



Masters Swimming Australia 2019 National Championships

Hosted by: Masters Swimming South Australia

Venue: SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre

Date of Event: 19th – 23rd March 2019

FINAL REPORT

Organising Committee

Convenor: Leanne Beames
Meet Director: Melissa Beames
Technical Director: Phillip Beames
Merchandise: Stuart Galliford
Volunteers: Helen Bickers
OWS Co-ordinators: Stephen Strachan & Neil Thies

Overview

The Masters Swimming Australia 2019 National Championships was a success, with well organised events and social functions. The Organising Committee had planned well and put the structures in place which resulted in efficient, free flowing events that ran on time in a friendly atmosphere that the swimmers found enjoyable.

SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre is a world class facility and along with the calm waters at Brighton Beach both venues were conducive to great competitive swimming. The SAALC Function Room at the pool was ideal for the Welcome Function & the Presentation Dinner at The Stamford Grand, Glenelg, with views of the sunset over Gulf St Vincent, was superb.

Thank you to the Technical Officials & General volunteers who offered their time and worked tirelessly over the five days. Without the willing help of these people an event like this would never happen.

Whilst the total number of entries was a little disappointing, the Organising Committee and MSSA was pleased with the event and so were the swimmers who attended.

Finance

The Organising Committee did not form a Finance Sub-committee. The budget and all finances were handled by the Meet Convenor/MSSA Administrator in conjunction with the MSSA Finance Director, Robert Fergusson.

The decision was made not to use Club Assistant as the entry system, following MSWA's bad experience with the product. The existing STG On-line Registration system was upgraded and used.

Timelines as per the Meet Guide were met and our submitted budget approved by MSA.

The Financial Statements for the 2019 National Championships are almost finalised. Below is a summary of the Updated Forecast in comparison to the original Budget. The Financial Statements will be audited when finalised.

The number of entries received, especially from MSSA members, was disappointing – final number 409. Based on entries at recent National Championships, we were hoping for 500 to 550 swimmers. Merchandise and Welcome Pack items were ordered based on the higher entries resulting in unused/unsold stock.

The overall result will be breakeven.

2019 MSA National Championships

Number of Entries	Approved Budget			Actual 409
	350	400	450	
OPERATING INCOME				
Registration @ \$70	\$24,500.00	\$28,000.00	\$31,500.00	\$28,630.00
Individual Entries @ \$9	\$18,900.00	\$21,600.00	\$24,300.00	\$23,553.00
Relay Entries @ \$20	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,900.00
OWS Entries @ \$60	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$8,640.00
Presentation Dinner @ \$75	\$18,750.00	\$18,750.00	\$18,750.00	\$13,425.00
Welcome Function @ \$10				\$1,790.00
Programmes @ \$10	\$1,170.00	\$1,340.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,800.00
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$76,650.00	\$83,350.00	\$90,050.00	\$80,738.00
OPERATING EXPENDITURE				
<i>Administrative</i>				
National Sanction Fee	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00	\$5,574.00
Sundry expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$560.29
Accommodation - Nat Pres.	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$845.00
ClubAssistant	\$525.00	\$600.00	\$675.00	\$0.00
ClubAssistant Set-up	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00
Bank Fees - set-up, monthly	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$29.56
SportsTG Fee				\$3,402.83
Printing -Program	\$350.00	\$400.00	\$450.00	\$1,895.36
Printing -Results	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Sub Total	\$12,925.00	\$13,050.00	\$13,175.00	\$12,307.04
<i>Promotions</i>				
Printing - Flyers	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$170.39
Promotions	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Postage				\$16.40
Sub Total	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$186.79
<i>Swimmers Bag</i>				
Bag	\$1,344.00	\$1,536.00	\$1,728.00	\$6,930.00
Cap	\$1,400.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,800.00	\$2,766.50
Bottle	\$875.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,125.00	\$5,081.65
Pen	\$280.00	\$320.00	\$360.00	\$0.00
Lanyard	\$1,400.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,570.80
Sub Total	\$5,299.00	\$6,056.00	\$6,813.00	\$16,348.95
<i>Pool Expenses</i>				
Pool Hire - 4 days	\$8,817.60	\$8,817.60	\$8,817.60	\$9,919.80
Warm Up Lanes	\$5,098.80	\$5,098.80	\$5,098.80	\$4,886.36
Electronic Timing	\$2,743.20	\$2,743.20	\$2,743.20	\$3,086.10
Medical Costs	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$810.00
Cleaning	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,250.00
Vorgee Fee for Stand				\$250.00
Sub Total	\$18,879.60	\$18,879.60	\$18,879.60	\$20,202.26
<i>OWS Expenses</i>				
Marine & Harbours/Council Approval	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$596.00
Water Cover	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Electronic timing	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,314.40

