

**Minutes of Masters Swimming Ontario
Board of Directors Teleconference
Sunday, February 27, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Michael at 3:05 p.m.

Present:

Michael Heath-Eves

Pat Angus

Rob Kent – Introduced by Sally - President of LOST swim club with some questions. Rob joined the teleconference to have some OWS questions addressed

Sally O'Brien

Cathy Macdonald

Brian Crocker

Steven Goodwin

Alisa Abgarov

Sean Warburton

Carole Hebert

Phil Rogers

Chris Smith

Craig Zimmerman

Regrets:

Robert McGlashan

Absent:

Robert Miles

NOTE: Sally requested that we address the issues Rob would like to raise at the beginning of this meeting. It was agreed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Changes to Agenda:

1. Notices of Motion for OWS.
To be moved to Business Arising from Minutes

2. External Reps – Claus will not be in attendance

3. New Business

Mike added “Strategic Plan of MSC”

Chris added “Promoting Officials Training for Masters”

MOTION 01: To adopt the agenda as amended

Moved: Sean Warburton

Seconded: Sally O’Brien

Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2011

MOTION 02: That the Minutes of the January 8, 2011 Meeting be approved as amended.

Moved: Sally O’Brien

Seconded: Cathy Macdonald

Carried

Rob had questions regarding sanctioning of an OWS, which includes age group swimmers and Masters swimmers, as it pertained to insurance coverage. Sally felt she should contact the person at Swim Ontario who sanctions their OWS and is expecting an answer next week. It was noted by Chris that in actual fact two sanctions are required, one from MSO and one from SO and that our only concern is MSO. After some discussion, it was decided to table this matter to the next meeting. There will be some further discussion via e-mails.

Rob’s second issue was regarding same day MSO registration for OWS. He noted that open water swims are becoming more popular and it happens that as many as 50% of the swimmers who show up to race for the OWS he runs, are not registered with MSO. Without access to the internet at the side of the lake, he is unable to verify or register swimmers. He is hoping to be able to continue registering swimmers at the meet.

As well, Rob had questions regarding rules and regulations regarding the use of wetsuits in OWS competitions.

Phil noted that open water swims are becoming the biggest area of growth for Masters swimmers in the US and that in order to promote and facilitate open water swimming, some changes in OWS rules may result.

These issues were tabled to the next meet for further discussion.

Business arising from the minutes

1. Coaches Clinic

There is an expanded, more detailed notice on the “What’s New “section of MSO website. Information has gone, via e-mail, to all the Ontario clubs and coaches. He is unsure as to how much information has gone to outside Ontario clubs, specifically Quebec. It was suggested that we ask the Provincials meet manager for information on Quebec clubs attending the meet. We will then send information to those clubs.

Phil has set up an account for registering for this clinic but will be away for a while, and would like someone else to help look after things during that time. Mike said agreed to do so.

Since this is the first clinic of it’s kind to be run by MSO, it was agreed that it would run regardless of how many register. We are hoping for between 6 – 10 participants this year. Regardless of the number attending, it is anticipated that this clinic will grow each year. Duane Jones, coach of Technosport, will be running the clinic. It is anticipated that the clinic will wrap up by 3 p.m. to give everyone time to be ready for the start of the Provincials. Phil is looking for any new ideas to encourage people to attend?

Lunch has been promised to those who attend and Phil asked for help in this regard. Pat has offered to look after this.

Mike and Phil will keep the Board up to date on numbers.

2. PayPal

Mike noted that we are all set up for PayPal and are just waiting for acceptance of our application as a non-profit organization. Lindsay has set up an MSC registration system and is ready to activate it when given the go-ahead. Mike has some concerns regarding PayPal. The most important concerns security. PayPal is controlled by an e-mail address and password. Mike has created a temporary password. It is possible for someone to transfer money from the PayPal Account into a personal account. He suggested that the Board appoint a maximum of two people to have access to the PayPal Account with a new password. It was agreed that Brian and Cathy would be the administrators. They will both need to find a trainer. Cathy has someone who can help her. Brian indicated that he will see if he can get some training from someone at

EOMAC who use PayPal. Once their training is finished, Lindsay Patten of MSC will be requested to activate the account.

