

# Masters Swimming Ontario

## Special General Meeting

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Markham, ON

Present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>
Adam Porteous	Aurora Master Ducks
Albert Napast	Aurora Master Ducks
Jack So	Aurora Master Ducks
Gavin Heibrou	Aurora Master Ducks
Dan Thompson	Aurora Master Ducks
Rick Arnold	Coburg Y Barracudas
Carol Cameron	Coburg Y Barracudas
Carla Oliveira	EOMAC (MSO Board)
Brian Sheridan	EOMAC (MSO Board)
Chris Nagy	EOMAC
Marenca Kherani	EOMAC
Harold Hemming	EOMAC
Diane Brisebois	EOMAC
Robert Masih	Laurentian Masters
Clare Atkinson	Markham Masters
Rick Jeysman	Markham Masters
Brigitte Zirger	Nepean (MSO Board)
Lauren Dorrington	North Toronto Masters S.C.
Doug Vanderby	North Toronto Masters S.C.
Ralph Rieper	North York Gators
Iain Johnston	Pickering Masters
Peter Leach	Technosport
Vello Mijal	Technosport
Mike Olsen	Technosport
Yoshi Nomura	TMU
Gregory Robinson	TOROSwim
Alison DeMelo	TYMS
Beth Carey	TYMS (MSO Board)
Jake Nesovic	TYMS (MSO Board)
Glen Mateer	TYMS
Chuck Von Zuben	TYMS
Glad Bryce	TYMS
Weislaw Musial	TYMS
Chris Smith	TYMS

The meeting was called to order by Brian Sheridan (MSO President) at 3:58p.m.

1. Welcome. Quorum.

Brian Sheridan welcomed everyone and confirmed quorum.

2. Update on current situation

Brian explained MSO's current situation in relation to Swim Ontario (SO) and Swim Canada (SNC).

The MSO board did not provide the personal member data that SNC requested within the deadline stipulated due to privacy concerns; members have never signed a privacy waiver allowing MSO to share their data. The current MSO board was made aware of the request in October and the deadline to provide this data was December 31. Since the data was not provided, SNC mandated that all masters swimmers must belong to a Provincial Swim Organization. In the case of Ontario, masters would need to belong to SO.

The current options available include:

- MSO remains as stand alone, separate organization. Swimmers would be unable to swim at other provincial meets, including nationals and international FINA sanctioned events (i.e. Worlds).
- MSO clubs would register with Swim Ontario. To date, Swim Ontario has not provided any information regarding how masters swim clubs could be incorporated within their organization.

Dan Thompson stated that all provinces except Ontario accepted the MOU and it indicates a special category will be created for masters [NOTE, on reviewing the MOU there is no clause that refers to a new category for Masters]. He also indicated he had spoken with Eric Martin who indicated a new category would be created within Swim Ontario to support masters swimmers.

Jake Nesovic (MSO Vice President) pointed out that MSC signed the MOU on behalf of all MSC members. MSC did not obtain approval from each of the provinces before signing.

Brian Sheridan has heard from SO that they need more time to review and determine how to incorporate Masters swimming into their organization. The situation needs to be resolved by July to provide clubs sufficient time before the new year to determine how to proceed. MSO and SO will need a few months to discuss all issues around incorporating masters swimmers into SO.

Dan Thompson pointed out that Canada is working towards alignment of sports organizations. He is a prior president of SNC and explained how grants obtained by SNC are distributed and a very small amount is available for actual programs.

Wes Musial asked if the grants are determined based on including the number of masters swimmers. Dan indicated they are.

Chris Smith explained that masters swimming has the right to remain as a separate organization. Masters and age group swimming have different focuses and should be separate entities.

Masters should be affiliated directly with FINA. SNC is forcing a structure at the national level that is corrupt. MSC is a dysfunctional organization and needs to be restructured to better support masters swimmers in Canada.

Brian Sheridan explained that negotiations with SO are expected to begin within a couple of weeks. Clubs may need to decide if they want to join SO. Brian asked for a show of hands if members agree with MSO negotiating with SO. Several hands were raised.

Chris Smith pointed out that whatever direction we move forward with should not dissolve us, all clubs should have the same rights and access. Anything that is decided with SO needs to go back to members before implementing.

Rick Jasyman explained that as a new member it's unclear who to believe as different people have had different interpretations of the facts. He suggests MSO hire a negotiator that will work with MSO and SO on this situation and clearly document all interactions and agreements to avoid any confusion and misinterpretation. He would like the MSO board to seriously consider this suggestion. Brian Sheridan indicated the board would discuss.

Rick Arnold explained that his club was very small and that there are many rural areas with small clubs that want to continue being part of MSO. It's important these clubs are not overlooked when discussing with SO.

### 3. Masters in Canada

Chris explained that without a strong national body representing Masters in Canada the organization is weak. The structure of MSC is defined by its by-laws which need to be updated. Chris has written a requisition for interested members to sign to put pressure on MSC to fix their structure and update their by-laws. The requisition can be pursued in parallel with the discussions beginning with Swim Ontario.

The current structure of MSC is 8 directors, 4 of which stand for election each year. The bylaws do not require directors to be selected geographically although efforts are made to ensure regional representation. However, the bylaws stipulate that one Director must be Francophone. The current board has 1 member from Quebec, 3 from Ontario and 2 from BC with two open vacancies. One of the proposed changes from Chris is to have representation from all provinces on the board.

Chris explained the requisition focuses on 3 things:

1. Vote on changes and strategies to implement the changes
2. Ask SNC to terminate the MOU
3. Ask the board to work towards being a direct member of the AFC

Dan Thompson indicated there were too many items on the requisition and it should be simplified.

Brian Sheridan clarified that the requisition is not an MSO motion, it is something Chris is taking the initiative on.

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Mike Olsen explained that Aquatics Canada is focused on Olympics and high performance athletes; they do not have a focus on Masters. FINA has a separate organization that manages Masters. Canada was told to have a separate Aquatics organization for masters which never happened.

Chris explained to move forward there will be 2 strategies: Brian will speak to SO about negotiating how to work with them and Chris will update and distribute the requisition to ask MSC for a Special General Meeting.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

**/cmo**