

Masters Swimming Ontario
Board of Directors Meeting
Skype meeting
Thursday, May 18, 2017

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Jake Nesovic
Carla Oliveira
Brian Sheridan
Beth Carey
Filippo Porco

Board Member Regrets:

Matisse Nelis
Brigitte Zirger

Staff Regrets:

Brian Croker

Brian opened the meeting at 7:33pm, quorum confirmed.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Motion 1: That the agenda is accepted as written.

Moved by Beth Carey and seconded by Carla Oliveira. All in favor, motion passed.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion 2: That the minutes from the April 11th meeting are approved.

Moved by Carla Oliveira and seconded by Beth Carey. All in favor, motion passed.

3. Updates on discussion items from previous meeting

Obtaining Minutes from MSC board meetings

Brian Sheridan was going to ask MSC for Board meeting minutes and hasn't yet had a chance; he will contact MSC to request the minutes.

Disqualifications at Provincials

No additional update. Brian had planned to speak to Chrystian Gauvin at Nationals and didn't get a chance. Carla asked if there were a lot of DQs at provincials. Brian indicated there were no announcements made at Nationals so he's not sure.

4. Treasurer update

Beth Carey has 2 invoices to be paid, Carla confirmed she would write the cheques and obtain Brian Sheridan's signature then mail the payments and provide the details to Beth for Chris Cupidio's record keeping.

Beth has not yet received an update from Brian Croker on membership numbers for MSC. Also she is not clear about the Paypal account. Brian C. has a separate account for Paypal and Beth needs more details about this.

Chris Cupidio is working on updating Quick Books; 2014 has been completed and is working to finalize 2015 and 2016. Brian Sheridan indicated MSO needs to clearly understand the current financial situation and a formal report is needed. Beth agreed she would have more details available for the next meeting.

5. Registrar Update

Brian Sheridan expressed concern about registration. Jake indicated that Brian Croker's contract finishes end of June. This month should be considered a time of transition from Brian to Brigitte.

Brian Croker has been on the board for a very long time, the board agreed there he should be recognized for his contribution to MSO.

6. Swim Ontario proposal for integration

Brian Sheridan shared a document he prepared summarizing the discussion he had with Eric Martin from Swim Ontario. Brian had a verbal discussion with Eric on May 10th regarding SO's mandate to manage masters in Ontario.

Jake asked if Swim Ontario is not willing to negotiate with MSO. Brian indicated SO is not willing to negotiate, they have proposed a committee of 7 members to review and implement the necessary structure. SO has asked Brian join the committee as a masters swimmer and not representing MSO. Brian asked SO why he could not represent MSO and SO indicated it is an SO and SNC initiative, not an MSO initiative.

With respect to clubs, the goal is to provide an environment that balances current club requirements within SO and acknowledge differences with current MSO registered clubs. Current minimum number of members for SO is 10 whereas MSC/MSO is 2 and MSC does not have a requirement for coaches whereas SO requires a level 1 or 2 coach.

Beth expressed concern that this approach is not acceptable and that SO is missing the point for Masters which is to foster health and fitness regardless of size and coaches. Jake indicated it is very hard for small clubs to find coaches.

Brian explained that nothing has been confirmed yet, the committee within SO will need to debate and make decisions.

Jake expressed concern that the proposed committee is made up of only 3 masters swimmers, 4 members are not masters.

Brian indicated that SO has the right under SNC to do this. Jake explained the SO only has the right to sanction, not to take over MSO.

Beth suggested arranging a joint meeting with SO to discuss the details. Brian explained this would be difficult since SO has been mandated by SNC to take over Masters.

With respect to swimmer registration, SNC has a couple of categories for Masters swimmers that SO is reviewing. Currently SO has a Developmental category that is mainly recreational. SO also does not have an unattached status for age group swimmers. SO is reviewing best practices from other provinces to determine how to move forward.

With respect to costs, SO is proposing a \$41 fee per member that would include SNC and MSC fees. Eric explained SO would be collecting MSC fees on behalf of SNC.

With respect to registration, swimmers would register directly with SO/SNC and MSC would have access to the data.

Sanctioning would be the same as previously and SO is agreeable to one day registration.

Coaches would likely need basic certification which is easy to obtain and SO may provide some support.

SO would provide full insurance coverage.

Brian explained that everything Eric shared and SO's position is public knowledge. Beth suggested this information be provided to members.

Jake expressed concerned regarding the committee that has been selected to determine the future of masters swimming in Ontario. For the first year it may be fine but what happens subsequent years.

Carla suggested masters swimmers should have the opportunity to vote for at least 3 if not 4 members of the committee and have only 3 or 4 members appointed by SO.

Jake recommended that this information is shared with members and comments are included around each of the points. Carla suggested to send the information as facts only and have a survey to collect member feedback. The challenge however will be a low response rate and split comments. Some members will be very vocal and against the proposed structures and some will be very willing to accept SO terms to quickly resolve the issue.

Jake asked for all members to provide their feedback on the points from SO. Jake's concerns include:

- Definition of clubs

- Registration of swimmers and communication to swimmers
- Fees that can be changed at any time
- The requirement for coaches

Filippo's concerns include:

- Requirement for coaches
- Requirements around the size of a club

Carla's concern include:

- Composition of the committee

Beth's concerns include:

- Composition of the committee
- Club requirements
- Several items don't reflect the purpose of masters
- Potential cost increase

Brian will continue speaking to Eric to obtain to share the board's concerns and keep updated on any developments.

7. 2018 Provincials

Nepean has expressed strong interest in hosting 2018 Provincials. They have been working on pulling together a meet package and looking to be scheduled the weekend before Easter, March 25th. Additional direction is needed regarding the Swim Ontario affiliation prior to moving forward.

8. 2017 Nationals and Ontario Clubs

Brian Sheridan attended Nationals in Quebec City and many Ontario swimmers were very upset. Ontario clubs were not recognized for their achievements and treated with disrespect. Brian suggested MSO write a letter to the MSC board.

Jake indicated the letter should be an open letter; SNC should also see the letter. Carla agreed it should be an open letter.

Brian indicated he would write a letter and distribute to the board for review.

9. New Board Member

Chris McCarthy, a member from TechnoSport, has expressed in joining the MSO board. Brian Sheridan asked the board if he can join; he would be representing one of the largest clubs in Ontario.

Jake expressed concern that smaller clubs are under represented on the board; the board is currently biased towards big clubs. Brian explained that no other members have come forward.

Brian asked the board members to vote; all members except 1 agreed to accepting Chris as a new board member. Brian Sheridan will contact Chris.

10. Other Business

MSC Payment:

Jake asked that an official letter is sent to MSC to request financial statements. Brian explained that he's requested this from MSC and they indicated it is available online. Minutes from the AGM will only be posted after the next meeting after they are final. Brian Sheridan will contact Carole Fitzwilliam to request minutes from board meetings.

Next Meeting: To be scheduled Sunday June 4th at 7pm.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.