

# Eastern Region Coaches Meeting Minutes

## Monday, September 13, 2004

President Carey Elder called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Attendees:	Allen Bell	Steve Hinkle	Mary Lockard-Polis
	Alice Cohen	George Kane	William Polis
	Carey Elder	Jim Kennedy	George Schmidt
	Ed Heater	Debbie Lewis	Jeanne Sincavage
	John Heffner	John Patton	Anne Wahlig

### Tri-State Contests

The primary objective of this meeting was to determine the dates and locations of the Tri-State meets. The dates agreed to at the meeting:

Cornwell Dance Meet:	November 7 <sup>th</sup>
Holiday Figure Meet:	December 5 <sup>th</sup>
Fantasy Invitational:	January 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> (Note, this is not a true Tri-State meet but is still listed as such since it will contribute to the ERACA fund)
Scooters Figure Meet:	February 13 <sup>th</sup>
Embassy Invitational:	April 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>

Dates for other meets in the region that are of interest:

Donora Invitational:	March 11 <sup>th</sup> thru 14 <sup>th</sup>
Holiday Invitational:	March 25 <sup>th</sup> thru 27 <sup>th</sup>
Christiana Invitational:	May 7 <sup>th</sup> thru 9 <sup>th</sup>
New Jersey State Meet:	May 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>

It was also agreed on that the fees for the mini meets would be \$12 for the first entry and \$8 for additional entries, or, if spectators are free, \$14 for the first entry and \$8 for additional entries.

### Mini Meet Applications

Ed Heater proposed that the application forms and entry fees be sent directly to the Treasurer (Avril Pickersgill) and that Ed would then setup the tabulating database and send it to the meet director. Everyone present thought that this was a good idea and approved the proposition.

### Regional Merger Issue

Steve Hinkle addressed the issue of merging our region with either the Northeast Region or the Southeast region. Steve's position was that a merger was inevitable, and that if we are forced to merge, it would be from a position of weakness. He felt that it would be in the region's best interest to sponsor a merger which would guarantee that the region merge as a whole rather than being split apart with some states going north and some south. The National Office has agreed to abide between an agreement between us and the Northeast or Southeast region, and stated that it would be best to merge for the 2005 – 2006 season. Steve talked to the Southeast region and received negative responses. The Northeast region seemed more responsive to the idea and Steve agreed to go to their regional meeting to further discuss the possibility of merging with us. George Schmidt asked how this could impact our contests. There is a potential impact because technically, a region cannot have two invitationals on the same weekend. This could be solved by a waiver from the National Office.

## **Scholarship**

The coaches voted to support the \$1000 scholarship for the 2004-2005 season.

## **National Practice**

The coaches still felt it would be a good idea to pursue national practice time for the region in Pensacola. Steve Hinkle has started to look into practice times and costs and hopes to have more information by the next meeting.

Anne Wahlig proposed that the practice time be organized since there could be A, B and C division skaters at the practice on the same day because of the new structure. Everyone agreed that this made sense and that practice time should be organized per practice based on the skill levels of the skaters attending the practice.

## **Cup Series**

Steve Hinkle proposed that the region do the Cup Series again this season as he felt that it promoted competition (for example, the events are coed) and that it was a success last season. The coaches voted to do the Cup Series again this season

## **Evening of Champions**

Steve Hinkle suggested that skaters getting plaques be encouraged to put a business card ad in the program. The Evening Of Champions is scheduled for Oct 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Regional Championships**

Carey Elder proposed that a new podium be constructed that would have platforms for all four placements as opposed to the three platforms on the current podium (*all events have 4 placements this season*). He felt that material donations could be acquired to keep the costs down. No decision was made.

Carey also pointed out that all regional plaques are now obsolete because of the new names in the new structure. Steve Hinkle said that someone will have to volunteer to define a mapping between the old names and the new names. There needs to be more discussion on this topic at future meetings.

It was also pointed out that there will be no fourth place medals for regionals. It was felt that this was inappropriate (Junior Olympic events always got a fourth place medal). Anne Wahlig volunteered to pursue this issue with the National Office. Someone also stated that fourth place at nationals was only going to get a certificate instead of a medal.

## **New Structure**

There was not much discussion on the new structure. It was pointed out that 4 skaters will qualify for each event and that National Championship events with more than 35 skaters would have a semi-final. Someone asked if that would make the National Championship longer. It was pointed out that there was a lot of dead time at Nationals this year, and that there will be fewer events in the new structure.

## **Next Coaches Association Meeting and Regional Meeting**

The next meeting will be immediately following the Regional meeting. The Regional meeting is scheduled for October 18 at 7:30pm at the Palace Skating Center.

Ed Heater  
Secretary of the Eastern Region Coaches Association