

## Age Group Committee Agenda – Email Meeting, June, 2005

Members participating: James Wolfle, Karen Conrad, David Schreck, Mark Bennett

1. With the state-wide AA+ meets being on the agenda this year, should we encourage attendance of teams/swimmers by recognizing and giving awards for these meets?

If we do awards, how should they be given? Should we score all the meets (to 8, to 16?) and the high point in each age group gets an award? Should only swimmers attending all five (Oct (TYPH), Nov (ODAC), Dec (SEVA/HA), Jan (WAC), Feb(PSDN)) meets be eligible? Should we give out a team award as well with the same criteria?

If we do give awards, what should that award be? Anything we do will be listed in the program for Age Group Champs.

### Age Group Recommendations:

Depending on approval to purchase awards from VSI we will offer high point awards at our December meets. We'll look at possibly doing team awards in 2006-07.

We'll score each event at the four other statewide AA meets, keep cumulative scores, and in the heat sheet at age group champs will list the top three high point winners from the meets throughout the year. Hopefully this will create excitement and attendance at our premier Age Group events throughout the year.

2. Does the current meet format (B/C, A/BB, AA+) meet the progression needs of all our swimmers? Are we promoting the best possible meet formats for each of the different levels of athletes in the state. Is there a better way to structure meets for each level (i.e. would one day meets serve the B/C swimmers better, or is there a better structure to help the progression of swimmers?

As part of this, we have a very structured organization of meets in the short course season, then just about all of our meets in the summer are A/BB/B/C meets. Do we want to look at setting a different structure for the summer meets. Now, most of the summer meets are huge with timelines over the four hour limit, and teams have been shut out of the meets.

We feel that something needs to be done in the summer, but we really didn't have enough discussion to find a solution. This will be addressed in a later meeting.

3. Now that we have gone to Districts instead of areas (the breakup of teams will be the same as it is currently), naming the championship meets has become easier. They will be District Championships (formerly B/C Champs), Regional Championships (formerly A/BB Champs and summer awards) and Age Group and Senior Championships. Does this make sense and is it what we wish to do?

The winter championship meets will be labeled: District Championships, Regional Championships and Age Group Championships. The summer championship meets will be labeled Regional Championships and Age Group Championships.

4. To create the qualifying times for Age Group Champs we aim for 40 swimmers per event, but go no lower than A times. Many events (10 and younger, 11-12 boys namely) have fewer than 40 swimmers in the event. USA Swimming has consistently maintained that the time standards were never meant to be meet qualification standards. Do we want to change how we create these times and look at having 40 swimmers even if the qualifying times are slower than A?

We will continue with the policy of having the lowest qualifying time for Age Group Championships being the USA Motivational A time.

5. Currently, our thinking with 8 and younger swimmers is that this age group is a developmental age group. This philosophy also matches what USA Swimming believes. As such, we do not have a championship meet for this age beyond District Champs. We also do not offer events higher than 100 for 8 and younger at this meet. If coaches desire to put 8 and younger swimmers in the Regional Champs they may, however the longer events are not offered for 8 and younger at the District meet. Should we offer these events to 8 and younger (make the 9-10 100 and 200 events 10 and younger), or should we continue at this meet to have 8 and younger events, and 9-10 events. Also, the 200 free has been a 10 and younger event, should we change this to a 9-10 event for consistency?

**Age Group Recommendations:**

At District Championships, we will offer the 100s and 200s as 10 and younger events, to allow coaches the ability to enter their 8 and younger swimmers in these events to get times for the 9-10 age group. We will offer the usual 8 and younger events as we have this year. However, the 10 and younger 100 and 200 events will not be split for awards, they will continue to be awarded as 10 and younger.

6. Currently, the fastest heat of relays at Age Group Champs swim during the finals session, however all heats of relays at Regional Champs swim in the preliminary session. Should we change this? We could do any of the following:
  - a. Make no changes
  - b. Change Regional Champs to match Age Group Champs
  - c. Put all relays during prelims at Age Group Champs
  - d. Put all relays during finals on ALL days at both meets

**Age Group Recommendation:**

We will go with choice b. All relays at Age Group Championships and Regional Championships will have their fastest heat of relays swim during the finals session, with the exception of Sunday's relays which will all swim in the preliminary session.

7. In the invitation for Regional champs there is a provision for the proving of times for relays. Because all relays are swum during prelims this is not a particular issue. Do we want to change this in the invitation to not require teams to prove their entry times. Does this change based on what we do in agenda item #6?

**Age Group Recommendation:**

We will require prove of times for relays for Regional and Age Group Championships. The 200 Medley relay for 13-14 swimmers (and 15-18 swimmers for Regional Championships) will be entered, and proved, using the 400 medley relay times.

8. At all meets there are times where swimmers check-in for events, then don't swim the event. Many times this leads to empty lanes at finals, or at other distance events in other heats. Is this an issue that we want to address? North Carolina addresses it by removing the swimmer from their next event. There has also been informal discussions about fining the swimmer. The opinion on this item would be brought to the board as a group, for that is the body that would have to finally create and vote on a rule.

**Age Group Recommendation:**

The age group committee is in favor of creating a policy to penalize swimmers for failing to swim in an event that they have positively checked in for. We feel that an appropriate penalty is barring the swimmer from competing in their next individual event.