

Potomac Valley Swimming Coaches Representative Report

April 2010

The following has been compiled over the past 2 months from discussions with various PVS coaches.

Air Quality at Fairland - The air quality at Fairland during Junior Olympics was very difficult on the athletes and coaches, as well as the officials and meet administrators. It is my opinion, as well as the opinion of other that we owe it to our athletes to provide them with better racing conditions.

Faster Junior Olympic time standards – Due to the size of this year’s competition, PVS needs to tighten the JO time standards. Coaches have proposed keeping the events to approximately 5 preliminary heats. Everyone seemed to enjoy having 3 preliminary sessions. Having said that, a meet smaller in size would mean a later start time for the 13 & over session.

Open up Junior Champs time standards - Coaches would like for PVS to consider opening up the time standards to include more swimmers. This competition is a great opportunity for swimmers to experience a prelims / finals format and we would like to see it be more inclusive.

Senior & Junior Champs combination - Coaches have proposed the idea of combining Senior and Junior Champs at one site / weekend.

- The competitions would need to be held in a 50m facility with warm up / warm down capacities
- Condensing the meets to one weekend would mean one less meet for coaches and officials to attend in an already busy month.
- Athletes would be allowed to compete in both competitions, therefore preliminary and finals’ session would need to be run simultaneously
- Theoretically, this would allow coaches who work with groups of 13 & over athletes to prepare their groups for one weekend of racing

C-B-A Heats - Coaches would like for PVS to consider returning to the C-B-A finals’ heats format. The current set-up at A-B-C is often times disruptive to the athletes. An example of this is when backstrokers are in the water only to be held for a few minutes in order to fill an empty lane from someone in the following heat.

PVS Senior Coach of the Year – In the spirit of our age group coach award, PVS should recognize a senior coach of the year. This award should be based on an objective criterion i.e. “The coach whose athlete is ranked highest in the world.” Awardees would then receive an educational grant from PVS.

Yuri Sugiyama