

LONGER EVENTS FOR MINIS

At the January Competition meeting the question of running all 9 – 10 events as 19 and under to allow for Minis to swim longer distances. There were pros and cons presented on both sides of the topic. Following is data from 2008.

19 meets were 10 & Under, 14 were 9 – 10

The following table indicates the number of splashes in ‘non - traditional’ mini events.

	# of Yard swims in 2008		2008 JO Cuts		2008 LC Age Groups	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys		
100 Back	9	17	1	2	-	1
100 Breast	12	18	2	2	-	2
100 Fly	4	2	1	-	1	1
200 Free	6	14	2	1	-	-
200 IM	2	4	1	-	-	1
500 / 400Fr	2	-	1	-	-	-

At the Tom Doaln meet there were 4 swimmers with 17 splashes, of which 6 were non - traditional mini events. 1 of these swimmers was from out of town.

At LC Age Group champs there were 9 swimmers with 29 splashes, of which were 6 non - traditional mini events.

At 2008 JO’s there were 9 swimmers with 20 splashes, of which 6 were non – traditional mini events.

Manga’s opinion

- It’s important that the club / coach determine what their mini program is all about and how they can best achieve their goals and objectives.
- The PVS Open meets are always 9 – 10 and should remain that way.
- Maybe PVS adds 2 meets to their calendar that are 10 and under only. November and mid to late February.
- At our Qualifier there were 100 splashes from minis. That’s the largest number at one meet.
- If people are concerned that minis cannot swim these events then maybe we should fully accommodate them and add prelims / finals at Dolan and mini champs. Yes, I know. Absurd. That’s where we’re headed if we (clubs and coaches) can’t define our mini program and then present it to those parents who think there are no opportunities to swim longer races. The coach will find the meet if he / she feels their mini is READY and CAPABLE of completing longer events.
- We don’t offer mini meets during the LC season probably because the summer league structure has been adequate for decades and there’s no reason to mess with what works.

Coaches. Remember one thing. WE set the meet schedule, not our parents or swimmers. They pay US for our knowledge, experience and guidance.