

## **PVS Age Group Chair Report**

### **Erik Collins**

The 2023-24 swim year has been the closest to "pre-pandemic" since 2018-19: meets are full, total registration numbers within the LSC are at all-time highs, and everybody is looking forward to a full four year "quad" next Fall.

The second half of the 2024 SCY season was particularly busy for the AG Chair, highlighted by two Task Forces here in PVS: one to look at the PVS Open Meets and one to look at the Outstanding Athlete nominating criteria. I want to thank Terri Marlin and Aaron Dean for their help with both, as they were instrumental in helping to set up those meetings. Aaron (as Sr. Chair) had several key ideas- in particular with the Outstanding Athlete Task Force- which he included in his report.

After four meetings, the **PVS Open Meets Task Force** wound up recommending two key changes to the LSC: an increase to the "meet management fees" paid out to the meet host in an attempt to attract more clubs to step up and host those meets; and moving the 500 Free from the January Open to the January Distance Meet in an attempt to scale back the timeline at the January Open. As Cherlynn noted in her General Chair Report, the PVS BoD voted to approve the increases to Meet Management Fees paid out to host clubs, and those changes are reflected in the *PVS Policies & Procedures* (p26). The per splash fees paid out to PVS Open Meet hosts now stands at \$2.25 per entry for PVS Open Meets; PVS Distance Meet hosts will now get \$2.50 per entry or \$400 per session (whichever is greater); PVS Championship Meet hosts now get \$2.75 per entry; and PVS Long Course non-championship meet hosts will get \$2:50 per entry. It's important to note that the entry fees for these PVS meets remain unchanged.

The idea to move the 500 Free out of the January Open and into the January Distance Meet was voted down by PVS coaches at the Spring Competition Committee Meeting.

Looking ahead to the PVS LCM Championship Meets, the 12&U Championships were moved from Claude Moore to UMD (July 18-21) so those athletes have access to continuous warmup/warmdown throughout the meet. The PVS Open Championship Meet is July 11-14 (also at UMD), while the 13&O Championships will be July 18-21 down at the Jeff Rouse Pool in Stafford. Thanks to Tom Ugast (Operations Chair) for his help in moving the 12&U Meet out of Claude Moore.

For the 2024 PVS LC Zone Team, our Head Coach (Stephen Clendenin/NCAP) and Team Manager (Gabi Trainor/UN) are in place and have been collaborating on apparel and logistics. There a total of nine coaches who have expressed an interest in serving as assistant coaches for this year's meet; they will be voted on (electronically) this week so they can start working together prior to the start of the meet. This year's EZ Age Group LCM Championship meet will be help August 7-10 down at the Aquaplex in Hampton, VA. The meet will be "self-travel" this year, as opposed to an official PVS team-travel trip. A special

thanks goes out to Cherlynn Venit (our General Chair) for her help in setting up CR codes for assistant coach info forms; and to Ellen Colket (our Finance Chair) for her help in planning the budget for the PVS Zone Team.

Outside of PVS, USA Swimming has been running a series of zooms aimed at coach education, networking and leadership. There have been on average about two per month and have covered topics such as tapering, frequency of racing, meet formats for age group meets and entry level "foundation" meets, as well as a review of all the information available in the new SWMS 3.0 database. In particular, the "*Age Group Deep Dive*" series of zooms run by Dana Skelton and Bernie Dickman (both with USA Swimming out in Colorado Springs) has been specifically for the Age Group Chairperson in each LSC, and they've been among the most informative & beneficial zooms I've been a part of. The chance to "talk shop" and compare notes with other Age Group Chairs from across the country has been time well spent, and I highly encourage the next PVS Age Group Chair to make time to sit in on those zooms.

Thanks to everybody within PVS who has helped me along during my time on the Board, especially Terri Marlin, Aaron Dean, Evan Stiles, Tim Husson, Kelly Rowell, Paris Jacobs & Greg York. I've enjoyed working with everybody and am available to the next AG Chair should they have any questions.