

Senior Chair Report
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First some background. We have not had a Jr. Champ meet for almost 10 years. At that time USA Swimming still held a Jr National meet in the spring short course. There was no Sectional meet. At various times the Jr Champ meet had 13-14 year olds in greater numbers because they were excluded from Age Group Champs. Sr. Champs was the end of the season for many of our athletes, or a qualifying meet for JR and SR Nationals. With the start of Sectionals PVS altered the qualifying standards for Sr Champs and eliminated Jr Champs.

This year we made some informed guesses on standards based on data compiled by Jim Garner. I met with other coaches to get an idea of what the structure of the Championship season should look like. We now have an all inclusive series of meets which form stepping stones from one level to the next, beginning with the 18& under Championship through Sr Champs and then on to Sectionals.

Based on the comments made to me at Jr and Sr Champs there is a good deal of support for the new structure. Jr Champs was relatively small in size with sessions lasting under 2 hours. There was quite a bit of favorable response to the use of MLK as a host site (it was the site for many Jr Champ meets prior to its elimination from the calendar). I believe we will need to modify the time standards for this meet by easing the NFT cut. This should help alleviate the overcrowded 18 & under meet, it should be noted though 18& under grew exponentially in its 2nd year, therefore I feel alterations to standards will not be huge.

Sr Champs was also small. Due to its size we were able to downsize the use the GMU facility use resulting in a savings of PVS funds. A number of coaches commented that it was good to get back to a "real Sr Championship". Some factors no doubt played a role in the size of the meet. First, the NCSA Jr National meet starting on the Monday succeeding Sr Champs meant a number of athletes attending that meet did not attend Sr Champs (RMSC and CUBU each had 40+ athletes going to Orlando along with several other clubs total splashes were probably down at least 300 to 400 conservatively). While in Orlando I spoke with a couple of coaches from teams outside the LSC that typically attend our meet that did not attend because of proximity on the calendar to NCSA Jrs.

We were forced to cancel the Sunday AM preliminary at GMU due to a sewage backup. We concluded the meet at Claude Moore in a timed final session.

The most significant points regarding the 2 meets are:

1. They were both somewhat undersubscribed therefore we will need to take a look at time standards for both meets.
2. Conceptually both meets were well received.
3. By splitting out Sr Champs a Jr Champ meet was created that with the inception of 18 & Under Champs gives us a Championship meet for almost all athletes in the Potomac Valley.
4. By reducing the size of Sr Champs it is possible to explore other smaller less expensive venues than GMU.