

**Minutes from the Annual Coaches' Meeting of the  
New England Prep School Swimming Association**

November 6, 2011

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11:00 a.m. Bob Tyler, NEPSSA President, opened the meeting.

Schools Present:

Westminster  
NMH  
Ethel Walker  
Canterbury  
Andover  
Wilbraham & Monson  
St. George's  
Milton  
Pingree  
Worcester  
Hopkins  
Choate  
Kingswood-Oxford  
Suffield  
Eaglebrook  
Exeter  
Convent of the Sacred Heart  
Loomis Chaffee  
Williston  
Deerfield  
Portsmouth Abbey  
Miss Porter's  
Hotchkiss  
Thayer

1. **Election of Officers:** Bob Tyler will step down as president; nominations and votes taken;
  - a. President: David Koritkoski- Williston
  - b. Vice President: Keith Moon- Hotchkiss
  - c. Secretary/Treasurer: Sonja O'Donnell- Deerfield
2. Bob Tyler recommended looking into synchronizing officer elections on a two-year rotating basis so that we are not turning over all officers at the same time. Officer positions are for two years.
3. **Finalization of divisional structure for the 2011-2012 season:** Bob Tyler posted a spreadsheet of three divisions representing the result of investigations since our special meeting in April. Data was collected in accordance with NEPSAC guidelines and included: school size (population of high school male and female students), facilities (pool, lanes, diving) and program history. Alex Krauss, K-O, queried Athletic Directors and posted the results of that work to consider alongside Bob's spreadsheet. With the accumulated information as basis for the rationale, a discussion took place

and the following divisional structure was approved for the 2011-2012 season (23 in favor; 1 opposed; no abstentions—one vote per school).

<p><b>Division I:</b>          Andover          Choate          Deerfield          Exeter          Greenwich Academy          Hopkins          Hotchkiss          Loomis          Milton          Miss Porter's          NMH          Convent of the Sacred Heart          Suffield</p>	<p><b>Division II:</b>          Avon Old Farms          Cheshire          Dana Hall          Ethel Walker          Kent          Kingswood-Oxford          Portsmouth Abbey          St. George's          St. Sebastian's          Thayer          Westminster          Westover          Williston          Winsor          Worcester</p>	<p><b>Division III:</b>          Berwick          Canterbury          Chase Collegiate          Dexter/Southfield          Eaglebrook          Hamden Hall          Kimball Union          Landmark          Lincoln          Moses Brown          Oakwood Friends          Pingree          Providence Country Day          School of the Holy Child          Wilbraham &amp; Monson          Williams</p>
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Discussion points and comments before the vote:

- This will probably be in flux for the next three years. We will not have the perfect grouping of schools in each class.
- How do other teams' classing at a school affect classing here?
- Usually there is a three-year commitment to the division before change.
- Within three years at the most, we need to accept the classing, but there will be tolerance for division shifts these next two years.
- This could affect programs at a school.
- Division I is 23 teams; that's about the size of the boys' teams now without divisions; that will make for a large meet.
- This will be a long meet; we need to consider the athletes as well.
- When we discussed this, we will need to reconsider the Div I meet to keep the size down.
- Even Division II...That will become a full meet too.
- Cut off time for all meets is likely, but if we can decide classes and then hammer out the cut-off time per class.
- How do you motivate your swimmers to go unless we can have four swimmers per event?
- We need to have three good meets this year.
- We need to start somewhere.
- I know our AD would want us in Division II (MP).
- We may have other schools join our league.
- Canterbury has talked about this—We would like to be in Division II.
- Track entries are limited to two per event—it is a slimming device.
- We will go either way (EBS).

- We are moving more teams into Division II—we need some balance.
- Cross Country went from three divisions to five divisions because II got so big; then facilities become a problem—Who can host a championship meet?
- Division III host teams? On top of that, look at the history of athletes brought to NEs from the Division III—this will be a much smaller meet, even if those teams bring more kids.
- How many kids averaging in the program per gender in each school—on their roster?
- We could go to Division III with the understanding that we could change in the future (Thayer).
- It would be great to stay consistent within the classes in terms of the meet structure, cut-offs, etc.
- We cannot entertain going more than 4 entries.
- Take only the top 40 entries in each event; go by top 40 from the entries—you only have five heats per gender!
- But then you have a kid who qualifies for top 40 two days before the meet...
- In any class, you can have a team with eight swimmers in an event! How will that work the first time around?
- A pitch for three entries per event—first of all, it is what we do in dual meets; it will shake up things and limit; we draw an arbitrary line already; in the interest of making the meet shorter and more competitive.
- Let's accept these three divisions first and then see how the meet goes. Make a motion to accept these three divisions.
- Perhaps give a two-week period where ADs can chime in on switches.
- Two new teams: NY Military (Division III) and Bancroft (Division III)
- I would move that any new team would probably be in Division III.
- Can we let the ADs know that we'd like to go with this for one year and then let the ADs decide?
- ADs have said that they were happy for us to decide (David K.).
- We have finally come to a major decision here; Let us fix it. This is a major undertaking for our league.
- Vote on the original list (add the two new schools to Division III) with the codicil to go to the ADs to talk and if that group wants to make moves here or there, the league executive committee can work on it. But, moving forward, let's go with the original list.
- Can we write this up so they can make this change? We don't know if this is an AD or coaches' decision.