Equipment Hire	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Swim Caps				\$1,320.00
Sundry Expenses (refreshments etc)	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$218.54
Sub Total	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,448.94
Awards				
Medals	\$1,690.00	\$1,690.00	\$1,690.00	\$7,065.89
Trophy Engraving & Replicas	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,001.00
Sub Total	\$3,290.00	\$3,290.00	\$3,290.00	\$8,066.89
Officials				
40 x Deck Officials x 4 days				
Refreshments	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$322.91
Officials Shirts	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$678.92
Volunteer Shirts	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$375.21
Committee Shirts				\$168.34
TimeKeepers Vests				\$169.46
Sub Total	\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00	\$1,714.84
Socials				
Welcome Function				\$2,787.00
Presentation Dinner Room Rental	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Presentation Dinner Meal	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$11,150.00
Complimentary Dinners	\$960.00	\$960.00	\$960.00	\$975.00
Band	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
Table Decorations - Flowers				\$360.00
Sub Total	\$18,160.00	\$18,160.00	\$18,160.00	\$17,772.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	\$73,853.60	\$74,735.60	\$75,617.60	\$81,047.71
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$2,796.40	\$8,614.40	\$14,432.40	-\$309.71
Plus Additional Activities				
Sponsorship				
Vorgee	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
International Travel				\$250.00
Swimming Australia				\$500.00
Sub Total				\$1,750.00
Merchandise				
- Income				\$7,930.00
- Expenditure				-\$11,531.19
Sub Total				-\$3,601.19
Raffles				
- Income				\$960.20
- Expenditure				-\$130.90
Sub Total				\$829.30
Total	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	-\$1,021.89
Overall Net Profit/(Loss)	\$3,796.40	\$9,614.40	\$15,432.40	-\$1,331.60

Program/Recording

The decision was made not to use Club Assistant as the entry system following MSWA's bad experience with the product. With extensive help from Mark Hepple, the existing STG On-line Registration system was upgraded and used. In general this worked well with only a couple of minor issues – the main one was entering relays which required the use of a different portal in STG.

Following the close of entries a number of queries were followed up and then the final seeded program was posted online for the swimmers reference and a small number of hardcopy programs were printed.

The recording room ran relatively smoothly with only the normal minor issues arising that were resolved quickly. Results were generated in a timely manner and displayed on the concourse behind the grandstands along with electronic copies being posted online.

Relay entries were co-ordinated through the Information Desk and entered into Meet Manager. Again, no major issues. The Organising Committee made the decision not to run a branch relay.

Statistics for the meet were as follows:

Clubs	
Interstate	84
Intrastate	10
Total	94

Competitors			
Age Group	Female	Male	Total
18-24	4	3	7
25-29	6	7	13
30-34	9	5	14
35-39	16	10	26
40-44	11	14	25
45-49	15	16	31
50-54	24	23	47
55-59	28	26	54
60-64	27	21	48
65-69	24	33	57
70-74	19	18	37
75-79	6	17	23
80-84	5	9	14
85-89	5	3	8
90-94	2	2	4
95-99	1		1
Total	202	207	409

Records Achieved				
Record Type	Female	Male	Relays	Total
World	4	-	-	4
National	19	23	5	47
Total Records	23	23	5	51

Technical

The number of volunteers for the Technical Officials team was 30, with a number of those competing and a few people only able to assist over a couple of days. A roster was put together that provided sufficient coverage of all key positions for all events but this meant that those Technical Officials swimming were rostered on for a role for most of their free events.

