

April 5, 2007

Hello New England Coaches

As the 2007 Annual Meeting approaches, I'd like to ask you to consider a few things. First, consider being a Coaches' Representative on the NES Board. Duties for the position include: representing coaches in NES at the monthly NES Board meetings in Wellesley; communicating with NE coaches via email, meetings at Age Group Championship meets, and informally throughout the seasons; creating agenda for annual coach meeting; notifying coaches of and conducting election for NE ASCA Age Group Coach of the Year in the summer; and creating a task list of improvements and changes for NES coaches, which you will work on during your tenure. I can only say that the experience for me has been a positive one and I have learned a great deal about New England Swimming and the contributions of the Board. Many Coach Reps go on to other Board positions after their term (2 years) is served, and it would surprise me if Matt Craven (the out-going Senior Coach Rep) did not remain on the Board of NES in some capacity.

Before the Annual Meeting, consider how you hope to benefit by coming to the meeting. Perhaps, there is a certain coach you want to elect for Junior Coach Rep or you'd like to be elected, or maybe you have an issue, with which you'd like some help. Maybe, you have a contribution you'd like to offer. Please read the agenda for the meeting and write down your questions or concerns ahead of time. If there is anything you would like to discuss at the meeting, please let me know, so I can make room on the agenda. The coaches' meeting has a history of going off in many directions – sometimes too many to address. With a little thought and planning ahead of time, I think we can avoid a lengthy session of complaints – bring your problem, but with it offer a solution (or at least the beginnings of one). Wouldn't it be nice if we can brainstorm a couple of issues and socialize a bit? I am looking forward to a productive meeting. Thanks for your help.

Feel free to email me: sherbw@comcast.net or call me: 413-586-1727 with anything you want to discuss. Hope your seasons are off to a great start. See you Saturday, May 5th.

Sherry
NES Coach Rep.

AGENDA

New England Annual Coaches' Meeting Saturday, May 5, 2007

1. Thank you Matt Craven for your work as Coach Representative for the past two years.

Matt attends monthly Board meetings, he talks to many coaches, and brings the NE coaches' concerns to meetings to be addressed by the Board. What I have learned from attending the meetings is the Board, as well as committee members, and coaches who attend the meetings, care deeply about swimming in New England and are very dedicated to New England Swimming. This group not only volunteers their time for meetings, but also volunteers at meets and other events. This Board is always trying to improve and address the concerns/complaints of the membership (which is very large). If you think you are not being heard, you are mistaken. You are always invited to attend a Board meeting and witness the Board's hard work first hand.

2. Election of new coach representative

1st year: Junior Rep. Attend NES events, meets, and monthly board meetings. Talk to/listen to coaches in NE via email and in person and provide feedback to Board. Assist with NE ASCA Age Group Coach of the Year election in the summer, as well as Coaches' meetings at the Age Group Championship meets and reports for the Board.

2nd year: Senior Rep. Continue to attend NES events, meets, and monthly board meetings, and talk to/listen to coaches in NE via email and in person and provide feedback to Board. Conduct election at Annual Meeting for Junior Rep. Prepare agenda for Annual Coaches' Meeting. Conduct election for NE ASCA Age Group Coach of the Year in the summer. Attend USS Annual Meeting. Arrange Coaches' meetings at the Age Group Championship meets with the assistance of the Junior Coach Rep. Report to Board on all meetings and elections.

- a. Hear from the candidates regarding background and involvement with NES, as well as anything else pertinent.
- b. Voting
- c. Welcome new coach representative

3. General Meeting

Each year, this meeting takes many directions, since it is the first meeting of the year that some coaches attend (there were coaches' meetings at the Age Group Championship meets at URI and MIT – report attached). In hopes to provide more direction, I'd like to supply some information:

Your coaches' reps bring your thoughts to the Board; however, the placement of the Age Group Meets on the calendar is the responsibility of the Age Group Chair; the Senior Meet is the Senior Chair's responsibility. The events, time standards, and relay "rules" for those meets are all determined by the Age Group and Senior Chairs (with Technical Chair input). You may contact the Age Group, Senior Chair, and Technical Chairs directly by email or phone to provide your input. From past experience, I can tell you that an enormous amount of time goes into the determinations for those meets, including researching past New

England Meets, Championship meets in other LSCs and time standards and motivational times for New England, other LSCs, and the USA. You are welcome to bring up your concerns with the Coach Reps, but the Age Group, Senior, and Technical Chairs will be ultimately getting this information and it may have more impact coming directly from you (and you may learn and understand more their whole process of determination).