#### **4. Finalize sites for three 2012 divisional meets:**

- a. Division I: Exeter (the 2013 meet will not be at Exeter)
- b. Division II: Westminster would like to host (to be confirmed) with Williston as backup
- c. Division III: Eaglebrook will consider hosting but needs to confirm

#### **5. Diving Championships:**

- a. First 8 dives on Friday night, final 3 dives in between trials and finals on Saturday.
- b. Awards will be given to the divers at night but there will be no diving during the swimming finals.
- c. All diving will be held at the site of the Division I and II meets (Division III will travel to the Division II site for diving)
- d. Qualifying scores (diving) TBD by division.

- e. Motion: Hold round of 8 dives at two sites (Divisions II and III at one site) with a cut off standard, with the last three dives (finalists) held during the divers' division championship meet in the afternoon between swimming trials and finals (24 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions)

**6. Format and Timeline for each divisional meet:**

- a. Motion: Three entries per event, per team with “suggested” cut-off times per division with the reasonable assumption of maintaining the elite aspect of the meet for this year (21 in favor; 3 opposed; 0 abstain)
- b. Suggested cut times for each division: 36<sup>th</sup> place for the schools in each division over last 3 years; 1 year trial basis (Koritkoski will work on cut times)
- c. The three meets do not need to be identical in terms of scoring but it looks like all will go with 16 places scored even if there are only 6 lanes.
- d. We will keep B Relays and the timed final format for the 500 free with the top 2 heats per gender in the evening (18 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstention).
- e. Distinguished Service Award--no decision
- f. Motion: That we award medals to the top three at each meet and let the meet organizers decide when that be done giving consideration to the natural breaks in the meet. (24 in favor--unanimous)
- g. Award medals for places 1-3, ribbons for places 4-16.
- h. Timing of the awarding at the meet of TBD by each meet committee.
- i. Babcock/Robertson Awards--to be awarded at each divisional meet (6 total awards)—approved (18 in favor; 3 opposed; 1 abstention)
  - i. Proposal to award an athlete in New England a single NE award with nominations from coaches in the league, a NE swimming/diving award. If there is anyone eager to move forward with this award, please feel free to do so and let's continue this conversation on line.

**7. Membership of each division's meet committees:**

- a. Jean Farnum (Exeter), Keith Moon (Hotchkiss), Sonja O'Donnell (Deerfield)
- b. Grant Gritzmacher (Westminster), David Koritkoski (Williston), Clay Miles (K-O)
- c. Bo Tanner (Eaglebrook), Dan Moran (Wilbraham), Charlene Keady (Thayer)
- d. Diving Committee (Div I, II, & III): Joe Soma (Sacred Heart), Ann Befroy (Miss Porter's), Brooks Donnelly (Thayer)

**8. Responsibilities for each NE meet:**

- a. TBD by each meet director/committee.
- b. Meet Duties Worksheet:

<b>DUTY:</b>	<b>2011:</b>	<b>2012: Div I, II, III (TBD)</b>
<b>Meet Entries—Swimming:</b>	Worcester (John Liller)	John Liller (Worcester)
<b>Meet Entries—Diving:</b>	Choate (Small)	Diving Committee
<b>Table Electronic Scoring &amp; Timing:</b>	John Liller	
<b>Table “Manual” Scoring:</b>	Andover (Hugon & Murphy)	

<b>Meals:</b>	Exeter	Host Team
<b>Awards:</b>	Hopkins (Chuck Elrick)	
<b>Officials:</b>	Loomis (Seebeck/DeConinck) USA Observation: (Tanner)	
<b>Back-up Timers:</b>	Thayer (Keady)	
<b>Lifeguards:</b>	Exeter	
<b>T-shirts (design &amp; sales):</b>	Deerfield (O'Donnell)	Will look into contract for three locations.
<b>Programs (design &amp; sales):</b>	Suffield (Lowe)	Will look into printing for three locations.
<b>Diving Announcing &amp; Scoring:</b>	Milton (Bob Tyler)	
<b>Trainers:</b>	Exeter	Host Team

