

Agenda Teleconference February 27 2010

Adoption of this teleconference as a meeting of the Board of MSO
Adoption of agenda
Approval of minutes of Jan 16th 2010

Business arising from the minutes

1. Finances – full audit vs. audit review
2. registration/cards & verification re: meets
3. insurance/disclaimer/duplication
4. coaching &/or stroke clinics
5. awards
6. St Mary's OWS
7. MSC requests Re: bylaws & nominations
8. record keeping payments

Board reports

President ----- Sally O'Brien
Vice President/COP ----- Mike Heath Eves
Treasurer ----- Cathy MacDonald
Competition ----- Sally O'Brien/ Sean Warburton
Leadership ----- Phil Rogers
Health and Lifestyle ----- Robert McGlashan
Communication ----- Alisa Abgarov
Awards ----- Bob Miles

Staff reports

Web ----- Craig Zimmerman
Registration ----- Brian Croker

External Reps

Swim Ontario ----- Steve Goodwin
Officials ----- Chris Smith

New Business

1. on line payments/individual or clubs
2. file storage/disposal
3. Award nominations re: MSO/MSO
4. rule book

Other Business

1. OAT OWS advertizing

Adjournment

The teleconference began at 3:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Pat Angus – Recording Secretary
Sally O'Brien – Chair
Bob Miles
Sean Warburton
Mike Heath Eves
Cathy Macdonald
Phil Rogers
Carole Herbert
Brian Croker
Alisa Abgarov
Chris Smith
Robert McGlashan

Regrets:

Craig Zimmerman

Absent:

Steve Goodwin

Motion:

That this Teleconference be considered an official meeting of the Board of MSO.

Moved: Sean Warburton
Seconded: Mike Heath Eves

Carried

Motion:

That the agenda be adopted as amended.

Moved: Phil Rogers
Seconded: Mike Heath Eves

Carried

Motion:

To approve minutes of January 16th 2010

Moved: Carole Herbert
Seconded: Bob Miles

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Finances

At this time Cathy has no more information regarding the difference between a full audit and review.

Tabled for next meeting

Balancing bank deposits to be completed.

Information changes within registrations.

Tabled for next meeting

2. Registration/cards & Verification re: Meets

MSO numbers and swimmer profile are available on line through the MSC website.

It was noted that this information must reach the swimmers and clubs.

MSO should post a note on the website and in the newsletter with this info and should also indicate that no cards are being generated at this time.

Each swimmer could print off the information from their profile and keep it in their swim bag.

A note could be sent to the meet managers of all upcoming swim meets requesting them to pass on the information to the registered swimmers.

MSO is still unsure as to how Meet Managers are verifying swimmer registrations. Mike has asked Lindsay to let the meet managers know how to do this but apparently there is software that needs to be set up and Lindsay is not sure how to do this at this time. As well, Sally and Brian should be able to access the Ontario swimmer registration. Both of these problems need to be remedied ASAP.

Brian noted that there are several clubs who have registered their swimmers but so far have not forwarded the fees. He was given permission to contact those clubs and let them know that if any of their swimmers expected to swim at the Ontario Provincials, their money had to be received by March 5th.

Cathy didn't seem to think there were any outstanding issues regarding registered swimmers for the Nationals but she would touch base with Paul Cappa and contact Brian if there are any problems.

Lindsay has requested to be invited to a board meeting and hopefully he will be able to attend our next board meeting at which time most of these issues can be discussed in detail and hopefully resolved.

Mike suggested a mini-meeting of some board members to discuss the problems that need to be addressed with Lindsay.

In the meantime, Mike will write the note that can be put on the website about how swimmers can register on MYMSC, send it on to Craig and copy the Board.

3. **Insurance/disclaimer/duplication**

Insurance

Masters swimmers need to be informed that they are covered by MSO insurance once the club fees have been paid **to their club registrar**. It was noted that some clubs have been known to accept this registration money from the swimmers, but not pass it on to MSO. All clubs must be notified that this cannot be done and that all registered clubs must pay fees for all their swimmers.