Facility issues: it is impossible for NES to secure pools for all NE end-of season meets (many pools are tied up with teams) and it is impossible to run every meet (especially Regional Meets since they all fall on the same weekend). It is unfortunate that different pools have different amenities and teams may not be assigned to their preferred venue, but NES relies on bids coming from teams to host that meet. Bids for the Short Course season are due July 1st. If you are interested in hosting a Regional Championship (or other Championship meet or calendar meet), please submit a bid – NES is looking for the best facilities (check with Age Group Chair for meet date) and bids will usually be awarded to teams with better facilities. NES tries to provide a calendar as early as possible, but it is the Board's experience (calendar committee) that teams cannot secure some facilities too far in advance (many facilities are not willing to commit too early).

a. Discussion

Direction of Senior Swimming in New England

- Long Course Senior Circuit – one LC Senior Meet/month in NE after Nationals?
- Senior Championship Meet – one week after Nationals in December or ??

Boys swim circuit (11-14 year-olds)

- Swim meets for just this group (fast, fun meets to keep boys interested)
- Mike at MAG may host meets/will participate

Other

4. Next Coaches' Meeting: Saturday, July 28th after morning session at Open Meet.

Thanks! Feel free to email me: sherbw@comcast.net.

Sherry Wingfield, NES Coach Rep.

REPORT

New England Coaches' Meetings

2/24/07 @ 12 & Under Age Groups, URI

Discussion/feedback:

- Relays should be at night if the facility allows (URI does). Finals sessions very small, so perhaps, allow an extra heat at Finals or do 3 heats of 6, which would allow a few extra swimmers.
- Relays should be allowed unlimited with cut times (if facility allows) to get more swimmers in the meet.
- NES should standardize all procedures for meets and host teams should have to adhere to all standards. Meets should be hosted in same locations, if possible, or at least in similar facilities (similar size and warm-up areas).
- Regional meets should all have same standards, procedures and same facility-type (warm-up space, etc).
- Some boys events very small – loosen cut times or ?? to attract more or at least enough boys to the events. Some teams having difficulty attracting/keeping boys in the sport.

3/3/07 @ 13-19 Age Groups, MIT

Discussion/feedback:

- Best relay was not able to swim at Age Groups because one relay swimmer did not qualify for the meet and another swimmer did (had to be used in the relay with current rules). Best relay should be able to swim.
- Why isn't a "B" championship meet offered? Swimmers should have another meet besides Regionals.
- NES needs consistency (schedule, policies, everything).
- Pool for 12 & Unders should be reserved for years in advance, if possible.
- Better hospitality (more and better food) needed at 13-19 Age Groups.
(NES volunteer took care of this at the last minute when notified a team was not doing it.)
- Regional meet at Springfield was a good meet.
- Calendars put out a year or even two years in advance would be great benefit.
- Summer Championships, 12 and Unders could swim timed finals in the afternoons between prelims and finals of Open Champ meet or 11/12s could swim prelims/finals with older swimmers and 10 & Unders could swim in the afternoon or 12 and Unders could swim the same weekend as the older swimmers at a different venue with 11/12 prelims in the morning, 10 & Unders in the afternoon, and 11/12s joining the older age groups in the evening for finals at that venue.
- Arrange a circuit to swim 11-14 year-old boys (MAG will do this) to attract and keep this age group swimming.
- Senior meet should be 12/6-9 (one week after the National meet). Then, seniors should swim Long Course, perhaps in a senior circuit with other LSCs with time standards.

Sherry Wingfield
NES Coach Representative