#### 9. Dues & Meet Entries:

- a. League dues will remain at \$70.00/gender—please submit immediately; make checks payable to **NEPSwim** and sent to: Sonja O'Donnell, Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, MA 01342.
- b. Meet Entries will remain the same: \$3.00/individual event entered; \$7.00/relay entered.
- c. USA Observation: \$5 per splash (We need to organize officials in advance at each meet—Bo Tanner has offered to continue to look into this and arrange officials for the league). This fee should be included in your check for meet entries so the league can submit one payment to USA Swimming for the entire meet. Coaches please specify the number of “splashes” with your payment.

#### 10. New issues:

- a. Is there a possibility of a late start on Saturday and an early end on Sunday?
- b. Some confusion coming into this meeting as to what the agenda was going to be and what had been discussed before this meeting. This format seems limiting. Why can one thing happen and not another? Should we be cutting ourselves off from other options for this meet?
- c. The benefits of one day outweigh the benefits of two days.
- d. Can we revisit this possibility next year? YES
- e. Also, revisit the location/venue—college possibility next year? YES
- f. Other issues to a two-day meet: officials overnight costs
- g. Smaller groups are needed to get things done here.
- h. Put on the table next year the possibility of a two-day meet for one division or all, but each division could decide this next year.
- i. From the minutes of the special spring meeting, there was no specification as to a one or two-day meet. (We returned to last spring's minutes and, indeed, the motion was for a one-day meet but an earlier motion that day did not specify a one-day meet.)

- j. Recall the reasons for the change in our championship meet format: mandate by athletic directors; two-day meet expenses for teams travelling; equity (team experience for smaller teams and the possibility of placing more swimmers in finals); late finish on Sunday evening before a vacation departure or an exam week; the late finish was also a concern for the safety of traveling teams.
- k. Motion: That we move ahead this year with a two-day meet—Friday night diving meet and Saturday one-day trials finals format swimming and diving finals (21 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions)

11. **All-New England Team:** Top 16 in each event by time across divisions; Diving will have to be determined differently (problematic)—There was no time for this discussion. Please send your thoughts to Keith Moon, Vice-President, who will be in charge of organizing this for the league this year.

**12. 2010-2011 League Budget Approved**

**13. 2010-2011 Accounts past due (as of 11/05/11)—See chart below.**

- a. Please verify and submit payment as soon as possible.
- b. Please be sure checks are made payable to **NEPSwim** and mailed to Sonja O’Donnell, Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, MA 02341.
- c. REMINDER: 2010-2011 dues: \$70.00 per gender/school and NEs Entries: \$3.00/individual event; \$7.00/relay
- d. I will contact schools with the amount of entries due (if they do not have this record) as soon as I get them (SOD).
- e. If you have any questions, please send an email: [sodonnell@deerfield.edu](mailto:sodonnell@deerfield.edu) or call (413)774-1880.

Avon: dues & entries	Milton: dues & entries
Dexter/Southfield: dues & entries	Miss Porter’s: dues & entries
Hotchkiss: entries	Moses Brown: entries
Kent: entries	St. George’s: entries
KUA: dues & entries	Suffield: entries
Westminster: entries	Wilbraham: entries
Williams: dues & entries	Winsor: dues & entries
Worcester: dues & entries	Greenwich: entries
Lincoln School: entries	Holy Child: entries

**14. 2011-2012 NFHS Rule Changes**

- a. **9-4 Diving Table:** Changes the degree of difficulty for twisting dives 5126D – 2.8; 5136D – 3.1 and 5227D - 3.2.

**Rationale:** It is appropriate for high school diving to change the degree of difficulty for these twisting dives to remain current with the technical aspects of scoring for diving.

**9-5-2:** A diver’s forward approach may contain steps, hops, leaps and/or jumps between the initial three steps and culminating hurdle.

**Rationale:** Supports the advancement of high school diving, and reflects the current trends in the variations of the forward approach and the athleticism of today’s high school divers.

**15. Diving Rotation:**

11/27- 101

12/4- 201

12/11- 301

1/1- 401

1/8- 5111

1/15- 101

1/22- 201

1/29- 301

2/5- 401

2/12- 5111

2/19- 101

2/26- 201

Respectfully Submitted by Sonja O'Donnell, Secretary-Treasurer