More communication in dealing with this issue is required by the MSO board via direct mailing to the clubs, the website and the Newsletter. Phil noted that anyone who registers with a club and has paid is insured immediately. If a claim arises and the fees are 'in transit' the swimmer is still covered.

It was suggested that we need a definition of 'member'

MOTION:

To have each registered club register all their masters swimmers with MSO.

Moved: Bob miles
Seconded: Robert McGlashan

Carried

Disclaimer

A disclaimer was put on the website to represent any events. Now the Ontario Association of Triathletes (OAT) has requested permission to advertise on our website. Does this disclaimer cover this as well? Yes. The language was drafted to be very general, to cover any kind of event, including lectures. There is no need to change it.

It was decided that we could link pages and schedules on the MSO website to any relating organization that wants to advertise their events on our website and we would ask for reciprocity. It will be beneficial to align ourselves with other organizations on the internet in order to raise MSO's profile.

This information could also be included in the newsletter.

Regarding the \$2.00 duplication of insurance fees with SO, there is no more information at this time.

4. **Coaching and/or Stroke Clinics**

Phil has been getting a positive reaction and support from coaches and swimmers he has spoken to regarding such clinics. It is really up to us to put something together that we hope would be of interest to people – right people and right contact for the day. He has e-mailed Rob Butcher of USMS for views on highly regarded US coaches who may have done this kind of clinic before. He will forward any response to the Board.

Phil checked Karlyn Pipes-Nielsen's schedule on the website and she will be in Boston in December and might be able to make a trip to Canada at that time.

Chris noted that another contact could be Nigel Kamp and will give Phil his contact information.

Phil had some points he wanted to raise with the Board.

1. Toronto may be a good central place to have such an event as it is easy to travel in and out of the region, there are quite a few pools and rooms within the greater Toronto area. This camp will not need a large pool, nor will it be needed for a long period of time. It can even be a 25 metre pool. It is important to find this accommodation ASAP .
2. Do we open this up to just coaches, coaches from the US, anyone who might be interested in coaching? There is considerable overlap in some clubs of swimmers and triathletes and perhaps triathlete coaches could be welcomed as well. If coaches are attending, they may well need some swimmers to demonstrate coaching techniques.
3. It was noted that in Canada many Masters Coaches do not have coaching certificates, nor is it required to coach a Masters Swim team.

It was agreed that all of above are appropriate. Phil will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

5. **Awards**

The recipient of last's year's SOGGY GOGGLES (SWIMS) award has not been made as the social at which it was to be presented was cancelled. We are still searching for an occasion to present it.

Bob Miles and Sally will discuss future awards next week and report to the Board at the next meeting, or sooner.

6. **St. Mary's OWS**

Bob Miles reported that the plan is to go ahead with the Open Water Swim. Bryan Findlay has been put in touch with the meet contact as it appears on the website. Bob will follow up at the Ontario Provincials.

7. **MSC Requests Re: Bylaws and Nominations**

MSC sent out forms requesting people to stand for nomination to the Board of MSC. It would be nice to get a couple of strong nominations from Ontario.

8. **Record Keeping Payments**

Pat Niblett keeps records for all Ontario swims as well as those **results** not kept on MSC (example yards meets). She has not received payment since 2007 and it was decided to pay her in a lump sum. Sally will verify the number of years involved. The stipend is \$500.00 per year.

Board Reports

President Sally O'Brien
Presidents Report April 23rd 2010

MSC is looking for Ontario people to be nominated to their board. MSO needs to have more Ontario representation on the MSC board. MSO is also in need of good people either for their own board of directors or on committees.

Swimmers want and need clinics either coaching clinics or stroke clinics. MSO needs to either provide these clinics or support clubs financially in order for them to hold their own clinics.

MSO still needs to look into the on line registration system as there appears to be no way for Meet Managers to verify membership for swim meets, other than the old way through the provincial registrar. It has come to my attention that not every meet verified membership. I feel our insurance could be jeopardized if non members inadvertently take part in a meet.

I've made enquiries about Paypal for our registration. I've had no responses to date as to how to set it up. It would be nice to have it up and running in the fall. This would eliminate the time delay with our provincial registrar receiving the membership fees as soon as the club registrar checks off the swimmer. Another

idea was to split the payment so that MSC receives their share of the fees at the same time as MSO.