3. Insurance update

Sean has had a conversation with his contact at HUB who confirmed that we should continue to pay our MSO premiums. These premiums insure our members. Sean noted that there is a secondary issue regarding the money we give to Swim Ontario. This money is for insurance, so there is a doubling up of insurance policies and costs. MSO arranges for its own policies. We are self-insured and will continue to be so. As well, it is important to note that all swimmers must pay the MSO registration fee. When there are members of a club who haven't paid but continue to swim, they are not covered by MSO insurance and may not compete in sanctioned Masters meets.

Cathy has an invoice from SO which is being held back at the moment. This invoice only has an amount due, with no details. It needs to be indicated to SO that this is not for insurance coverage and therefore, the amount of the invoice needs to be explained. Steve noted that he believes SO is using numbers that include Masters swimmers in their numbers to procure insurance, and therefore would be overpaying for insurance coverage. Sean noted that if it is verified that SO is using Masters Swimming numbers, it needs to be confirmed which insurance company provides the SO insurance.

Mike and Sean have agreed to communicate with each other, via telephone, in order to compose a letter to SO asking for clarification of the fee MSO pays to SO and noting the illegality of such action.

Chris noted that the other issue remaining is whether or not we should continue to pay the \$2.00 fee.

4. Medals

Sally confirmed that all the medals have been ordered and should be in Ottawa shortly, in plenty of time for the Ontario Provincials. We need to decide on OWS medals. The old style is no longer available. There will be a couple of new styles available at the Provincials to look at. It was suggested that Sally go ahead and order them. The cost of these medals is covered by the clubs hosting OWS.

5. Swim Ontario Representative

Tabled to next meeting.

6. OWS – Notices of Motion Re OWS Wetsuits and Drafting – added to agenda by Chris Smith – See report below

On this subject, Sally indicated she has a list of OAT (Ontario Association of Triathletes) rules and regulations regarding water temperature for OWS. Safety is the main issue, especially the risk of hyperthermia in Canadian waters.

It was agreed that MSO should be trying to align our regulations as much as possible with OAT in order to encourage Triathletes to swim with us.

Chris will work with Sally over the next month to come up with specific temperature related recommendations of what will work for Masters and bring to the next meeting.

As far as drafting is concerned, Phil indicated this is extremely difficult to police. He and Chris will discuss the matter further.

Board reports

President/COP-----Mike Heath Eves – See Report Below

Vice President-----Sean Warburton – No Report

Treasurer -----Cathy MacDonald – See Report Below

Competition -----Sally O'Brien - See Report Below

It was noted by Mike that Sally's report does not include the Technosport Swim Meet of February 19th. Sally has a more up to date report that she will send to the Board.

Leadership -----Phil Rogers

See comments under Coaches Clinic

Health and Lifestyle -----Robert McGlashan – no report

Communication -----Alisa Abgarov – See Report Below

As shown in some of the results of survey shown in her report (see below), there is a lot of interest in creating a community feeling within MSO and the wish to get involved with MSO activities. As well, it is felt the website is outdated and there is a need for a new website. Alisa is willing to go forward with the development

of a new website, and is requesting direction from the Board. She noted there is so much technology available and there are many directions to go in. Alisa suggested that the new website could be designed in three phases. The **easier phase** would be to transfer information from the old website onto a new website that allows for developing technologies.

The **second phase** would add social media to the new website (Facebook/Twitter/ability to share information between themselves). Alisa would be the supervisor of this group. She would also like to create archives for MSO Board members within the new website which would only be accessible to Board members.

The **long term goal** would be to become paperless.

There was a question as to whether this was a necessary expense. Craig noted that our current website is a bit archaic and websites are so much easier to design now without codes. He suggested that the cost for this first phase could be in the range of \$5,000. Sean noted that we would need to put out RFP's (Request for Proposals). He will work with Alisa and bring forward a proposal, with costing, to the Board when something is ready.

Chris suggested that this might be something we could work with on MSC since their website needs updating as well. It was agreed that as things transpire, we should keep transparency with MSC and allow them to join/work with us.

Cathy suggested that MSO should be doing a follow-up FAQ response to the survey. Alisa agreed this is a good idea as we should be putting something on the web to indicate we have looked at the survey. She requested help in composing the answers. Board members were asked to send answers to any questions that interest them to Mike by March 3rd.

Motion 03: To approve moving forward with the first phase of creating a new website and to bring a proposal to the board including costing.