A briefing was held each morning prior to warm-up so the team could be advised of issues/changes they needed to be aware of. Lunch was provided each day with officials being relieved from their roles for twenty minutes before rolling back in so the next person could have a break. A big thank you to the official's team for the way they handled the rolling lunches – it worked well.

Melissa and Phil controlled the warm-up/cool down space and in general it worked well with no major issues. In most instances swimmers were very co-operative when the stroke in a lane was changed to accommodate upcoming events.

We did not get enough volunteers to fill all the Timekeeping positions and had to call for assistance from the swimmers. Thank you to all those who came down from the stands promptly when the call was put out for assistance – your help was greatly appreciated.

Marshalling ran smoothly for the entire event. Thank you to the small team in control for a great effort and the other Technical Officials who assisted as required (mainly for the 50m events and relays).

Pool set-up was handled by the SAALC staff each day with no issues arising. AOE timing operated reasonably well with only one pad change during events and a couple of button issues that were resolved by the pool staff.

Statistics for the meet were as follows:

Rule Infractions Recorded					
DQ Description	Event	Female	Male	Mixed	Total
Arms not brought forward over the water throughout the race	50 Fly		1		1
Did not do immediate continuous arm pull to initiate turn while past vertical	200 Back	1	1		2
Failed to break surface throughout race other than at start / turns	200 Back		1		1
Left position on back during swim	200 Back		1		1
Leg movements not simultaneous	50 Breast		1		1
Did not finish	200 IM	1			1
Did not touch on back at finish - backstroke leg	200 IM	1			1
Did not touch with both hands simultaneously at turn / finish	200 Breast		1		1
Performed illegal butterfly kick after the first breaststroke kick after the start or turn	200 Breast	1			1
Did not do immediate continuous arm pull to initiate turn while past vertical	100 Back		1		1
Feet lost touch with starting platform before incoming swimmer touched	200 Freestyle Relay		1		1
Movement of the legs not simultaneous	200 Fly		1		1
Started before starting signal	100 Free	1			1
Backstroke swimmers head did not break surface by 15m mark after start.	200 Medley Relay			1	1
Feet lost touch with starting platform before incoming swimmer touched	200 Medley Relay			1	1
Feet lost touch with starting platform before incoming swimmer touched	200 Freestyle Relay			1	1
Swam unlisted swimmers	200 Freestyle Relay			1	1
Did not finish	1500 Free OWS		1		1
Total		5	10	4	19

Timeline			
	<i>Hours Swum</i>	<i>Overtime</i>	
Pool Events Summary:			
Day 1	7hrs 25min	-25 minutes	(Note: Swim time includes 20min. for Opening Ceremony)
Day 2	4hrs 10min	-10 minutes	
Day 3	4hrs 28min	3 minutes	
Day 4	5hrs 39min	-11 minutes	
Open Water Swim Event Summary			
Day 5	1hr 54min	9 minutes	
Total Hours of the Program:	23hrs 56min		

Open Water Swim

Planning for the OWS started early with the booking of Event Strategies to provide the electronic timing and the Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club to provide water cover. This was followed up by getting local council approval for use of the beach, foreshore, public park and jetty along with approval from Marines & Harbours for an 'exclusion zone' for watercraft around the course for the duration of the event.

A MSSA OWS Event Management Plan and MSSA OWS Risk Analysis were completed and approved by the Organising Committee. The OWS Co-ordinators arranged for volunteers to assist with tasks on the day including; dropping off the MSSA equipment trailer, set-up the equipment on the beach, swimmer registrations, refreshments, collecting timing bands and pack-up. The small team of Technical Officials was put together by the Technical Director.

The Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club organised the water cover, supply of the buoys and course set-up and the attendance of the Rescue 1 helicopter at the event. There was a small problem for the surf club because Surf Lifesaving SA's Nipper State Titles were being held the same weekend so they had to get help from other clubs to assist on the day. The only issue that arose from this was they were a little short on numbers to set the course that resulted in the event starting 15 minutes late.

Electronic timing was provided by Event Strategies. Each swimmer is issued with two timing bracelets (one for each wrist) at registration. To finish their event they must swim under a floating gantry from which a timing mat is hanging and ensure they touch the timing mat with the bracelet on one of their wrists. The timing system had no issues and results were produced in a timely manner.

