

Dear Swimming Friends,

This e-mail is an important update on happenings in Montana Swimming. While it may be long, please do read it all, as it is important information. The short and long course meet schedule is attached to this e-mail as well.

The Bozeman Teddy Bear Swim meet date has been changed to the second weekend in December. It is now going to be held December 13-14. I have not yet seen the contract.

Short Course (Age Group) State is March 5-7 in Missoula. Long Course (Age Group) State will be July 30-31 and August 1 in Bozeman.

New this year at the state (age group) meets will be the 50 back, 50 breast, and 50 fly for the 13 and over swimmers. The time standards for those events will be released in the next month. Also new for short course state only will be the 50 free, 50 fly, 50 back, 50 breast and the 100 IM for the 8 and under swimmers. Those time standards will also be released in the next month. The new event list for both state meets will also be released by early December. New also for short course state is that the 10 and under swimmers will swim all their events as timed final events – not preliminaries and finals. However, the 10 and unders will swim prelims-finals for long course state.

Currently the 8 and under swimmers only compete on Saturday and Sunday of our state meets. We are considering having the 8 and under swimmers compete during all three days of the meet to add the extra events to the short course meet schedule. Do you want the 8 and unders to compete over the three day period or just the two day period? I would like to have your comments by this Friday November 7th, as the MT Swimming executive board will be meeting to decide this issue over the weekend. Please e-mail or call me with your thoughts.

Also new for the short course season will be the Montana Swimming Senior Championship meet. This 2-½ day meet is open to any MT Swimming registered athlete member who meets the qualifying times. The qualifying times are the 13-14 “A” time standard for all events except the 50-yd/m events. The 50 yd-/m event qualifying times are the 11-12 “AA” times. This is a preliminary-final meet format and all events will be swum as senior – not by age groups. Awards will be given to 1st-3rd place in each event. Also new -- Montana Swimming will allocate up to \$500 for awards for this meet. Swimmers can swim up to 7 individual events with no more than 3 individual events per day. There are no splashes for this meet – the swimmer must qualify in each event entered. The meet format will be released by early December. The host team may bid the date they wish to hold the meet and it can be before or after our age group state meet. Great Falls had originally bid to host the meet February 27-29, but they have since discovered they can't have the pool that weekend.

Montana Swimming is now accepting bids for the short course senior meet. Your team can bid for a different date if you would like to host the meet at a time other than February 27-29 or keep the same date. Please submit your bids to me by phone, e-mail, fax, or mail by November 14. If you have any questions, please contact me. Montana Swimming will vote to approve the winning bid.

Lowell Anderson, the Montana Swimming Records Coordinator, has resigned from his board position. Anyone who is interested in serving in this position should contact me by November 14. I will appoint a person to serve the remaining one-year of Lowell's term and Montana Swimming will vote to approve the appointment.

The record coordinator updates new records set by Montana Swimming athletes at any meet. The record coordinator is responsible for having record forms available to the teams, providing a computer file (or a written list) of the records for swim meet use, and keeping accurate records. A record is officially set when the record coordinator has received the signed record form

and the meet final sheet for the swim from the athlete or the athlete's representative. At the age group records meeting I attended at USAS convention it was suggested that the record coordinator be pro-active. The coordinator can check for potential new records by entering the meet information into Team Manager. The coordinator can then contact the team and inform them of the potential new record. The record isn't official, however, until the paperwork is received and verified by the coordinator. The coordinator should also send a file to each meet with the records that can be imported into Meet Manager. The record coordinator should have some computer skills and be attentive to details. The position doesn't take a lot of time, but it is important. Your team can supply you with a copy of Team Manager if you don't already have it available. Again if you would like to be considered for this position, please contact me by November 14th.

I would like to say thank you to Lowell for his many years of service to Montana Swimming. He has been a valuable asset to our state. Lowell and Jo Marie have been at many, many Montana and higher level meets for years as they supported their children's swimming accomplishments. Thank you Lowell for service to Montana Swimming.

New awards will be given at our state championship meets beginning this year. The overall combined team with the highest points will still be awarded. New will be awards to the women's high point team for first through third place and to the men's high point team for first through third place. A trophy will be awarded to the combined team winner, the women's high point winner, and the men's high point winner. The second and third place women's and men's high point teams will receive plaques.

New this year also at our state level meets will be a change to the seeding of the entered times. The state championship level meets will no longer accept converted times for entries. All entries must be shown as actual times. Seeding for meets held in a yard pool would seed yard times first followed by long course meter times followed by short course meter times. Meets held in long course meter pools would be seeded with long course meter times first followed by short course meter times and then yard times. All higher level meets are seeded in this manner. Another change will be that proof of time is not required for entered times, but is still required for swimmers not swimming a qualifying time during the meet, but receive points and/or awards from the swim.

The qualifying time period for state short course championship meets is now from January 1 of the previous year until the meet entry deadline. The qualifying time period for state long course championship meet is now from May 15 of the previous year through the meet entry deadline. This will allow an approximate 14-month qualifying time.

Also new – all athletes, coaches, and club's teams are required to submit meet results to the Top 16 tabulator (Lev Bates) for all meets any swimmer competes at during the year. Meet manager back-ups should be submitted. If you don't have a Meet Manager back up, please contact Lev so the data can be obtained. This applies to all in state and out-of-state swim meets. This will allow Montana Swimming to maintain accurate top time records and times for Zones and All Stars among other uses. Thank you for your help in sending the times to Lev.

Montana Swimming will now accept bids for both the meet host and meet date for our state championship meets at the same time. In the past we have set the date at one meeting and then bid the host at the next meeting. At the May 2004 Montana Swimming meeting, we will accept bids for Short Course Age Group State and Short Course Senior State Championship meets.

The 2005 Western Zones meet will be in Salt Lake City. Zones this summer is in Redding, California. I have heard that plans may be underway for the Zones swimmers this summer to travel by train to the meet. I'll keep you posted on what happens with our Zones team. Nancy Halstrom is our Zones Team Coordinator.

Hopefully this will update you on the major changes to Montana Swimming at this time. Again if you would like to bid the Senior Championship meet or serve as the Record Coordinator please contact me by November 14. If you have comments on the days the 8 and under swimmers compete at state, contact me by this Friday November 7. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact me and I will be happy to help you.

See you at the pool!

Susan Huckeby
General Chair