

MINUTES
OF THE
MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION
SWIM COMMITTEE
MARCH 27, 2018

A meeting of the MPA Swim Committee was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. at the MPA office.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Butler, Jason Fuller, Jack Hardy (Chair), and Amy Ketch.

MEMBER ABSENT: Jeff Thoreck.

LIAISONS PRESENT: Chris Branch, Kathleen Leahy, and Scott Morrison (via GoTo Meeting).

LIAISON ABSENT: Duffy Akerley.

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Bisson.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chair Jack Hardy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a MOTION by FULLER/KETCH, the minutes of the January 19, 2018 meeting were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE: Michael Bisson shared the following pieces of correspondence:

- An email from Samantha Wilkinson from the Maine State Parks asking for a recruiting table for future lifeguards for their beaches at the Class B meet at Bowdoin. Permission was granted.
- An email from Jim Willis from the Maine Y League to live-stream the Class B State meet at Bowdoin. Permission was granted.
- A series of emails from Paul Butler to the committee with responses raising a concern that was fixed of USA Swimming doing observations at State meets. The concern was that knowledge of which events a swimmer is doing could give a competitive advantage.
- An email from Scott Morrison sharing frustration with an official from USA Swimming that was interfering with meet officials at the KVAC Championship.
- A series of emails from a Falmouth parent and the response from Scott Morrison and Chris Branch about swim suits with zippers not meeting the NFHS standard and the need for a uniform waiver.
- An email response from Scott Morrison to a Vicki Morrow from a suburb in Chicago asking about how Maine runs diving, as they are collecting diving data from all states.
- An email response from Scott Morrison to NFHS Section representative Pete Foley from Massachusetts to take back to the NFHS Swim Committee about the status of Swimming and Diving in Maine.

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- A series of emails from Mike Archer at Orono High School and Jeremy Bousquet at Old Town High School discussing a potential cooperative team for 2018-2019.

STATE MEET REVIEW 2018:

- Scott Morrison provided a review of the Class A Girls at UMaine. He had to get additional 50 boys' passes for the deck, which was too full. The meet went very long. There was more than 150 spectators waiting to get in. They rotated parents in for one event at a time to watch their family member compete after holding five seats open. Scott feels that we will need to adjust cut times. Scott loves the idea of the bulkhead, as it makes it more fair for all kids to swim at the same pool depths. The problem is that it prolongs the meet due to diving. He asks the question about the timing of moving the diving to one meet at a separate site. He also asked if the committee should consider keeping the A meets at UMaine due to extended time available and capacity.
- Chris Branch reported that there are significantly less B schools than A and the committee might look at trying to balance the numbers between the classes. The crowds at Bowdoin for the Class B meets were not an issue and the meets were done very early.
- Duffy Akerley sent a written report that follows:
 - "The 2018 Class A Boys Swimming & Diving State Championship went well, without incident. Held at the University of Maine, Orono on February 17th there were some excellent swims and some exciting races.
 - Cheverus High School emerged as champion with 328 points, followed by Bangor with 250 points, and Brunswick with 174 points.
 - Windham High School was awarded the Sportsmanship Award.
 - Colby Prouty of Bangor High School was voted Performer of the Meet.
 - Swimming was completed at 4:44 p.m., well ahead of the 5:30 deadline set by the University. We were very close to deck capacity of 350 people and the University shut off the spectator gallery for being at capacity (405) with 15-20 people still waiting to get in. We allowed these people to come in for one event to watch their swimmer compete and then go back out. This helps the lack of space situation but is certainly not ideal.
 - This was the second year in a row that the University has shut off the spectator gallery for being at capacity (405), but when the final numbers were counted, we sold fewer than 400 tickets at each meet.

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- The counting process is extremely difficult to keep accurate and obviously has flaws, therefore, I would like to see us change to a system of pre-selling tickets (405) using wristbands (very visible, non-transferable), combined with better security at the entry and exit points we would eliminate the need to try and count bodies coming and going.
- As always, I am open to discussing any, and all, options to improve the swimmer and spectator experience at our state championship events. I consider it a privilege to be able to act as a meet director at a state championship and hope my performance has been acceptable.”

COACHES’ and OFFICIALS’ REPORT: Ms. Leahy and Mr. Branch reported the following:

- Within the past few years we have lowered the Class A Girls 200 free, 200 IM, 500 free, 100 back cut times, and the coaches would like to move them back to the original cut times prior to those cuts. The new cut times would be 2:25.00 in the 200 yd freestyle, 2:45.00 in the 200 yd ind. medley, 6:30.00 in the 500 yd freestyle, and 1:15.00 in the 100 yd backstroke.
- On a MOTION by KETCH/FULLER, the committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjust the cut times in Girls Class A to the recommended times from Scott Morrison and supported by the coach’s association.
- Statistician Richard Palmer is recommending that a change in meet results needing to be reported move from 72-hours to 48-hours. On a MOTION by KETCH/BUTLER, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, the committee approved the change of reporting to Meet Manager to 48-hours.
- The coaches raised the concern of inconsistency in judging of diving at the State meets. Class A judging was deemed to me more inconsistent. Chris Branch explained many of the issues with diving. A lack of regular season diving, and an inflation of scoring has lowered the quality of diving. The idea of having pre-season training in October for diving judges was raised and would need a waiver from the MPA for the sport season rule.
- Jason Fuller asked if it is time to pull diving out of the State meet and do it at a different time and location, but still score for the State meet. The recommendation would be moving the diving event to a Thursday or Friday night at a central location like Colby or Bates. Kathy will communicate with the coaches and get feedback. The committee will develop a plan to be voted on following feedback collected from the coaches. Scott Morrison will research sites and develop a potential plan. The committee will review Kathy Leahy’s report from the coaches and vote electronically.
- The website that results are posted on is shutting down and will be moved to a new site called WIX. Peter Small the coach at Windham High School will be administering the site.
- Phil Emery was presented with the “Spirit of the Sport” award at the coach’s banquet.

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ELECTION OF CHAIR: The committee thanked Jack Hardy for his six years of service to the Swim Committee. On a MOTION by FULLER/BUTLER, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, the committee approved Amy Ketch as the Chair of the Swim Committee.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting of the Swim Committee will be held on Friday, September 28, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at the MPA office.

ADJOURNMENT: On a MOTION by from FULLER/KETCH, the meeting adjourned UNANIMOUSLY at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bisson
Assistant Executive Director

/tjm
3/28/18

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