

Illini District Coaches and Contacts,

Welcome to the 2022 Illini District Championships! The YMCA of Springfield is happy to host all District competitors over the course of the weekend. As it has been almost exactly 2 years since our last District Meet, please read over this information regarding reminders about the Championships and how things will run over the course of the weekend. Thank you to Darren Moser of the Clinton YMCA for serving as our Meet Referee for the competitions this weekend.

Illinois Indoor Mask Mandate

Yes, we are still under the Illinois Indoor Mask Mandate until February 28th. The YMCA still have the Face Mask Policy in place for this meet, and we encourage all people in the facility to wear an appropriate facial covering when they are not competing in the meet or eating/drinking. We have hooks provided behind the blocks for athletes to place their mask prior to their races.

Awards and 10 and Under Sessions

We have a total of 39 Trophies to hand out of the course of the weekend. The trophies will be given out at the conclusion of the Sunday sessions. There are 1st through 3rd place trophies for each age group (8U,10U,12U,14U,21U) and Gender. That is 30 Trophies. We have 1st through 3rd place overall for both Genders, 6 more trophies. Then combined team trophies for 1st through 3rd. We will announce and give out the 8U and 10U Trophies at the completion of the AM session on Sunday. Then the remainder of trophies after the afternoon session on Sunday.

For the 10 and under sessions (look at the timeline on the District Dashboard) there are breaks for awards. We will give out the 1st through 8th place medals and athletes will have an opportunity to get on the podium if they place top 8. We will announce and recognize those athletes. Our podium situation will be a little different than 2 years ago. We will place the podium by the entrance to the pool by lane 1. This will be between the pool and entrance to the recreation pool. This way people parents can get pictures of their athletes on the podium more easily, though we do ask that people stand back so everyone can have a chance to see the athletes and get their pictures. It will take a little getting used to (remember the oldest athletes in this session haven't had a District meet since they were 8 years old) but hopefully this runs smoothly. Regardless, we do have time built in between the sessions if things run a little long.

T-Shirt Vendor

Fine Designs is our T-shirt vendor for the meet. They will be at the facility setting up on Friday and may begin selling that night as well. They will be here throughout the entire weekend. They will be set up in the South end of the Gym (by the closets). There is no other vendor for this meet, so any suit/goggle needs should be addressed prior to the meet.

Spirit Award

There will be a vote, 1 vote per participating association, for the Spirit Award for the District Meet. As in the past associations may bring posters or decorate their team area appropriately. The YMCA of Springfield asks that only blue painters' tape (or similar product) be used on any walls in the gymnasium. We will provide tape should you not have any. The association has spruced up the building since our last District meeting with painting finished in early January, so we'd like to go another 10 years before needing to touch things up again.

Senior Recognition

At the conclusion of Warmups on Sunday Afternoon we will host a Senior Recognition ceremony on the pool deck for Senior athletes competing. There is a recognition form that is posted on the District Dashboard and has been share with coaches. Coaches (or athletes) should return those forms to Alex Totura (District Chair and Head Coach of SPY) so we have them all together. Historically we go in alphabetical order by association and group all athletes of the same team together. After Senior Recognition, the meet will begin.

Other Facility Reminders

- Coaches and Officials Hospitality will be available in the Child Watch Room at the far end of the fitness floor.
- The Fitness Floor will be in use by Springfield YMCA members, so we ask that all athletes and spectators stray away from that area.
- The Gym Will be the crash area for the meet. We will have announcements and livestream in the gym. There will be areas marked for teams and team names on the walls prior to your arrival.
- The recreation pool will be available for warm up and cool down throughout the sessions. I strongly discourage 8U/10U athletes from using the recreation pool during their sessions. Those session will run quick and athletes in that pool may be unaware of announcements for their events.
- We will run a bullpen for 8U Athletes. That bullpen will take place on the Recreation Pool deck. Bullpen people may assist 10U athletes as well. The goal is that all swimmers get to their races. See point about recreation pool above.
- We want everyone to be able to watch their athletes, so please be respectful in the stands. The areas behind the blocks on both ends and underneath the scoreboard are for athletes, officials, coaches, and workers. During the afternoon sessions there will be 4 additional bleachers in the recreation pool for viewing. We need to minimize athletes in the stands to make room for spectators.

We hope everyone enjoys their weekend and has lots of fast swims and a good time.

Alex Totura

SPY Typhoons, Illini District Chair