Competition

We've had a little difficulty getting the transfer of the competition chair to Sean. Hopefully we can keep it all on track. We have OWS and meets planned for the summer, the coming season, and 2012. The Provincial Championship will be in Nepean next year (2011).

I attended the Provincials in London this past March. A meeting was held with Bryan Finlay, Robert Miles, myself and two representative volunteers from London in order to save the St Mary's OWS Ontario Championship. We left this meeting with a positive outlook of reinstating the OWS. As in recent emails this is not going to happen at least not this year. We should now be looking for another venue and hopefully within 2 years we can offer an Ontario OWS Championship.

Vice-President/COP Mike Health Eves

Vice President's Report

1. COP

- The first business was to review a set of Terms of Reference established at the face-to-face meeting with the MSC in Mississauga 09-11-06 to 08. This has been approved by the COP.
- Your VP has been corresponding with the BC Registrar with respect to how they manage the new registration system, which replaced Swim Direct. As they have been "on line" for sometime they have experienced very few problems.
- Ed Evely (Newfoundland) and I regularly attend the MSC meetings and are developing a good rapport. Ed is extremely knowledgeable as he works on a FINA Committee too.

2. MSC

- Teleconferences held 10-01-03, 10-02-07 were attended by MSO VP.
- The MSC is still looking for nominations for awards to be presented at the AGM in May. MSO will discuss its nominations at its next meeting.

- Two Letters of Intent have been received from the FNQ and Nepean Masters to hold the 2011 Nationals. Directors gave our opinions on the venues. Your VP cautioned the Board that when a venue is chosen that the loser's qualities will not become lost for future considerations because essentially they are both excellent choices. A choice will be made prior to the 2010 Nationals in Nanaimo, B.C.
- Approval of amendments to the MSC Rule Book has been the subject of a great deal of discussion. I will let Chris Smith comment on this.

3. Swimmer Registration Program

- As usual I am going to let the Registrar comment on how this new program is functioning.
- There are some issues that have always been there and one of them is the checking of registered versus unregistered swimmers by the meet manager prior to a meet. In the past this was done manually. It is still done manually even though there is a method to check the swimmers electronically. This has to be put in place by MSO to make it easier and less frustrating for our meet managers. Swimmers should be urged to print off their current registration profile and MSO number and bring it to a meet just in case. Perhaps a note on the web site will be all that is necessary.
- MSO should be exploring the possibility of online payment of fees. It is thought that this would greatly speed up the registration process and the timely payment of fees. For example, MSC has established PayPal as a method to receive its payments. Your thoughts on this are required.

4. Insurance

- The subject of when an MSO swimmer is qualified for insurance should be addressed by the Board. This is something the Board has to make clear to its membership and insurance company. It should be an easy discussion. This subject arises from MSC which has noted that many MSO swimmers are not registered. Are they insured? If there were a claim and the insurance company looked to the Board for clarification whether the swimmer was a currently registered, what would be our answer? The point at which they qualify for insurance has to be clear.
- The issue of possible duplicate insurance between MSO and SO and related costs continues to be the subject of discussion.

- Some facts are required at this time. It has been proposed that MSO provide our Swim Ontario representative a copy of our insurance coverage letter to take to the SO Board. Both parties can then address this issue and the possibility of a duplicate premium being paid by MSO and SO. A copy of this letter has been made available at the 10-01-16 meeting. This is a priority.

5. Face to Face Meeting with MSC

- Lindsay Patten has expressed a strong interest to attend our next face to face meeting to discuss among other things registration, insurance, online payment.
- Your VP would like to encourage this and set a date for a face to face meeting as soon as possible.

Michael J. Heath-Eves

February 23, 2010

Treasurer Cathy Macdonald

No written report at this time.

Competition Sally O'Brien/Sean Warburton

No report at this time

Downtown Swim Club meet has not yet been sanctioned, even though all the information has been sent to the Board, on several occasions. They are very frustrated.

The Competition Chair has been transferred to Sean Warburton. There has been a glitch in the email address on the website and their step 2 was never received in the corrected form.

