

AGE GROUP REPORT

The Age Group division within Potomac Valley continues to be strong. Our 2 championship meets, Junior Olympics and Age Group Champs, have stabilized with regards to number of athletes and splash count. Annual fluctuations are fairly small. With both meets now being hosted at the University of Maryland, everyone in attendance has a great experience.

Our JO meet has been strong through the years, with our summer LC meet having a wider range of performance levels. As a result of LSC growth, the LC meet has also steadily grown the past several years. At this point both Championship meets are comparable in size and quality of meet. This bodes well for the LSC down the road as it suggests there is more LC participation and the quality of our LC swimming is steadily getting faster. There are plenty of options for LC competition this year, which has long been a concern raised by the coaching body. With more opportunities available our July Champs meets should see an even higher level of performance.

PVS created an 8 & Under Coordinator position at the end of summer 2013. This position will fall under the Age Group division, and will be charged primarily with enhancing the educational aspect of our youngest athletes and their parents. This position will also be charged with fostering a smoother transition from Mini to Age Group. Minis have long been largely run almost as a separate program within PVS. With 1600 athletes aged 8 and under they comprise about 15% of our total registration numbers.

Our Zone teams continue to produce great results for those in attendance. Where we repeatedly fall short is getting our 15 – 18 athletes to participate in force. While there are many reasons why swimmers don't apply, we need to find a way to greatly increase participation of this age group. According to registration numbers PVS has 2100 athletes aged 15 to 18, with an almost 50/50 balance of women to men. Not all of these athletes are attending Nationals, Juniors, Sectionals, or even Senior Champs. We should be able to get 10 – 15 women and 10 – 15 men to sign up and swim this meet. As one of the largest LSC's in the Eastern Zone, let's find a way to get kids excited about attending Zones again.

Manga Dalizu

Age Group Chair