Moved: Sally O'Brien
Seconded: Sean Warburton

Carried

Awards -----Bob Miles – No Report Received

Staff reports

Web ----- Craig Zimmerman –See Report Below

Registration ----- Brian Croker – See Report Below

External Reps

Swim Ontario ----- Steve Goodwin

Steve noted that he would like to make an offer, on behalf of EOMAC, to run provincials next year, 2012 and possibly the Nationals in 2013. He will send an official offer to Sally. Sean wondered if the timeframe could be changed so as not to conflict with the school March break. Steve noted that it is based on pool availability usually the last weekend of March or first weekend of April.

Officials ----- Chris Smith

Nothing new to report at this time.

New Business

Promoting Training of Officials for Masters – Chris Smith

Strategic Plan for SNC – Mike had a questionnaire sent by SNC requesting our help to review SNC goals and its 2020 vision to positioning Swimming Canada as a leader in sport across Canada. Mike has offered to complete the questionnaire on behalf of MSO and will work with Chris in doing so.

Chris noted that a number of clubs hosting meets would like to know how to get some of their members trained as officials. OSOA requires SO clubs to provide a minimum number of officials when hosting a meet. He suggested that we promote and facilitate masters clubs to have members trained (some courses available on-line) and become certified officials through OSOA.

Chris also suggested that it would be helpful if MSO publicly promotes hosting clubs to have members become involved in officiating at both masters and age group meets.

The Board agreed this was a good idea, and Chris will write up something for Craig to put on the website.

Motion 04: That MSO, working with OSOA, encourage and facilitate initiatives for our members to take officials clinics either at regional or other clinics or through the OSOA on-line clinics by providing information and connections on our website to these and having assigned persons to carry this out, further we encourage our members to become involved in officiating at any and all swim competitions due to the benefits to themselves, our members and swimming in general.

Moved: Sean Warburton

Seconded: Cathy McDonald

Carried

Other Business

Next meeting Saturday, April 9, 2011, 11:00 a.m. in Mississauga.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2011 TELECONFERENCE

Masters Swimming Ontario

President's Report

February 20, 2011

The day after our January 8th Meeting in Etobicoke three World Records were broken at the Muskoka Meet in the female 50 – 54 age group by Lynn Marshall of Ottawa. Two weeks later she set two more World Records at the Technosport Sprint Meet on January 22. At time of this writing FINA had approved the first three records and had sent the certificates to her. We are waiting for ratification of the last two records. I find this amazing. Here we are in Canada doing our swimming in local pools that are built to strict tolerances, with surveys on record, where our masters athletes can set records, have them approved by our Canadian Officials and have those results recognized by the world swimming organization, FINA. We can all take pride in Lynn's accomplishments and the work we do for swimming in Canada.

Phil Rogers has done stellar work in organizing the 2011 Coaches Clinic for March 25, in Ottawa just prior to the Ontario Provincial championship.

Sally O'Brien among the many swim meets she has sanctioned for this year, has been busy negotiating the final touches for the sanctioning of the 2011 Ontario Masters Championship. Everything is in place now as we count down the days to this meet. The Nepean Masters Swim Club always do a good job for our swimmers.

MSO is set up, though not activated for PayPal receipt of registration fees from Clubs. Formal approval by PayPal of MSO as a non-profit organization, with processing fees of 1.9% plus \$0.30/ transaction (normally 3.0% plus \$0.30) has yet to be attained. PayPal is checking into this now as they have all the paperwork. I have to thank our Secretary, Carole Herbert, for digging up the Letters Patent which confirm that MSO is an Ontario non-profit organization.

The last President's Report indicated that MSO would be set up on PayPal in two weeks, which is a true statement but there are some issues that must be addressed before we ask Lindsay Patten to activate it on the MSC Registration site. Two internal concerns are the training of users and security. Training of two users will have to occur. At this time someone familiar with PayPal will have to be contacted to set this up. Secondly, the issue of security of the PayPal Account, which is protected by an e-mail address and password has to be understood by the Board. It is suggested only two MSO members should have access to the PayPal Account as we step away from the older process of manually depositing cheques into the MSO Bank Account. The PayPal system is not 100% secure as long as there are evil people out there. On the other hand we can take comfort that it is

a system used by huge corporations and small non-profit organization such as swim clubs.

At this time I would suggest that the Board set up a committee to finalize the steps and process prior to implementation. We can discuss this at the teleconference on February 27, 2011.

Just after completing this report I was speaking with Nigel Kemp, President of MSC and when I mentioned to him about Lynn Marshall's World Records he corrected me that she now has six World Records (MSC website). Go Lynn go!

