

Byron Jia – Candidate for Junior Athlete Representative

Dear House of Delegates,

My name is Byron Jia and I'm running for the position of Junior Athlete Representative. I am on the Edina Gators swim team and am a sophomore at Breck School. I have been involved with MN swimming for about two years and am currently involved with the athlete committee, tech planning committee, and safe sport committee.

Through and outside of Breck, I'm involved with various activities, clubs and community services. I play the cello of my school's orchestra. Weekly, I teach swim lessons to lower school students and volunteer at the Harbor Light Salvation Army. Over the weekends, I volunteer at the University of Minnesota hospital. I co-founded an aerial cinematography club and one of our projects were to create a video for our school's website. Being an Asian American myself, I'm involved with a club that discusses racial discrimination and issues toward my race.

I've been involved with swimming for almost my entire life, and most of my best experiences in life have been related to it. Over the many years, I've gained much experience from a variety of different meets including State, Zones, and Speedo Sectionals. Ever since I joined the athlete committee later in 8th grade, I've been learning more and more about how MN Swimming works. The more I learn, the more interested and passionate I am about contributing and helping MN Swimming. In the fall, I received a great opportunity to attend the USAS Convention in Dallas, Texas. I learned so much about LSCs and how the swimming governance system works. One of my biggest takeaways from the convention was that the LSC MN Swimming set up had to be one of the best out there. There were some LSCs that didn't have sufficient members, involvement, and influence. When I look back to our LSC, I am more than grateful to be a part of this amazing governance system.

I simply want to improve MN Swimming. I love helping and making changes for the better. As an inherently curious and talkative person, I am so interested on discussing with people their complaints, concerns, and likes about swimming. I always find swim meets, especially the bigger ones, to be a place to connect and talk to friends and other swimmers. It is in moments like these where I hear a huge variety of comments and concerns about swimming, and I think that they are so important. My love for communicating and discussing swimming with people from all over MN and other states can help me acknowledge more opinions, viewpoints, and ideas. The culture of MN swimming is a very prestigious and I would work strongly to not only preserve it, but to also improve.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Byron Jia