

EASTERN ZONE 2007 AGE GROUP CHAMPS QUALIFYING TIMES

The Zone when we met in Richmond in May voted several changes in how we conduct our meets -- including setting qualifying times for the first time for Short Course Zone Age Group meet. The relevant portion of the minutes follows:

- *"There will be qualifying times set for all age groups, allowing the LSC to potentially bring more than 2 swimmers per event. Additional swimmers can be added provided they all achieve the qualifying time. Qualifying times will be based on the faster of the 8th place in prelims or last place in finals of the previous year for 10 & under, 11/12,13/14. Qualifying times for 15/18 will be based on an analysis of how above QT's for other age groups compare to T16 Reportable times. Current rule allowing each LSC to enter 2 swimmers in each individual event regardless of entry time remains. NFT rule and national meet participation rules remain in effect."*

Those of you who were at the meeting will probably recall that an important consideration in approving this motion was that it was not expected to add more than one heat to each event and, therefore, it would not have an unacceptable impact on session length. Some LSC's have now reviewed these times to see how many of their athletes might qualify for the meet and shared their information with me. It appears that if all athletes who could do so (after accounting for those that are too fast) were to attend the meet, we could well have to add several heats rather than just one to each event. This is particularly true for the older age groups -- 13-14 and 15-18. In light of this, and after consultations with the Zone Directors, **we have decided it would be prudent to no longer announce that the Zone will definitely be doing this** until we have further opportunity to discuss the matter in Dearborn in September. Since the qualifying period was not going to begin until September 1, 2006 -- no athletes at this point would have definitely made a QT for this meet.