Talk you all on February 27

Mike Heath-Eves

President

2010-11 NET INCOME AND EXPENSES - MONTHLY ACCOUNTING

	Sept (prior FY)	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan '11	2010-11 TOTAL	2010-11 Budget	Difference
NET INCOME									
Deposits	3,855	0	32,050	28,606	22,215	13,225	96,096	121,075	-24,979
PayPal Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-3,632	3,632
MSC payments	-7,470	0	0	0	0	0	0	-49,500	49,500
SO payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-6,600	6,600
OSQA payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest	0	55	57	56	58	58	285	700	-415
Total	-3,615	55	32,107	28,662	22,273	13,283	96,381	62,043	34,338
EXPENSES									
Insurance									
Total	0	12,068	0	0	0	0	12,068	12,068	0
Finance									
a) Audit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	-10,000
b) Bank charges	0	0	26	5	11	0	41	75	-34
Total	0	0	26	5	11	0	41	10,075	-10,034
Board Meetings									
a) Directors									
Travel/Expenses	0	557	864	126	437	392	2,377	5,000	-2,623
b) Venue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c) Teleconference	806	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,500	-3,500
d) Presidents Banquet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	600	-600
e) Recording secretary	0	0	150	0	0	0	150	1,200	-1,050
Total	806	557	1,014	126	437	392	2,527	10,300	-7,773
AGM									
a) Directors Travel	0	0	0	0	1,926	880	2,807	2,500	307
b) Recording Secretary	0	0	200	0	0	150	350	350	0
c) Clinic/teleconference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	-150
d) Supplies,copy,post	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	-250
Total	0	0	200	0	1,926	1,030	3,157	3,250	-93

Competition report Feb 27th 2011

The pool meets are sanctioned up to the 16th of April 2011. Technosport has a meet after that but has not yet been sanctioned. The OWSs are not yet sanctioned as there are still ongoing discussions.

SUPPORT	FOR OFFICIALS	2010-11				
Meet date		# Swimmers	Owing	inv sent	date paid	
	Sep-10					
	POOL					
16-Oct-10	Brantford	83	\$166.00	4-Jan-11	13-Jan-11	
14-Nov-10	EOMAC	199	\$398.00	4-Jan-11	24-Feb-11	
14-Nov-10	Alderwood	35	\$70.00	25-Nov-10	16-Dec-10	
4-Dec-10	Techno					
12-Dec-10	NY Pent	168	\$336.00	3-Jan-11	13-Jan-11	
	2011					
9-Jan-11	Muskoka	23	\$46.00	11-Jan-11	31-Jan-11	
22-Jan-11	Technosport					
23-Jan-11	Alderwood	120	\$240.00	1-Feb-11		
30-Jan-11	Brockville 1000Islds	42/38	\$76.00	3-Feb-11	24-Feb-11	76.00 rec'd letter sent
13-Feb-11	Burlington	139	\$278.00	13-Feb-11	3-Mar-11	
19-Feb-11	technosport					
6-Mar-11	Milton					
13-Mar-11	EOMAC H & S					
Mar 25-26-27	Provincials					
16-Apr-11	Downtown SC					
30-Apr-11	Technosport					
	Barrie					
	Brock					
	Cornwall					

	OWS					
16-Jul-11	Bright's Grove**					
	Brockville 1					
7-Aug-11	Welland					
	Brockville 2					
13-Aug-11	L.O.S.T.					

I have yet to receive a step 3 from Technosport. They have not reported anything to MSO although their results are posted on the MSC website.

The following was a request from Alderwood.

“Difficulty of accessing MSO numbers - verification process on MSC website should provide these to the meet manager.

Impossible to verify deck entry MSO registration since there's no wi-fi available at the pool.”

I have to assume that the registrations for this event went mostly unchecked.

I broached this topic with Lindsay Patten and asked him to send me instructions so that I could follow up and know what to do but have not had a response. If one club is having difficulty checking registrations how many more are out there not reported? I would like to have a way to make sure this is happening.

The upcoming Open Water Swims would like to open these up to the age group swimmers but as yet I cannot get a go ahead with sanctioning with SO for both the L.O.S.T. and the Welland championship. Our rules state the swimmers must be registered with a Masters Swimming association. Welland is willing to run theirs separately on the same day. MSO swimmers have been invited in the past to the Swim Ontario OWS without asking for sanctioning from MSO. With all the discussions we have had regarding insurance coverage I would suspect that the SO people would be covered under our sanction and see no real reason not to allow them entry to our events.

