only done within one team, will need to follow the competition waiver
32. Some HOA may have stricter rules than what we apply for in the waiver, so how should we handle? You will need to make a decision if you can have a competitive season with your HOA rules. Perhaps you can swim at the other team’s pool for the dual meets? Maybe your dual meets can be swam virtually (each team swims at their own pool)? Maybe you need 2 session for your A meet, e.g. girls and boys. Teams may experience not only county restrictions, but ones from their HOA.
33. Will the MCSL consider relaxing the swim-up rules? No
34. If a team must have stricter protocols, please review these protocols with the Board. You can email us at: [board@mcsl.org](mailto:board@mcsl.org)

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35. Remember, there are serious things still going on with Covid and we want to keep the community safe. This is why there will be restrictions on our season.
36. When will final limits be announced on lanes? We will be submitting the practice waiver to the county in the next 7 days. We hope to hear back by our next team reps meeting in April. We are going to mirror the PVS waiver. We have included required training for coaches and reps in the waiver.

### Kathy - Closing

- Thank you for all you are doing for great sport for competitive swimming
- Our next meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, April 8
- We wish you much health and safety

NEXT MEETING: April 8, 2021 8pm (Zoom)

General meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm

Minutes submitted by Kristine Frohman, Secretary