Brian noted that Kim Lumsden will have an official's clinic coming up soon.

Leadership Phil Rogers

No report at this time

Health and Lifestyle Robert McGlashan

No report at this time

Communication
See attached

Alisa Abgarov

Communication Report – Alisa Abgarov

Hi All,

The January newsletter was completed and published on the MSO website.

Currently I am working on a proposition for the website layout, see attached for a visual example of the preliminary design. (suggestions are welcomed)

Next steps,

1. to learn and understand the systems we use in keeping our current website working.
2. understand the flow of our current website, and its evolution throughout the years.
3. work with Craig, to learn how to simplify the task of updating the website, and keeping the website current
4. finalize proposal of the website design

Cheers,
Alisa

The plan for an updated Website looks great. A decision needs to be made as to how to do it – outsourcing might be the best way as it is a very time consuming task. Do we need committee(s)? What's the timeline? What's the budget? Alisa will work on answers to what's required.

Awards

Bob Miles

No report at this time

Staff Reports

Web

Craig Zimmerman

Putting things on the web as he receives them.

Registration

Brian Croker

MASTERS SWIMMING ONTARIO
REGISTRAR REPORT
As of February 15, 2010

Clubs 80
Mail memberships 1
Total swimmers 2710
Club swimmers 2651

Unattached Swimmers 54

5 OSG Members, Ted Roach, Chris Smith, Bryan Finlay
Michael Stroud, Barrie Malloch

New Clubs-

Lost Clubs-Windsor Wave Runners, Timmins Lane Burners, Maroon & Grey, Golden Horseshoe, B-TRN, Petawawa, St Lawrence Masters, South Western Aquatics, Toronto Swim Club

External Reps

Swim Ontario Steve Goodwin
No report at this time

Officials Chris Smith

Officials Report – Chris Smith

Hi Folks

The officials in Ontario and across the country are getting very frustrated, with Masters.

We have made great progress in the last ten years, particularly in Ontario, in developing a truly mutually beneficial relationship between the Officials and Masters. Currently our officials are confused and frustrated about the 2009 Masters Rules. They know that FINA and SNC have new 2009 Rules, why not Masters? They know the rules on the MSC website and MSC rule book are obsolete. Our primary concern is the swimmer, our member, but if the official does not have a good rule book and understanding of the rules, our member is the loser.

For those of you who are new to the Board I will explain the history, developments on this over the last ten years. I always try to be brief!

Ten years ago we had three rule books in Ontario. We had a "Masters" appendix in

the SNC Rule Book which gave some differences between the age group/elite rules and masters rules. We had a MSC Rule book which gave some of the differences, but some different ones, between the two. We had the MSO Rules in the Hand book, which were more complete but different in several areas. All three books were incomplete, incorrect and had totally different numbering systems. When OSOA was formed in 1995 one of the first things they asked those of us involved in Masters is if we could sort out this mess. The key issue with them was that since Masters competition was only 5 to 10% of most officials work, and that many officials worked masters meets for their first time each year, they wanted a complete rules book in the hip pocket format for use on deck and they wanted it based on the SNC numbering system for easy reference for inexperienced officials. At about this time SNC decided to adopt the FINA numbering system and we were asked to use the same system.

When I was asked to go on the Board of MSC as MSO's representative in 2002, one of the key issues the Board of MSO and some officials wanted me to deal with was the Masters Rules issue. At about this time SNC stated that Masters Rules were really the responsibility of MSC and not SNC. Notwithstanding that they included the 2002 Masters exceptions in their 2005 rule book. More confusion!

My first MSC meeting was in 2003 and I raised the Rules issue. By the beginning of 2004 I was President, there was general agreement that MSC was totally dysfunctional and I worked to change that, so Rules were on the back burner. When we got our first Director of Operations I pressured him to set up a rules committee, nothing happened. When I became Past President, the Board, President and DofO agreed that I should set up a committee of "experts" from across Canada to prepare a complete Masters Rule Book based on the SNC numbering system to submit to the Board for approval. The "experts" were to be Masters swimmers who were also Level V or equivalent officials from all five regions. These are Mike Stamhuis from BC, Linda Winfield from AB, Bryan Finlay, Ralph Chown, Pat Niblett and myself from Ontario, Cynthia Pincott from Quebec, Paul Girard and Ed Evely from Atlantic, with Nigel Kemp ex-officio. Criteria for the operation of this committee and their task was established and agreed to by the Board and literally thousands of hours of work have been put into it.