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with a Masters Swimming association. Welland is willing to run theirs separately on the same day. MSO swimmers have been invited in the past to the Swim Ontario OWS without asking for sanctioning from MSO. With all the discussions we have had regarding insurance coverage I would suspect that the SO people would be covered under our sanction and see no real reason not to allow them entry to our events.

Communications Report:

1. MSO Survey has been analyzed and a summary of the results will be posted on the MSO website following the Board meeting on February 27th.

2. In General, the membership agrees with the board that we should create a new website. I will report progress once content will be organized.

3. Analysis results are attached

the following agenda topics arose from the survey and should be discussed in our meeting: how to address those topics and in what timeliness...

1. "Members that use both websites, wonder if both websites compete with each other or should they compliment <no need to duplicate information, rather refer with links> Any changes need to be considered in relation to the MSC site. Should the MSO site compete with, or compliment the MSC site?

2. I would like to have the ability to pay the registration fees online. It's great and easy to register swimmers with the MSC registration package. Now I would like to be able to pay online.....by debit card would save money for MSO....but I'm not sure if you can do that with debit card. Even by Visa/MC could be very cost effective.

3. "1) MSO registered swimmers is too cumbersome and specific. If I need to type in every single swimmer who is registered for a meet

exactly as they are registered with MSO, that is too restrictive. It would be preferable to have a way to check all currently registered swimmers with Club ABC rather than having to do this one swimmer at a time

2) Add a way for clubs to pay their MSO registrations for all swimmers via online payment (eg. Paypal). Send acknowledgement of those swimmers who are registered as of date mm/dd/yy to the club contact (make club contact a mandatory field to input). Then use this email address as the valid club contact address”

3. “I am a swimming newby, so, I am in information overload and don't have an opinion, however, I was sitting at a table of 8 people who are seasoned swimmers and they said that they see no reason for going to the Ontario site. They use the mymsc site. Can you generate a list of reasons for going to this site?”

4. “Club accountability....is it mandated to share / post minutes? Provide financial status of individual clubs (only to club members) or is this left up to the individual clubs to decide? Seems like a lot of \$\$ can go unaccounted for.....does MSO audit clubs or is this not there role?”

5. “Provide a way for clubs who host meets to have some online meet registration process to enable swimmers to register more easily”

6. “Provide MSO registered clubs with discounts for Hy-Tek meet software”

7. I'm from BC. Why is Ontario not closer aligned with Swimming Canada? Why do you think we are better off alienating ourselves instead of working with people who actually agree that swimming is for life?

8.” These topics are not related to the website, but to the Board of Directors

a). Too high water temperature in the pool. If we try to address it to

the pool, no one cares about it. They reply that the customers like warm water. Indeed they heat the pool at 30 degrees and over for the customers who are just floating or staying and do nothing

b). Some pools have a high level of chlorine. The hair is stiff after you wash it and the skin smells like burned. Again the pool manager doesn't care about skin problems. Can somebody regulate the maximum

level of chlorine in the pool's water, so you can swim a few times per week in that pool?

c). Are there rules about air quality and temperature? Some pools have

the air really warm and/or you feel that it is hard to breathe. It smells like chlorine.

d). Is there any doping check for the master swimmers when they are competing at national or international level? At least for those who are establishing records?"

9. "post the results a little faster from swim meets and post qualifications for major swim meets (i.e. pan-am)"

10. "Mainly I look for "What's New?" but get confused when Craig's update date indicates something new has been posted but nothing is actually posted.....so why is the update date shown?"

Cheers,
Alisa Abgarov.

Web Report

Brian, about a week ago, has sent me all the club registration forms for the 2010/ 2011 season. I have updated all the clubs contact information and swims times throughout the website for

this year. I have been adding information to the site when it becomes available.

