

Coach's Representative HOD Report 2013-2014

The biggest issues for the coaches this year, as discussed at various Competition Meetings were the Championship Meets, PVS Open meet formats and Inter squad meets.

For the championship meets, there was some discussion about changing the Senior/Junior Champ meet and moving it to two separate meets again, and for the 14 and Under Championship Meet, there was discussion about moving to a two location system, where the different Age Groups swam at different locations, and then came together for the finals session. In general, the coaches that Steve and Emily spoke with, and the feelings of the competition committee, seem to feel that the Championship Meets, including the Senior and Junior Championships and 14 and Under Junior Olympic Championships were run very well, though some discussion is still being left open. One item left to be brought before the competition committee is the idea of taking team size into consideration when scoring the championship meets. There is a proposal that was brought forward but has yet to be discussed that involves scoring based on team size, so that there would still be an overall winner, but awards for Small, Medium, and Large team also be awarded. This has not been discussed yet or voted on.

The second issue that was of interest to the coaches is how to make the PVS Open meets more appealing to PVS clubs and also better staffed by volunteers. As it stands, many coaches feel that the Open meets are too crowded and time lines are getting out of control. Some of the ideas thrown around included changing which events were swum on Friday nights, as well as alternating which events were offered at specific meets, similar to how Long Course I and Long Course II are set up. It is the opinion of many coaches that being at some of the Open meets for 12-14 hours is asking too much of our coaches, officials, and other volunteers. While not all staff are at the meet for its entirety, many locations are having trouble fitting the meet within the 4 hour limit for 12 and Unders, and also finishing the meet within the time written into PVS's pool rental contracts. It is becoming increasingly difficult to staff the PVS Open meets, particularly with timers, due to the size and length of some of the sessions. Considering PVS is operating out of 4 different sites already, and some of those sites are operating two different pools, it is the belief of many coaches that some changes need to be made to make the PVS Open meets more manageable. No official changes have been voted on by the Competition committee, but the discussion is ongoing.

One idea brought up by the Board was to introduce the idea of bringing back sanctions for Inter Squad meets. This idea was brought before the Competition Committee, where it was approved of by the majority of PVS coaches, and was later voted on and passed by the Board. The idea behind bringing back sanctions for Inter Squad or Single Team meets came from PVS's need to reduce the size of its meets, while allowing swimmers the same opportunities to swim. While PVS offers more opportunities to swim some of the longer events, such as the 400 IM, 1000 and 1650 Free, the meets where these events are offered are continually swamped with swimmers, and suffer from the same lengthy time lines as the PVS open meets. By allowing teams to run their own Inter Squad meet, such as during a Saturday morning practice time, it gives swimmers more opportunities to swim without suffering through a 3-4 hour meet session, and it does not involve increasing PVS's pool usage or rentals. The main point of interest for the coaches was the monitoring and checking of times, to make sure no teams were submitting false times, but all Inter Squad meets, in order to receive a Sanction, must adhere to the same timing and officiating standards as a Dual or Tri Meet, which PVS already sanctions. It is the hope of the Competition Committee that by allowing Inter Squad meets, some pressure and time line issues made be taken off of other PVS and Club run meets.