

## **TYPES OF COMPETITIONS**

*General Note:* This sectional is an overview of competitive opportunities that will be offered to your swimmer(s). Please keep in mind, however, that while the coaching staff strongly recommends regular competition as a way for swimmers to develop and stay motivated, participation in meets is optional.

### **Intra-squad Meet**

Our club holds an intra-squad meet approximately four weeks into the winter season. The intra-squad meet for the 2003-04 winter season will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2003. The meet is limited to club members and is a way to acquaint new swimmers with meet procedures and to “warm-up” more experienced swimmers for the upcoming season. Team photos and a pizza/pool party are usually combined with the meet. There are no fees for participation in the intra-squad meet (there is a charge for photos and the pizza party).

### **Dual Meets**

Our club tries to schedule a couple of dual meets during the season. The meets are arranged with another local team and last approximately three hours (e.g., from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.). Dual meets are a great way for new swimmers to get competitive experience in a less intimidating setting than an invitational meet.

### **Invitational Meets**

These large meets usually are attended by 10 to 15 teams. Our club usually schedules eight to ten invitational meets, most of which are held by local clubs (e.g., Duneland Swim Club in Chesterton, Lake Central Swim Club in St. John’s, and HUB Swim Club in Crown Point). Several meets, however, are out of town and require overnight stays at hotels (e.g., Irish Aquatics Invite in South Bend, Sugar Creek Invite in Crawfordsville, and Washington Township Invite in Indianapolis).

The typical invitational meet is held over the weekend in five “sessions”. Each session is approximately four to five hours long, and occur in the following sequence. On Friday evening from approximately 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., there is a session consisting of longer events for the more experienced swimmers (200 and 400 freestyles, 200 and 400 individual medley). On both Saturday and Sunday there are morning sessions from approximately 7 am to 12 p.m., and afternoon sessions from approximately 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Each age group will be assigned to one session (either morning or afternoon) per day. While younger swimmers are usually scheduled in the morning, each meet will have

its own format. For example, one meet might combine the 8 & Under and 9-10 age groups in the morning and the 11-12 and 13-14 age groups in the afternoon, while another meet combines the 8 & Under and 13-14 age groups in the morning and the 9-10 and 11-12 age groups in the afternoon.

There are some exceptions to the above schedule, most notably at special “Prelim-Final” meets such as the Lake Central Prelim Final meet in February. At these meets, all age groups swim in morning “preliminary” sessions, and the top swimmers (usually 12 -16) come back to swim in the finals each night. It should also be noted that these Prelim-Final meets are organized similar to the state championship meets, with the youngest age group being 10 & Under.

*Please note: Swimmers are not obligated to swim all sessions at an invitational meet, and may sign up only to swim at one session if they so choose.*

More information on preparing for an invitational meet is contained the “Invitational Meet Survival Guide” section.

### **Meets Hosted By the Munster Swim Club**

Our Club hosts three invitational meets each year.

During the winter season we host the three-day **Munster Swim Your Own Age (S.Y.O.A.) Invitational** in November (the 2003-04 meet will be held November 7-9, 2003), and the one-day **Munster 8 & Under Spectacular** in February (the 2003-04 meet will be held February 22, 2004).

During the summer season we host the two-day **Munster Spring Splash** in May, typically on the Friday and Saturday of Mother’s Day weekend (*Sunday* is left open!).

### **Time Trials**

Time trials are held to give swimmers the opportunity to make time cuts, usually for purposes of qualifying for either the Divisional Championship (“Semi-State”) or Age Group State (“A” State) Meet. There usually are no advanced sign-ups, swimmers sign-up at the beginning of the time trial in the events they want to swim. There is no cost to Munster swimmers at time trials hosted by our club, all other swimmers pay \$3.00 per swim.

### **Developmental Dual Meets with Lake Central Barracudas.**

These are special dual meets held in mid-February (winter season) and mid-July (summer season) between the Munster Swim Club and the Lake Central Barracudas. The 2003-04

meet will be held at Lake Central on February 17, 2004. The meets are limited to swimmers who have not yet qualified for either the Divisional or Age Group State Championship Meet in any individual event. The meets are an opportunity for new swimmers to compete against each other, and signify the end of the season for swimmers 9 years and older who are not competing at the state level meets (8 & under swimmers can complete in the 8 & Under Spectacular).

### **Divisional Championship Meet and Age Group State Championship Meets**

These state level championship meets come at the end of each season, and swimmers must achieve certain time standards in order to qualify.

**The Divisional Championship Meet** is held once a year (at the end of the winter season in March) at four different sites around the state. Our club is in the Northwest Division, and for the 2003-04 season we will be competing at the Divisional Championship Meet to be held at Crown Point High School on March 5-7, 2004. The time requirements for this the meet are discussed in the “Time Standards” section.

**The Age Group State Championship Meets** are held twice yearly for swimmers aged 14 and under, and are held at the IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis, site of many world-class meets such as the 2000 Olympic Trials and the 2003 National Championships. The winter (“short course”) championship is held in mid-March and the summer (“long course”) championship is held at the end of July. The 2003-04 short course championship meet will be held March 19-21, 2004. The time requirements for these the meet also are discussed in the “Time Standards” section.