

2018 All-Stars

2018 All-Stars is officially done and while Team Iowa was hugely successful, with a second place overall finish, high point awards and a whole lot of personal bests.

While the meet went off without a hitch, I believe quite a bit can be done to make the behind the scenes go more smoothly.

Registration:

This year we moved away from the online form used the previous year and opted to use TeamUnify to build Team Iowa. We opened registration to all swimmers and for the most part had success using the system. While we provided instructions and registration was pretty self explanatory, next year I'd like to provide more detailed instructions (step-by-step) to ensure families are registered completely. I think this will be helpful for families not familiar with using TeamUnify. Using TeamUnify made communicating with families easy as everything was in one location.

In previous years, swimmers were asked to rank their top 3 or 4 favorite events when signing up for All-Stars. Since we used TeamUnify, swimmers were not able to do that. In an attempt to keep registration similar, we asked swimmers to simply make which events they would and would not swim. We found out that quickly that this turned out to not be as effective as we thought. We had some families simply saying they would swim, but never selecting events, we had swimmers select very few events and we had swimmers select all events. Early on, we thought it would be much simpler to ask swimmers if the times and where they were needed. This thought was echoed in Eric Crawford's coach's review.

Building the Team:

This was very difficult and very time consuming, especially given it was my first year and using a different registration system. That being said I learned a great deal and feel confident with some changes the process will be smoother next year.

1. Continue to use TeamUnify, but make it simply a yes/no option.
2. Continue to use the process of picking the team until we have 80 athletes.
3. Once the 80 athlete mark is achieved have a list of the next 3-5 next fastest swimmers for boys/girls for each age group. Should we have swimmers decline the Team Iowa invitation, we already have the next swimmers verified. That way, once we know which age group is lacking, we can fill those spots with confidence and thus continuing the integrity of the process.
4. Once the list of swimmers is complete, verify and ensure swimmers don't age up prior to the start of the meet.
5. While top times are generally accurate, spot checking time against USA Swimming is always a good idea.

6. Continue to ensure once the 80 athlete limit is reached, additional entries are added provide we stay within the entry limit with the goal of as many of the 5 entries/event limit as possible.

Relays continue to be a touchy area and unfortunately Team Iowa parents can be very rude. Relays should continue to be at coach's discretion and participants need to realize the goal is to put together a winning relay. That being said, relays will continue to be built according to best times within the specified date range. Any "best times" achieved after that can be noted and coach's can make final decisions. To ensure the meet runs smoothly, I will continue to be available during the meet to review, rebuild relays as needed by the coaching staff.

Swimmer Packs:

This process went very smoothly and there were no major issues. We went with the same swimmer pack as last year, a sweatshirt, t-shirt, 2 silicone caps and a latex "trading" cap. ISI saved money on shipping by having Eric Crawford pick up the swimmer's pack. While I do not have an exact figure (info is pending), Eric from Splash indicated this was quite a large savings. If possible, I would like to continue this for future meets.

Venue:

MW runs a great meet. They are very organized and very easy to work with both from a coaching perspective and from an organizational perspective. They've done a great job with the facility they have to work with. I know that the pool can become very difficult to work in as the air quality can be poor at times and the deck space/spectator space is limited. Having the meet at a different location/host is definitely something worth looking into.

Stipend/Per Diem/Mileage:

The stipend and per diem are pretty straight forward. Coaches should be paid right before or at the meet. That didn't happen this year due to the ISI treasurer being on vacation. Armed with a better understanding of the procedure I will ensure the coaching contract is reviewed, approved and sent out to the coaching staff. Once the contracts are received, I will further ensure stipends/per diem are sent prior to the meet or at the meet and definitely before the treasurer goes on vacation.

As it stands now, mileage is reimbursed for 2 cars only. It is my opinion that if HOD elects 3 or 4 coaches to represent Team Iowa, then mileage for all coaches should be reimbursed. It has been my experience that most Team Iowa coaches find a way to share rides, however there are cases where that isn't possible. 2018 is a perfect example of that, we had 3 coaches from 3 different areas of the state coaching All-Stars. Because of physical location and the needs of the meet, one coach leaving early to ensure site set up and another drove a different route to pick up team gear. leaving the third coach with no other alternative than to drive, it was not

feasible to share rides. For 2018, I would like all coaches to be reimbursed for their mileage in full. If not this year, I want to ensure that further meets allow for all Team Iowa coaches to be reimbursed for mileage when ride sharing for all or part of the way is not an option.

Budget:

Based on last year's budget of \$7500, it is looking like 2018 All-Stars will be under budget. I think the biggest contributor to that is we only had 3 coaches nominated, rather than 4 (while 4 is idea, no one stepped forward or was nominated for this year). Additionally, there was no charges to print certificates, nor to mail them out. Having said this there are still a few cost items that are still outstanding, which may bring us closer to the budget mark. As a side note, I included reimbursement for mileage for all 3 coaches instead of just 2, in hopes this change will be approved.