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| **Meeting summary for Age Group Committee Meeting 9/17/24 (09/17/2024)** |
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| **AI DID THIS SO MIND THE MISTAKES** |  |
| **Quick recap** |
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| The team discussed tightening swimming qualification standards for certain age groups and proposed new performance cuts to encourage early training in specific strokes. They addressed the need for additional athletes and officials and the challenges in scheduling meets due to limited availability. The team also considered potential solutions, including hosting new events and exploring creative scheduling options. |
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| **Next steps** |
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| • HEAD to finalize and format the new age group championship qualifying standards. |
| • All committee members to search for a suitable high-level official to join the age group committee. |
| • HEAD to bring up the concept of the 15 and over age group meeting at the board meeting. |
| • Kristen to further develop the competition committee concept and identify major issues with the current meet schedule. |
| • HEAD to explore options for earlier meet bidding and scheduling processes. |
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| **Summary** |
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| **Proposing New Age Group Cuts and Event Planning** |
| They agreed to propose new age group cuts that would tighten qualification standards. The team also needs to find a new official to assist with the upcoming event without overburdening Margie Moore or Barb Moore. Yolanda may be available later for the physical meet itself. Head shared his screen to review the proposed cuts and event details with the group. |
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| **Setting New Performance Standards for Swimmers** |
| The meeting focused on setting new performance standards for swimmers, particularly for the 10 and under age group. The team analyzed data from past championship meets and found their current standards were generally better than USA Swimming's motivational standards, with some exceptions. They discussed challenges in filling certain events like the 200s and 500 free for 10 and unders. The team agreed to raise qualification standards for events like the 500-meter freestyle and 100-meter individual medley to increase competitiveness and prevent auto-finals. Concerns were raised about the current system being too lenient. The team plans to present the new standards in a more organized and accessible format and review the system for fairness in future meetings. |
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| **Introducing New Standards for 'T10 & Under Meet’** |
| The head plans to introduce new standards for the 'Tenant Under Me' event by the end of the week, aiming to raise the bar for participants while keeping kids engaged. Concerns were raised about the potential exclusion of the Marlins team due to difficulty meeting the cuts. The team discussed arranging the standards by age group or event order for better visibility. The head sought input on any red flags or comments regarding the proposed changes. There was also a discussion about a five-month-old program development issue that had been brought to the board level during the spring, but there was confusion about who had initiated the discussion. The team agreed that the matter should have been brought to the board level and was working to resolve the confusion. |
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| **Separating Short and Long Course Events Discussion** |
| yolandajahan proposed separating short and long course events, suggesting moving the long course to provide more space, benefiting the environment and participants. The team discussed the lack of officials and the possibility of Jeff hosting, but it was unclear if he would do so without Water Rat. They confirmed a potential meet at Westmont on the 5th and 8th and agreed to check Jeff's attendance. Finding a qualified meet referee was a concern, with alumni parents like Sarah Bowman considered as a possibility. The team planned to blackout championship weekends to avoid official resource strains from overlapping events. |
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| **Athlete and Official Recruitment Discussion** |
| Head discussed the need for additional athletes and an official for their team, mentioning potential candidates Lily and Ava. He also expressed the need for a new official with experience and maturity to manage the team's activities. Kyle and Sarah were asked to consider potential candidates, and the team emphasized the importance of professionalism and maturity in their new official. Yolanda shared her thoughts on the challenges of the job and her appreciation for Dylan's skills. The conversation also touched on the potential for Sarah to take on age groups every year and Nancy's involvement in tier pro series meets. However, Head declined to discuss Rick Lewis. |
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| **Officiating Task for Swimming Event Discussion** |
| The team discussed the need for a suitable person to handle an officiating task for a swimming event. They considered experience, professionalism, and avoiding drama, suggesting several candidates but ruling some out due to personal issues or lack of availability. The importance of the task for the kids and community was emphasized. The team also discussed a potential new resource, with one member expressing reservations. The need for someone patient and adaptable was highlighted, with Dylan Lee suggested. Poaching Walt Carroll from the seniors' group with beer was proposed. The importance of having a reliable, committed team member who wouldn't refuse a request was stressed, but no final decision was reached. |
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| **Upcoming Meet Management and Regionals Discussion** |
| The team discussed adding another official to help manage the upcoming meet. They aimed to release the meet announcement within the next month, before October. Regionals were scheduled for February 28th to March 1st, with concerns about the pool condition at one location. The seniors regionals would follow on March 6th-9th, with age groups on March 13th-16th. The team agreed to monitor the situation regarding splitting the tenant venue. |
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| **Age Group Event Planning and Scheduling Challenges** |
| The team discussed the possibility of hosting a 15 and over age group event, with Kristen expressing support, but Sarah pointed out the significant undertaking it would be. They also considered hosting a separate event for 15 and over swimmers around the time of sectionals or before the high school season starts. The team agreed to further discuss these ideas with Jason. They also discussed the upcoming event schedule, particularly the timing of the zones and the potential for an 11 to 18 Age group championship. The challenges of scheduling meets for smaller teams and the potential for teams to opt out of certain meets were also discussed. The Senior and Junior Representatives confirmed they had completed their tasks and were preparing to send out ballots. The conversation ended with the need to learn more about the pros and cons of a proposed plan and the willingness of other teams to participate. |
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| **Addressing Meet Scheduling Challenges and Improvements** |
| The discussion focused on the challenges of scheduling meets due to the late bidding process and limited availability. Eric provided an update on the pool renovations, and the conversation touched on the involvement of Mike D and Josh Gossa in the process. The group agreed to address grievances and explore improvements to the meet scheduling system in the future. |