Proposed Clarification of JO Rules-2010 HoD

By Kirk Nissley, NTV Chair

The JO Rules need to be clarified in several areas. The "Age Up" exception has caused nothing but confusion since its inception and needs to be generally clarified. Also, 10 year olds who "age up" and want to swim the 200 stroke events (breast, fly, and back) have to Time Trial the events anyway [since there are no such USA official events for the 10 year olds] and this has caused specific confusion. Finally, the JO meet announcements over the years have added some new concepts that should be also incorporated into the rules. Affected rules are noted in red. The JO Meet Template would be changed accordingly and next years announcements will be modified to be identical for the two JO meets. Long time JO Meet Director Damon Robertson has reviewed as well as the Board of Directors and the MS Office.

VII. JUNIOR OLYMPIC RULES

A. Venue

One or two Junior Olympic (JO) Meets may be held on the same weekend at different venues within the state. If two meets are held, clubs are assigned to a specific meet by Program Operations and the assignment procedure is similar to that used for District Meets—see Section VI-A above.

B. Format of Meet

All events are 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 and 13-18. You must swim your own age group.

C. Time standards/Entry eligibility

The JO's are a "faster than/slower than" stated time standards swim meet. Thus, all swimmers must have achieved a minimum time standard (i.e. Q2) to enter an event yet must not have swum faster than a stated time standard (i.e. Q1/State Championship). This includes any 8 and under swimmer who has achieved the 10 and Under Q1 time standard in an event and any 13- 18 swimmer who has made the appropriate Q1 time standard cuts in an event in their respective State Meet age group. The time standards are listed as "Q2 and Q1" times in the meet announcement and are also available at the MS website. Athletes who have achieved a Q1 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 Q1 time in the event cannot enter the event at JOs).

D. Qualifying Period

The qualifying time must have been achieved on or after January 1st of the previous year. Those with JO qualifying times in any event earned prior to January 1st of the previous year are outside the qualifying period (too old to use for JO entry)

and the swimmer must then swim that event at a District Meet if they choose to.

E. 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. Once entered in the meet, a swimmer may not substitute one event for another (except as described in G below). In addition, a swimmer may time trial one (1) event per day (as described in N below).

F. Time Conversions

Time conversions are allowed from actually achieved {within the qualifying period} LCM or SCM times. Convert to SCY only.

G. Mandatory Withdrawal From Event - [Over Qualifying]

If a swimmer achieves a Q1 (State qualifying time) in a particular event IN ANY COURSE (SCY, SCM or LCM) after his/her entry has been sent to the JO 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. As another option, the swimmer may choose to time trial certain events. See Time Trial paragraph below. The entry fee for the mandatorily withdrawn event will be refunded if the athlete chooses not to enter a substitute event or a time trial. 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. 1,650 Entry Using an Achieved 1,000 time

If a 13-18 year old swimmer has achieved the Q2 time [or better] for the <u>1000 yd</u> freestyle and does not have a state time (Q1) in the 1650 yd freestyle in their respective age group they may choose to enter the 1650 yd freestyle at this meet. Please indicate this to the Meet Host at the time of your entry and enter the swimmer at the Q2 1650 Time Standard.

I. "AGE UP ATHLETE" - JO 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 JOs and the first day of their respective State meet and b) who is "over qualified" [has a Q1 time] for an event for the JO Meet and c) who will be "under qualified" for their respective State Meet [not yet have a Q1 time] 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 State Meets an opportunity to achieve a State Q1 in their upcoming new age group.

2) HOW TO ENTER THESE EVENTS: An "Age-Up athlete" may then enter a JO event in their current age group even though their achieved time is a Q1 State Meet time for their current age group. <u>Enter the athlete at their actually achieved best time [Q1 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 JO 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 Q1 time (or better) as a seed time.

3) MEET RESULTS: The meet host will consider all athletes that are entered at the Q1 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 E above).

J. Q1 Qualification

Q1 (State qualifying) times achieved at JO’s qualify for the State Meets as long as the entry is received by the State Meet hosts by the entry cut off dates as stated in the State Meet announcements.

K. Relays

Selected Relay events are offered. 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 "faster than/slower than" qualifying times. However, Coaches should provide [with the entry] a reasonably accurate aggregate seed time for the relay [rather than a NT].

L. Entry Fees

Electronic entry fees are $ 5.00 per individual event and $12.00 per relay. Add $1.00 per event for paper entry. There is also a $1.00 MS Athlete surcharge for each swimmer entered.

M. Deck Entries

There are no deck entries at the JO’s.

N. Time Trials

1) Athletes do not need to be previously entered in the meet in order to Time Trial. Those athletes not already in the meet must be able to prove that they are currently registered USA/MS athletes (preferably by a membership card).

2) Time Trials will be offered at the discretion of the Meet Host and the Meet Referee <u>only if time permits</u> following sessions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All Time Trials will be offered as "Open" events.

3) a) Friday Evening Time Trial distances, if offered, include the 1,000 and 1,650 Freestyle events. b) However, Saturday and Sunday Time Trial distances are limited to distances of 500 yards or shorter.

4) 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.

5) Only 1 individual event time Trial is allowed per swimmer per day. The cost for an individual event is $7.00. Only 1 relay event time trial is allowed per swimmer per day. The cost is $15.00 per relay.

O. 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.

P. Number and Compensation of JO Championship Meet Officials

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