

MSOA Executive Board
September 13, 2009

- I. In attendance: Barry Cohen, Tom Riker, Duffy Akerley, Sandy Labelle, Lonie Brown, Neal Labrecque, Sandy Zimmerman, Chris Branch, Jerry Crouter.

Guest: Tom Branch (for a portion of the meeting).

- II. The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. in Waterville by President Barry Cohen.

- III. Secretary's Report: The minutes of the May 3, 2009 meeting were approved as written. Riker/Akerley, 6-0.

- IV. Treasurer's Report. Sandy Labelle presented reports for May, June, July and August, 2009. Sandy noted that we were in about the same position as last year at this time, which is consistent with the Board's goal. Accepted as presented. Riker/Brown, 6-0.

V. Old Business

- A. Formal Complaint Revisited. Barry Cohen sent letters to Minter Molello, dated May 5 and 6, 2009, respectively, regarding the Board's findings on the diving judge accused of "peeking" at scores before scoring the dive (complaint not substantiated) and regarding the conduct of the diving referee (decision not to fail the dives was within referee's discretion). Barry also sent a letter to the referee on May 5 informing him that the complaint had been dismissed by the Board, but pointing out a decision to fail a dive should not be made after a subsequent dive had occurred. Barry received a letter from the referee, dated June 8, 2009, providing additional factual information. The referee had been invited to attend the Board's meeting, but opted not to attend.

The Board discussed the matter, including the additional factual recitation in the June 8 letter, in detail. Two points were emphasized. First, it was noted that if the facts were as described in the June 8 letter, then there was no impropriety at all. Sandy Zimmerman emphasized that the referee was well respected in the Chapter as a diving referee and judge. Second, the Board discussed the complaint procedure set forth in the MSOA constitution, and concluded that although not expressly required, the entire Evaluation Committee should be asked to attend the meeting of the Board where final disposition of a complaint will be addressed.

The Board also noted, in reference to the referee's discussion in the June 8 letter of variations in the judging of diving throughout the State of Maine, that the Board had discussed this issue and had planned to pay special attention to the judging and refereeing of diving at this year's clinics.

Since the complaint against the referee had been dismissed, no further action was required by the Board in response to the June 8 letter.

B. Breaststroke Rule – Response from Becky Oates (National Federation)

In response to an inquiry from Barry Cohen this spring concerning the National Federation's interpretation of the breaststroke rule (whether separation of the hands is all that is required before the dolphin kick on starts and turns), Ms. Oakes responded in writing that there would be at least one rules interpretation issued by the National Federation concerning the breaststroke. The Board noted in the 2009-2010 rule book, Situation 8.2.2(k) addresses and clarifies the issue.

C. Website

The Board engaged in an extensive discussion of the MSOA website. The email responses to the informal poll were reviewed, and they were generally supportive of improving the site to make it more accessible and user-friendly. The Board listed criteria for improvement, including accessibility without a password, posting of rules interpretations, the ability to take the annual test on line, posting of the dive of the week, officials' fees, meeting minutes, and all items of interest to the general membership. Questions from members concerning rules interpretation will automatically be forwarded to one or more members of the Rules Interpretation Committee for response. Tom Branch discussed improvement and maintenance costs, which generally seemed to be reasonable. Tom Branch agreed to forward a specific proposal for improvement and maintenance to Barry Cohen.

D. 2009 Clinics

The Board engaged in an extensive discussion of the 2009 Clinics, to be held on October 18 at Bates College and October 25 at Belfast High School. Officials will be able to sign up for the State Meets at the Clinic, with no limit on meets for which an official signs-up. The Board hopes to be able to offer YMCA and USS officials' training. The specifics of the Clinics will be discussed at the next meeting, but emphasis will be placed on rules interpretation, diving, strokes, and the duties and responsibilities of the meet referee.

VI. New Business

- A. Recognition of the death of Anne Marie Rand. By two motions, Riker/Labrecque, 8-0, Riker/Labelle, 8-0, the Board voted to express its condolences to the family of long-time swim official Anne Marie Rand by making a \$50 donation to the charity identified in her obituary, and in addition by refunding Anne Marie's \$20 dues in the form of an additional donation to the charity.
- B. Swim Suit Fiasco. The Board discussed the recent turmoil concerning swim suits in competition.

VII. Chapter Reports – none.

VIII. Committee Reports.

A. Test Committee – Duffy Akerley has drafted the test, and will complete it in the next few days, now that the 2009-10 rule books have arrived.

E. Rules Interpretation Committee – will meet before the next MSOA Executive Board meeting.

G. Graphics Committee – see the discussion of the website, above.

H. Nomination Committee

Nominations for officers for the 2010-11 year are: Duffy Akerley, President, Neal Labrecque, Vice President, Sandy Labelle, Treasurer, Jerry Crouter, Secretary.

IX. Next Meeting – Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 9:30 in Waterville. Rules Interpretation Committee to meet at 8:30.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.