

## AGE GROUP REPORT 2010 / 2011

### Championship meets

The season opened with a concern of how to better manage our 4 LSC Championship meets while still offering a quality program for all. There were many ideas and thoughts shared at the Fall competition meeting. After quite a bit of discussion and format juggling, we generated what was a workable solution. From feedback on the deck it seemed most were satisfied with our Championship season. There were time adjustments made to 59 events for JO's yet we ended up with a meet roughly the same size as 2010. According to the Meet Director, however, there seemed to be fewer one event swimmers. Though the size was comparable to 2010, the overall meet was faster and timelines worked out well. The size of 18 and Under Champs shrunk a little while junior Champs increased a little.

There have been suggestions on how to further improve our JO meet along with our overall Age Group program. To the process of determining qualifying times, it has been suggested that maybe we take the 32<sup>nd</sup> (or 40<sup>th</sup>) place from each event and that becomes the standard for the following year. Or an average of the previous 2 / 3 JO meets.

**Pros** – At the completion of the event everyone would know exactly what the QT was for the following year. With approximately 32 splashes per event the overall meet size would be roughly 25 - 30% smaller. Some events could be reduced by more than 50%.

**Cons** – The potential for large swings in cuts is possible. If the meet size is reduced by 25 – 30% do we run the potential of turning off swimmers because the bar is substantially higher than previous years? With a smaller entry size will the meet be financially viable? And if not, does this result in still higher entry fees?

See attached document showing the 32<sup>nd</sup> time for the past three years.

### LC Age Group Champs

For LC Age Group champs the goal was to release qualifying times prior to the first long course meet. This was done. There are adjustments in 37 events, 34 faster and 3 slower.

### Age Group Coach of the Year

A new application form and process has been developed and will be voted on at the May Competition meeting. The key points are that a coaches' nomination will no longer be submitted with his / her club affiliation. We should be making our selection based on their merits as a coach. The process is also aimed at having nominees who have been in their current positions for the prior 24 months and are only referencing those athletes who have also been with their current club for the past 24 months.

### Goals and Objectives

Over the next several months I would like to establish a set of objectives for the Age Group program within PVS. Hopefully this will give us all a clear purpose and direction of what we (PVS) want our age group to stand for. For example we spend an insane amount of time discussing Zones each year. If we decide that PVS participation in Zone competition is important then we can save several hours on this topic.

### Integration of Open meets

Though still in the brainstorming phase, I would like to find a way to enhance our age group program by placing some importance on our Open meets and possibly giving them some significance in the overall short course season. For example, a swimmer that achieves a certain power point (IMX score) score in an event could qualify for JO's. It's likely that most swimmers would already have achieved the QT but a swimmer who might have just missed the cut might have the IMX score to enter that event at JO's

I'm open to any ideas that coaches have to improve the overall quality of age group swimming in our LSC.

Manga Dalizu  
Age Group Chair