We were aware that the FINA Masters Technical Committee was also working on a complete Masters Rule Book for 2005, as requested by officials from several countries. FINA's rules apply to the FINA World Championships, they encourage National Masters bodies, like MSC, to adopt similar rules for their championships and local meets, where appropriate. The FINA rule change system is extremely cumbersome and inefficient so their rules often need clarifications. These rules were not completed until 2006 and made available until 2007. They have still not been formally approved or published by FINA because of their approval system. They are an excellent resource for national masters organizations as a foundation for their rules.

We received these (the 2005 Masters Rules) in 2007 and the Rules committee modified these for use at Canadian Competitions. The Rules are in three sections,

the General Rules, the Swimming (ie pool) Rules and the OWS Rules, plus appendages. We decided that we should start with the swimming rules and these were approved by the MSC Board in 2008. We then worked on the OWS Rules and these were approved in early 2009 for the OWS season. We also produced some appendages which were also approved. The committee produced General Rules but were not submitted formally to the Board because of frustration with Lindsay.

The FINA Congress meets every five years to consider rules. It is for reasons I won't bore you with an absurd process. We formally received their decisions in September and incorporated these in the 2005 Rules to make them the 2009 Rules. We did not receive all of their changes until mid January 2010. The Committee has the General Rules, Swimming Rules and OWS Rules ready to go. Lindsay has so confused the Board that it is unlikely at this point that we can get them approved. The Committee is considering withdrawing the rules and resigning which would mean that Canadian masters would have no rules. What should we, MSO, do?

Michael is on the Board and from recent emails he has also been misinformed by Lindsay. Lindsay has often interfered with the committee although he has no real officiating experience. He now claims they have no terms of reference, approved by him. Perhaps we can deal with the butterfly kick issue as an example at our meeting of how FINA works and how Lindsay is dealing with this.

One option would be for MSO to adopt the draft MSC Rules as MSO Rules until MSC comes to their senses. I have had at least forty queries from officials in Ontario and complaints from OSOA on rules over the last seven weeks. It would be absurd to go into provincials without Rules.

I have been officiating for over forty years at masters, age group and elite competitions up to the World level, I have read a lot of rule books. I can say that the proposed MSC Rule Book is by far the best Masters Rule Book in the World. It is unfortunate that one person is blocking us, MSC, from adopting it.

I attach the three components of the rule book for your information. I would be happy to answer any questions on this. I would like to discuss it at our Board meeting.

Chris

NB Attachments not available

Chris raised the issue that USMS has decided to allow the old suits to be used for the next 6 months, in yards meets. He raised the question as to whether MSO should adopt the same rule, however, since the only yards meet scheduled for this year has already taken place, I was decided to do nothing at this time.

He also noted that there is a new MSC rule book prepared by the MSC rules committee but this has not yet been approved. Current rules cover the no false start rule as well as the ruling on the high performance swim suits.

New Business

1. **On-line Payments/Individuals or Clubs**

A method of payment to be used by MSO was discussed.

Members of the board suggested talking to clubs such as The Nepean Club which is using PayPal and EOMAC to learn more about what's involved. It would be nice to get it set up before the next registration.

2. **File Storage/Disposal**

Brian has 12 boxes with all registration information for the last 12 years currently in a storage locker. Revenue Canada requires retention of 7 years of banking information so therefore Brian can get rid of 5 years worth of information. The MSO By-laws need to be reviewed before a decision can be made.

Tabled for next meeting

3. **Award Nominations re: MSO/MSOC**

Sally and Bob will discuss.

4. **Rule Book**

Tabled for next meeting.

Other Business

1. **OAT OWS Advertising**

See Above

Next meeting -

The next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting in Etobicoke, Sunday, April 25, 2010

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.