

MIDDLE ATLANTIC SWIMMING, INC.
BOARD OF DELEGATES
MIDDLE ATLANTIC OFFICE
July 8, 2002 7:00pm

In attendance:

George Breen, General Chair
Fred Killian, Administrative Chair
Tom Southmayd, Sr. Chair
Patric Mills, Safety
Doug Copper, Tech Planning
Burt German, Rules
Leon Champagne, Finance
Sid Cassidy, Coach's Rep.
Moirra McCloskey, Athlete Rep.
TJ Southmayd, Athlete Rep.
Scott Champagne, Athlete Rep.
Cherita Gentilucci, Office Staff
Dave Carson

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by George Breen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Office, Cherita Gentilucci:

- In the recent Swimming World, there was a parting shot in reference to Dick Shoulberg of GAAC.
- There was a letter of resignation from Mike Doyle as the chair of the adaptive swimming committee.
- Fred Killian announced there has been a rule changed concerning the present backstroke start. It was automatically adopted by USA Swimming. The change is that a swimmer, after the start, can lift his/her feet above the surface of the water. The old rule was that feet cannot curl over the gutter or be above the water's surface at any time during the start.
- There have been some official's stroke and turn clinics scheduled for the fall in October. These will be held at Jersey Wahoos, Five Star, and Lehigh.
- Cherita announced that Dennis Smith of the Open Water Committee had called today to inform her that due to an insufficient number of entries, Seahawks would not hold the Middle Atlantic Open Water Championships on Saturday, July 13th as scheduled. Mr. Smith indicated a preference for August 3rd as an alternative date. Concern was voiced that this date would conflict with many South Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware summer league championship meets. There were suggestions to move it after Buffalo Zones where there would more likely be a better turn out and less conflict with other local open water swims. After much discussion, Patric Mills informed the Board that she would contact Mr. Smith and have him contact Cherita with the re-scheduling plans. The Board was assured that any registered MA swimmer who wants to swim in the zone open water championship would be welcome to do so.

- Additions to New Business approved: Discussion of Elite meet and Athlete Rep. Implements added to agenda by Moira McCloskey and TJ Southmayd.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tonight's agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action- The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

George Breen expressed that he thought there was a need to put report on the website where it is more accessible to bring up since it is easier and faster.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Travel Budget- John Carroll wanted to table the travel budget. Fred said this was not an urgent issue and could be dealt with after convention.

Non-Conforming Times- (See pink sheet labeled "Acceptance of Non-Conforming Times") Fred Killian stated that the principle is that all non-conforming times be accepted at meets. "The Meet Information for all Meets which have an 'A' or faster Qualifying Time must include an equivalent Qualifying Time for all three course venues. In the short course season, SCM entrees should be given the same treatment as SCY entrees and have them as conforming times and seeded together. Fred Killian proposed that LCM times not be accepted for the short course championship meets in the spring (i.e. JOs and MIDs). The qualifying period is 18 months, which gives ample time to acquire short course times for championship meets. For LCM championship meets, SCM and SCY will be treated as non-conforming. For club hosted meets, the club can decide whether to accept LCM entrees at a short course meet and at long course meets all three courses must be accepted. It is also up to the club whether to seed the SCM times as conforming or non-conforming with SCY times. Sid Cassidy brought up an issue with a club being able to decide whether SCM entrees would be conforming or non-conforming. There is a possibility that if a meet runs to long, those swimmers with non-conforming SCM times would be bumped out of the meet regardless of whether they're faster than other swimmers attending the meet if they had had a converted time. Finally, distance Freestyle qualifying times should be provided for a comparable distance in the alternate venues. These events must always be seeded on a Non-conforming basis.

These non-conforming standards brought up the issue of the guidelines of the precedence of LSC teams over outside teams for MA meets. George Breen brought up that that each LSC has a different tactic, whether it be first come first serve, or like the New Jersey meets which have a specific direction on how to handle outside LSCs.

Acceptance of Non-Conforming times was approved.