The actual events went well with swimmers enjoying the chance to swim an open water event in reasonably good conditions. One swimmer did not finish their event (decided it was too far after Lap 1) and one swimmer was just outside the time limit set for the 3km event but was allowed to finish.

Medal presentations were conducted in the Brighton Surf Club immediately following the event.

Social Functions

Welcome Function:

Venue was the SAALC Function Room overlooking the competition and diving pools. Entry was by ticket purchased for \$10 when registering –tickets could not be purchased after registrations closed. One free beverage was provided along with platters of finger food which was served by members of the Organising Committee.

MSSA Ambassador, Sally Hunter, was the special guest and provided a brief insight into her transition from Olympic Swimmer to mother to Masters Swimmer.

A good time was had by all that attended.

Presentation Dinner

Venue was the function room at The Stamford Grand Hotel at Glenelg, with access to the balcony overlooking the beach, jetty and Gulf St Vincent. A three course menu was provided with two choices of each course served alternately to guests and a cash bar.

Special guests were Matt Cowdry, MP and Sally Hunter, MSSA Ambassador both of whom helped with the presentation of awards.

The formal part of the evening was conducted following the serving of the main course and went smoothly.

Entertainment was provided by Jon Stevens Band throughout the evening.

An excellent venue, fine food and good music – a very enjoyable night.

Safety Management

Pool Events

SAALC staff and lifeguards were responsible for safety management at the pool events. The pools Event Supervisor briefed the Meet Director on pool procedures. The Meet Referee and Meet Director did daily checks of the pool area prior to warm-up to identify and obvious issues that may need addressing.

There was only one incident on Day 1 when a swimmer who had completed the 800m Freestyle was breathless on leaving the water. Lifeguards monitored her condition for a short period before declaring there was no issue. The swimmer swam her remaining events.

OWS Events

MSSA OWS Risk Analysis were completed and approved by the Organising Committee. A Safety Officer was appointed as per the OWS rules whose role was to monitor the event from the beach and be the point of contact the surf lifesavers if an incident arose. The surf lifesavers were responsible for all incidents in the water.

The Safety Officer and the Meet Referee briefed the lifesavers prior to the swim and got clarification on the surf lifesavers evacuation and emergency procedures. The water temperature was recorded as per the OWS rules.

The swimmers were briefed before being marshalled for their event, with evacuation procedures, what to do if they required assistance and the water temperature being covered.

One swimmer did not complete the 3km distance – not because of an issue but because they didn't want to swim another 1.5km after a long week. One swimmer went passed the published cut-off time for the 3km swim – their condition was monitored by water cover and were allowed to complete the swim.

Event Marketing/Advertising

Advertising

The usual avenues were used to advertise the event.

Flyers were produced and distributed at the 2018 National Championships in Perth, by various states at their local events and at all MSSA events for the year leading up to the event.

Details and information about the event were regularly posted on the MSSA and MSA websites and Facebook posts were done at regular intervals.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship was extremely hard to obtain. The committee spent a reasonable amount of time pursuing sponsorship but did not manage to obtain anything significant in value – a couple of small monetary sponsors and some "in-kind" donations.

Volunteer Management

Our volunteer's consisted of a small team from a local organisation, Volunteers Assist and a number of MSSA members who offered their time. A big thank you from the organising committee to this small group of people.

The Volunteer Assist team, led and organised by Sharon, helped man the registration and merchandise tables, did front of house at the Welcome Function and the Presentation Dinner and also helped with timekeeping. These are 'non-swimming' people but they willingly gave their time and did a magnificent job supporting our event. A special thank you to Sharon and her Team for all their hard work and assistance.

The small team of MSSA volunteers were led by Helen Bickers and helped man the registration and information tables, did front of house each day at the pool and also assisted with timekeeping.

GENERAL EVENT COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Until it is re-written the National Meet Guide should be ignored in the main. The current version is out of date and inaccurate and the MSSA organising committee barely referred to it other than for the deadlines that needed to be met and the trophy criteria.
- Remember the National Championships are just another swim meet so treat them as such. Keep it simple and ensure the basic organization is done well to ensure a successful meet.