Craig Zimmerman

Masters Swimming Ontario

REGISTRAR REPORT

As of February 23, 2011

Clubs	85
Mail memberships	--
Total swimmers	2952
Club swimmers	2912
Unattached Swimmers	34

6 OSG Members, Ted Roach, Chris Smith, Bryan Finlay
Michael Stroud, Olenka McKee, Pat Niblett

SWIMMER BREAKDOWN 2010-2011 SEASON

DATE	CLUBS	SWIMRS	UNON	OSG	TOTAL
Sept 28	-	14	-	-	14
Sept 29	-	15	-	-	29
Sept 30	-	15	-	-	44
Oct 1	-	16	-	-	60

Oct 2	1	113	7	1TR	181
Oct 3	12	-	-	-	181
Oct 17	3	311	-	-	492
Oct 18	-	15	-	-	507
Oct 19	9	92	1	-	600
Oct 22	1	13	-	-	613
Oct 23	2	81	2	-	696
Oct 28	9	180	1	1BF	878
Nov 5A	-	11	-	-	889
Nov 5B	7	284	1	-	1174
Nov 12	8	116	2	-	1292
Nov 20	3	251	1	1OM	1545
Nov 24A	4	107	4	-	1656
Nov 24B	-	3	-	-	1659
Dec 11	4	102	6	1CS	1768
Dec 12	1	124	-	-	1892
Dec 13	3	174	-	-	2066
Dec 20	2	63	-	-	2126
Dec 21	4	106	-	1MS	2232
Dec 22	-	19	-	-	2251
Dec 23	-	8	-	-	2259
Dec 24	-	15	-	-	2274
Jan 10A	3	71	3	-	2348
Jan 10B	2	198	-	-	2546
Jan 24	4	118	-	-	2664
Feb 7	-	28	-	-	2692
Feb 8	-	102	2	1PN	2797
Feb 13	1	100	1	-	2898
Feb 21	2	51	3	-	2952

Officials Report

Should MSO promote officiating among its members?

We all recognize that in order to host a swim meet or OWS a certain number of qualified officials are required. These officials are volunteers and to-day it seems to be more difficult to recruit volunteers than it used to be. This challenge was faced by OSOA by requiring in 2007 that all SO clubs that host meets should

train a certain number of officials at the various levels depending on the size of the club. This was phased in over three years and is now fully in effect. Compliance has been excellent with well over 90% of the hosting clubs in compliance, as are the majority of clubs that do not host competitions.

I attach for your information OSOA's "Club Officials Development Plan."

OSOA, like SO, is divided into six Regions which are responsible for training officials. Due to the differences in size, of members, and of area, we have developed two main training initiatives. One is the regular semi-annual or annual clinic that are held in the four southern regions, the other is the on-line clinics which are most helpful in the North-East and North-West Regions of Ontario, also for those who can't make the clinics in the south.

In order to facilitate this SO Clubs are required to have a "Club Officials Chair" who facilitates the training process, encouraging members to attend clinics, facilitating those who wish to take the on-line clinics and keeping records of the levels of the various club members and totals for the club which they report to the Regional Officials Registrar to indicate compliance with the required number of officials for their club.

We, OSOA, officiate at up to 600 swim competitions a year of which up to 20 are Masters' events. Of these 20, most are "regulars", that is, the host holds a similar swim meet each year. We also note that at least three clubs, Technosport, Brockville and Etobicoke, often host several events in a year.

I pose a question to the MSO Board on this;

Should MSO require or encourage their members, particularly those who belong to "hosting clubs", to participate in officials training and in officiating at Masters or other meets?

We appreciate that age group clubs have a ready source of potential volunteers, called "parents", which most of us don't. We recognize that a number of parents of age group swimmers are Masters, I see quite a few familiar faces at our Central Region clinics. We also find that many Masters clubs which host meets already require their members to take officials courses and work at their meets. We also recognize that there is significant benefit to swimmers or coaches in taking clinics due to the technical information on strokes, etc that one learns. There is also a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment in working at a SO event. I do not believe it is reasonable or practical to introduce requirements for MSO clubs similar to the OSOA requirements for SO Clubs. I believe it might be more appropriate to do what we can to encourage and facilitate our members to become involved in officiating whether their club hosts meets or not. Currently there is little promotion of officiating to our members, except within some clubs.

Also there is a lack of ready information on our website as to how an interested member might become involved.

We could adopt a policy to encourage our members to take clinics. We could work with OSOA to set up a system that informed our members about upcoming clinics in their area. We could also establish the equivalent of a Club Officials Chair, certainly for those clubs that host meets, perhaps a MSO or Region chair that could assist those from other clubs who are interested. This could all be set up on our website I believe.

A suggested motion;

“That MSO, working with OSOA, encourage and facilitate initiatives for our members to take officials clinics either at regional or other clinics or through the OSOA on-line clinics by providing information and connections on our website to these and having assigned persons to carry this out, further we encourage our members to become involved in officiating at any and all swim competitions due to the benefits to themselves, our members and swimming in general.”

Chris Smith
24.02.2011