

One response to Junior Olympic and Senior Champ proposal.

Junior Olympics

Topic 1 - Too many swimmers at JOs / Too short between events split with single ages & genders
addressed by Proposal #1
and Proposal #3

Discussion?

- adjust time standards.

First, I think analysis needs to be done on session lengths based on 4 heats, 5 heats, 6 heats, and 7 heats of every event. Plan on one course. I did not think prelims with limited warm-up availability was a desirable condition for the most important PVS Age Group Meet of the season.

Next, consider the nature and flexibility of the site. For instance, the Michigan Open was run with 12 lanes for prelims, 8 lanes for finals. Can Fairland be set up like that? Can George Mason be set up like that? Can any site in Potomac Valley be set up like that? Think what that would do to those numbers. 4 heats would allow 48 swimmers into prelims, 5 would allow 60, 6 would allow 72, etc. etc. etc.

Even with 10 lanes, 4 heats would allow 40, 50 with 5, 60 with 6, and so on.

Once you determine the number of lanes available for prelims, and the desirable number of heats based on a projected time line, then the Time Standards become a given.

What would have happened this year if 12 lanes of competition had been run for prelims? How many heats of girls would it have saved? How many heats of boys? How much time would have been saved without the 5 minute breaks, which would not have been needed with all the competition in one pool? Would the timeline have been manageable enough that the 11-12 swimmers could have been added into the 13-14s? or the 10 and unders added into the 11-12s? or the 10 and under boys with 11-12s, and the 10 and under girls with the 11-12 boys, or vice versa?

- remove LC standards, this is the end of our short course season, swimmers had plenty of opportunities to qualify

- limit of 2 relays per club
- no relay-only swimmers? Relay swimmers must be entered in an individual event?

Topic 2 - Finals too long and runs too late / Prelims too early

Discussion?

- run a faster meet?

Reduce time for introductions?

Start introductions for final heat while consolation heat is swimming?

Finals followed by Consolations would allow dive-over for consolation heat?

Start finals a little earlier?

Timed finals for all relays in morning sessions only? Seeding of top-8 relays for finals sometimes can be somewhat inaccurate anyway, since

entry times might not reflect actual swimmers. Or some relays get scratched into the top 8. Wider prelim pool could also reduce the number of heats.

Topic 3 - 10 & unders reaching the top age group meet / Zones does not have finals for 10 & unders addressed by Proposal #2 and Alternate Proposal #2

Discussion?

- keep them in, with finals.

If they are trying to qualify for Zones, they deserve a chance to swim finals.

Just because Zones does not have finals for 10 & unders doesn't necessarily make it right.

Are we sure we aren't short-changing the 10 and unders at the expense of the other age groups, just so finals don't run too long? In the case of the Tom Dolan Invitational, are we sure we aren't short-changing Consolation Finals for the 11-12 year olds just so finals don't run too

long? If a meet is geared for Senior swimming, then I would agree, 'allowing' 11-12s to swim finals, but restricting them to just one heat,

and not having finals for 10 and unders is the right decision. But PVS Age Group Champs is an Age Group meet. PVS is running it for the 10 and unders, just as much as for the 13-14s. So the 10 and unders should have the same opportunity. Why would the discussion be gravitating towards no finals for the 10 and unders, instead of Consolations and Finals?

- toughen up 10 and under standards (ESPECIALLY the 500 free)
- eliminate 13-14 age group from PVS Junior Olympics

I am playing devil's advocate here, but if there is some discussion of not including 10 and unders, why not eliminate 13-14s instead, and keep the 10 and unders? Remember, the 13-14 Age Group was added to the PVS JOs about 10 years ago; prior to that, they just swam Junior and/or Senior Championships.

Topic 4 - Non-standard number of events (6)
Addressed by Proposal #6

Discussion?

- keep it as it is.

If the Zones limit is 6, PVS JOs should be 6. Currently, swimmers know that if they finish in the top 3, they have a very good chance of making Zones. Not absolutely, but in 9 times out of 10, they are correct. With a 7th event, they will have to wait until the middle of the following week to find out what 7th event another swimmer scratched out of, and if that was their event?

A 6-event limit also allows more swimmers to swim.

Senior Champs

Proposal #1 - Topic 3 - Senior & Junior SC Championships (including summer LC Senior Champs 2011)

Discussion?

- this worked reasonably well for Short Course this year, with Junior Champs in one pool, and Senior Champs in the other.

Problems:

Not enough warm-up space for the combined number of swimmers

- during regular warm-ups before prelims
- during the meet (recreational pool at GMU is inadequate)

Finals ran a little too long.

For fairness to swimmers in both Junior and Senior Champs events, each course must synchronize the start of each event.

That is, Junior

and Senior Champs men's 100 fly must start at the same time, so that the timelines coincide, so that swimmers do not have two 'simultaneous' events

- are we sure we are not doing this just to 'maximize' pool usage, and increase revenue; that is, shouldn't Junior Champs be on another weekend?

- impossible to do for long course; two side-by-side long course pools just do not exist; adding Junior Champs finals into Senior Champs finals will make finals too long; not enough warm-up space.

Proposal #3 - Empty lanes in pyramid-seeded heats

Discussion?

- Sorry, but this is not a USA Swimming Championship. PVS Senior Champs is a very important meet, but it's importance has also been diminished over the years. Otherwise, if all teams and swimmers viewed it as important, this problem would not occur. Some of the best swimmers aren't entered because they are going to the NCSA meet, some of the best aren't entered because they are burned out after the high school season, etc., etc. There are no requirements any more that swimmers need to swim their National-level qualified events at this meet to receive PVS travel reimbursement. Sad, but true.