

AGE GROUP REPORT – JULY

In looking back over the LC season most meets were heavily subscribed, with our 12 and under contingent very well attended. The recently concluded Age Group / Senior meets (both I and II) were fully subscribed and rather large.

Our LC Age Group Champs is slightly larger than last year (by about 50 – 60 splashes). We returned to our 2 session format of earlier years. With a combined 11 – 14 session, the morning prelims timed out about 6 hours, 5.5 and 5. On Thursday it should be noted that the last 2 hours or so was made up of relays and 10 heats of 800 Free.

Some initial feedback regarding the meet was that the prelim sessions for 11 – 14's were long. It was pointed out that the JO committee from a few years ago had several things they were looking at

1. Format and how to return to the 2 session prelims
2. Facility
3. Cuts that controlled the meet and kept it a manageable size without cutting out too many athletes
4. Finishing Finals at a reasonable time to allow for adequate sleep
5. Starting at a decent time in the morning

Beginning with JO's this past Spring we met all the above objectives and have done so again this Summer. Warm Ups began at 6:40 vs. 6:00 am the past few years. Finals started at 6:30 vs. 7:00 pm the past few years. This is a net gain of 1 hour 10 minutes. There was some down time between the 10 and under sessions and Finals as well.

The meet ran very well overall, even though there were some timing glitches. Hospitality on Thursday was very sparse and the Officials definitely felt put out, particularly after having been on deck for 5+ hours.

There will likely be some discussion at the Fall CCM but where we need to go is somewhere outside the box. That might mean running dual sites for prelims, then coming together for Finals. Maybe it's splitting the meet into two weekends, with a North and South format

swimming on one weekend then the Top 16 swimming Finals the following weekend. We are simply running out of space to continue to run things the same way.

With our AG / SR meets, we also have to look at something different. Right now, getting a few hours on Saturday seems to be the most ideal. In this scenario we won't need another facility, we won't need another set of equipment, and we won't need a third set of Officials. By adding a Saturday session we could have a 3:00 pm WU, 4:00 pm start, with 2 events brought over from the 13 and over and 11 – 12 sessions. The 10 and Under sessions were reasonable in session length so there's no legitimate reason to adjust anything. We could also run two 25 minute WU sessions on Saturday to account for the large swimmer count.

As an association I feel we've become a little too accustomed to pointing out all the flaws that exist but repeatedly shoot down new ideas and suggestions because we "don't know if those ideas will work".

Entry counts the past four years have been 1218, 1535, 1587, 2028 (last year) and this year the Fairland site was at 2400 splashes before the NCAP entries were moved. Time for something fresh. We might be at the point where 'NT' entries are no longer permissible.

Manga Dalizu