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

At-Large Appointments for the house: George Breen noted that these appointments would be announced in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Policy Manual:** (see 7. Types of Meets packet) Attention was drawn to the accepted meet section (7.4). This an 'accepted' meet is a meets approved by MA solely for the purpose of allowing times to be used for entry into certain MA meets. It is not recognized by USA Swimming. This gives meets such as a dual meet championship, high school dual meets, YMCA or YWCA Championship, a dual meet in an organized league, or other specific meets approved by MA Admin Chairperson. Fred Killian proposed an application fee for an accepted meet. There is a fee due to the difficulty of tracking the validity of an entree time. The Meet must not conflict with scheduled and/or sanctioned MA Meets, unless conflict is waived by the MA Admin Chairperson. The times from an Accepted Meet may be used for entry into any sanctioned age group, mini, or senior Meet that is hosted by MA or a MA club (including JOs, MIDs, but not including a Sectional Meet). Doug Copper brought up the concern of the difference between an Observed meet as opposed to an Accepted Meet. Tom Southmayd also brought up a concern that a high school swimmer at a high school meet can swim an event that does not comply to USA Swimming regulations (i.e. stand up backstroke start). Patric Mills said an Accepted Meet is a way for a swimmer to get his/her "foot in the door" whereas with an observed meet he/she can get a national record. Doug Copper also brought up that the rise in popularity of closed dual meets could allow larger teams to have meets with a slight fee with useable times. This could very well possibly hinder the turnout to a number of sanctioned Middle Atlantic meets. Patric Mills stated that the intent of the Accepted Meets is not to help USA Swimming teams but to be used as a recruiting tool for teams that are not USA Swimming affiliated so that their times could be used in JOs or at a higher level meet than their league to offer the next step to the swimmers of that team. Burt German added that any team requesting a closed dual meet to be an Accepted Meet would not be given the approval if it fell on the same weekend of a Middle Atlantic sanctioned meet. There was a proposal to send out a notice that there can not be an Accepted Meet on the same weekend as a MA sanctioned meet. This was accepted.
- **Budget Resolution:** Lee Champagne reported that MA's funds are with *American Funds*. He reported that over the last couple years returns have been poorer than previous years. In 2001, MA lost 1.4%. In 2002, MA in the first quarter gained 1.3% but in second quarter we lost 7%. He said that MA was currently 50% in the money market and 50% in funds and as money goes back in it goes into the money market. The question for the next meeting was whether to take it all out or space it out considering the current market. Discussion arose about expense cards as a way of giving out the amounts allotted to people on LSC business. George Breen thought this would complicate things and we should continue to reimburse after business is finished or reimbursements check before hand.
- **Coaches Meeting** - Sid Cassidy, as senior coach representative, is planning a Middle Atlantic coaches meeting before this years convention primarily to discuss upcoming legislation. He indicated that other items would be welcome on the

agenda including establishing a branch of the American Swimming Coaches Association for our LSC coaches. He is planning to host a 1:00pm meeting on Tuesday, August 20th at the Public Safety Building, Iowa and Atlantic Avenues in Atlantic City. He will also have discounted rooms available at the Tropicana and will forward the information to coaches and the web master. He was informed that \$200 remained in this year's budget for a coaches meeting.

- **FINA World Cup Open Water swim** - Sid Cassidy requested a strong Middle Atlantic presence for the USA Swimming/FINA World Cup Open Water event – *the 10K for the USA* – to be held in Atlantic City and Ventnor over the September 7 weekend. Several national and international swimming VIP's will be in attendance. He proposed that Middle Atlantic fund \$105.00 to provide for up to five representatives of our Board of Directors to attend the Friday evening rules meeting and dinner at the Hilton Hotel. A motion was made for this payment; it was seconded and approved.
- **Elite Meet:** Moira McCloskey made a proposal for the seniors (15-18) to be reestablished to the elite meet and make it a better quality meet than what it has been reduced to in recent years. Attendance and performance have slowly fallen since the meet was taken from an AAA meet down to an A and since the elimination of the seniors. The replacement meet for the seniors has been a failure for ~3 years in a row. She felt there is a need for Middle Atlantic to bring back their big time quality meets like they had in the past, this meet being one of them. From an athlete's point of view, the less important the meet is, the less interest there is to attend. There was discussion of possibly reestablishing the seniors to the elite meet for the coming season in 2003 but there was concern that it may be too soon and the schedule had already been approved for that season. Doug Copper stated that last year's elite meet could have well accommodated seniors in the time frame considering that only 11-12 and 13-14 were the only two age groups attending finals. Bert German also expressed a need along with Doug and Moira to bring back quality senior meets since there is virtually none as of right now. There was discussion of designating people to talk to coaches at JOs and Sectionals and other meets this summer about this issue so it could be investigated quickly so there could be a recommendation to add the seniors for the 2003 Elite Meet. Moira's recommendation was approved.
- **Athlete Rep Ideas to Implement:** (see hand out "Ideas for Middle Atlantic Athlete Reps to Implements for 2003-2003") TJ Southmayd came up with a list of ideas that he would like to see happen in Middle Atlantic to bring more social activities for the athletes so they could interact more and make it a more fun experience swimming in Middle Atlantic. He also listed some activities that would involve higher level athletes aiding in mini camps to offer an opportunity to bond with younger swimmers and give younger swimmers an older friend and mentor to aid them in their developing career. He expressed how so many athletes in Middle Atlantic bond during meets and then will have to wait another 5 months till the next time they can see them again. His list which consisted of setting up an e-mail network between athlete reps from each MA team, a trip to a theme park, bay swim followed by a beach party, and Athlete column on the website would be a way for athletes to keep in touch and have more fun swimming in Middle Atlantic. George Breen along with the other delegates thought these were very good ideas and said

that this could happen with the cooperation of Middle Atlantic coaches.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dave Carson brought the idea to Middle Atlantic for “Welcome Packs” to be added with mailing registration out to new members which has been adopted by many other LSCs. This is in the Budget request for next year including postage (the LSC would pay for the postage). USA Swimming would send materials to LSCs to fill Welcome Packs. Cherita added that MA could add to those materials.

Adjournment: 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Moira McCloskey, Athlete Rep.