Proposed Clarification of District Meet Rules-2010 HoD

By Kirk Nissley, NTV Chair

This proposal would make the District Rules similar to the proposed JO rule clarification proposal. The reasons stated in the JO Proposal are also applicable here. Would clarify the age up exception for the District Meets as in the JO proposal. Affected rules are noted in red.

VI. DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

A. Assignment of Clubs to Venue

For the District Championships all teams registered with MS will initially be assigned by the Programs Operations Vice-Chair to two or three district "venues". These venues will be geographically located throughout the State of Michigan in an effort to equalize the size (total entries) of the meets as well as travel distance to the meets. The districts will typically be referred to as the "Red, White and Blue" Divisions. Each MS team will compete at and send their entries to the initial venue assigned by the Programs Operations Vice-Chair (i.e. a MS team cannot choose which venue they will compete at). After the entries are received at each venue the Program Operations Vice-Chair, in his/her discretion, has the right to and may reassign clubs among the meet venues to balance the entries in an equitable manner between each venue.

B. Format of Meet

The format at each of the District Championships meets will be identical. All events (individual and relay) will be timed finals. There is a Friday afternoon/evening session in addition to an AM and PM session on Saturday and Sunday. The age groups are 10 and Under, 11/12, 13/14 and Open. You must swim your own age group. The session where specific age groups will compete will be determined by Program Operations for timeline purposes and the age groups may be split by gender.

C. Time Standards/Entry Eligibility

The District Championships are "slower than a stated time standard" swim meets. They are the beginning level meets of the three tiered MS Championship progression (Districts, then Junior Olympics and then State). Thus, all swimmers must not have (yet) achieved the stated time standard to be eligible to enter the event. "Q3" times are defined as any time slower than the Q2 standard. A swimmer may only compete in events in which they do not have a Q2 (i.e. Junior Olympic) time or better. This includes any 8 & under swimmer who has achieved the 10 & Under Q2 time. Athletes who have achieved a Q2 Standard in ANY course (SCY, SCM or LCM) may not enter the event at this SCY meet [or may have to withdraw from the event if already entered] unless the athlete is a 10 year-old, 12 year-old or 14 year-old "age-up athlete" (see the rules below - which is the only exception to the rule that an athlete who has a Q2 time in the event cannot enter the event at Districts.).

D. Entry Limits

Swimmers may enter one (1) event on Friday afternoon/evening and a maximum of three (3) individual events and one (1) relay event per day on Saturday and Sunday.

E. Entry Times and NT entries

An actually achieved time is submitted with the entry for seeding purposes. If the athlete has not yet achieved a time in an event, the athlete may enter an event with an NT, however, all NT entries are exhibition swims and not eligible for awards.

F. Time Conversions

Time conversions are allowed from actually achieved LCM or SCM times. Convert to SCY only.

G. Mandatory Withdrawal From Event - [Over Qualifying]

If a swimmer achieves a Q2 (or better) in a particular event IN ANY COURSE (SCY, SCM or LCM) after his/her entry has been sent to the District Entry Chair the swimmer must withdraw from the event. The swimmer may then substitute another event, if qualified, despite the fact that the entry period may have closed. Contact the meet host entry chair directly should this occur. The entry fee for the mandatorily withdrawn event will be refunded if the athlete chooses not to enter a substitute event. Also, the "Age-Up Athlete" entry exception may apply if the athlete's age and birthday occurs within a small window of time. See Age-Up Athlete entry exception below. If an athlete fails to withdraw from the event pursuant to these rules and this fact is discovered at a later time, the achieved time will be declared a nullity, stricken from the SWIMS database and any award must be returned.

H. "AGE UP ATHLETE" - District Entry Option

1) DEFINITION: An "Age-Up Athlete" is a) a 10 year-, 12 year- or 14 year-old who has a birthday between the second day (Saturday) of Districts and the first day of their respective State meet and b) who is "over qualified" [has a Q2 time] for an event for the District Meet and c) who will be "under qualified" for the JO meet in their new age group. If the athlete meets the above test, they have an entry option. This option is intended to allow these swimmers who "Age-Up" before the JO Meets an opportunity to achieve a JO Q2 in their upcoming new age group.

2) HOW TO ENTER THESE EVENTS: An "Age-Up athlete" may then enter a District event in their current age group even though their achieved time is a Q2 [JO Meet] time for their current age group. <u>Enter the athlete at their actually achieved best time [Q2 or better].</u> This will result in the swimmer being seeded the fastest in the heats. Coaches, Club Entry Chairs and Paper Entry Individuals: It is imperative that you alert the District entry chair to all "Age-Up" entries by enclosing a statement to that effect in your TM or US mail entry. Coaches - in your TM event file - mark the event as "Exhibition" and use the actually achieved Q2 time (or better) as a seed time.

3) MEET RESULTS: The meet host will consider all athletes that are entered at the Q2 time or better to be "Age-Up Athletes", exhibition swims and not eligible for awards.

4) "Age-Up athletes" are subject to the same entry limitations as all other athletes. (See D above).

I. Relays

Selected Relay events are offered for the 10 and Under and 11/12 age groups only. Swimmers must be entered into the meet in at least 1 individual event in order to swim a relay. (NO RELAY ONLY Swimmers). Teams may enter up to two (2) relays per relay event - labeled A and B. Relays do not have "slower than" qualifying times. However, Coaches should provide [with the entry] a reasonably accurate aggregate seed time for the relay [rather than a NT].

J. Entry Fees

Electronic entry fees are $ 5.00 per individual event and $12.00 for relays. Add $1.00 per individual and relay event for paper entry.

K. Deck entries

There are no deck entries at the MS District Championships.

L. Time Trials

There are no time trials except for the following, if time permits in the sole discretion of the Meet Host and Meet Referee:

1) 10 year old swimmers who <u>are</u> "Age-Up Athletes" are eligible to TT the 200 stroke events (Fly, Back, Breast), however, 10 year old swimmers who <u>are not</u> "age-up Athletes" may not time trial the Open 200 Stroke events.

2) 12 and 14 year old swimmers who <u>are</u> "Age-Up Athletes" are eligible to TT the 1000 and 1650 Freestyle ON FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY. However, 12 and 14 year old swimmers who <u>are not</u> "age-up Athletes" may not time trial these events.

3) Entry into these time trials does not count as an individual entry and is not subject to the 3 per day entry limit.

M. Scoring and Awards

The meet is not scored. Individual events: Medals will be awarded for 1st through 8th place. Ribbons will be awarded 9th through 16th place. Relay Events: Relays will be awarded Medals for 1st – 3rd place and ribbons for 4th-8th place. No awards will be mailed.

N. Number and Compensation of District Championship Meet Officials

The selection and compensation of District Meet Officials is contained in the Officials Committee section of this manual.