

Proposal: To Change the 15-18 Age Group to 15-16 for the SC Zone Meet.

Submitted by: Bill Marlin Potomac Valley Age Group Chair.

Rational:

The Zone meet is supposed to be a developmental meet to prepare kids for National Level Competition. The 15-16 year old age group is the primary group we need to be focusing on to move on to the National level. Many 17-18 year olds are getting there and or are no longer interested in the Zone level competition.

Moving the 17-18 year old swimmer who is stuck at the Zone level out of the meet opens the door for our up and coming 15-16 year olds who are often times much more enthusiastic and excited about the Zone level meet. There may also be good 15-16 year olds that do not apply or even consider being on their LSC Zone Teams because they think they do not have a chance of making the team because of all the 17-18 year olds that are a head of them that usually do not attend the meet. So we are stuck with a mediocre 15-18 age group instead of a vibrant and exciting 15-16 age group.

A good 15 year old, in many cases, just can not compete against a 17 or 18 year old swimmer. Every age group is a two year spread except the 15-18 year olds and at what age do we loose many of our boys??? 14-16. USA Swimming has also recognized the age disparity and has moved to single age group top 10 reporting, removing 18 year olds from the process.

This proposal will not affect team size, budgets, or travel plans but it could add a lot more excitement and enthusiasm to the meet in the top age group. I feel this would be a breath of fresh air for our Zone meet.