Dear Fellow Parents,

Welcome to the start of another swim season. As returning parents already know, swim meets do not happen without parent involvement and I’m writing to discuss two ways that you can volunteer your time.

**Officiating**

Nine years ago, when my oldest daughter started swimming, I decided to become a swim official. Unlike most of other sports, officials are brought in (and paid) by the league and the coaches are the volunteers. In swimming, it is the reverse. Coach are the ones that are paid and the officials are the volunteers. As an official, we are looking at the basics of what a swimmer is doing while in the pool. After getting the basics right, the coaches are the ones that refine that to make them faster. Ultimately, we just trying to keep the competition on a level playing field. It is also the best way to be up close to the action.

The Red Bank Y has a long tradition of having one of the state’s best official groups. In the coming weeks, the Northern NJ YMCA swim league will be hosting training classes for Level I officials. Attached is the schedule. If you are interested, please feel free to sign up for one of the Level I classes. While there was already a Level I class in Red Bank, if there is enough interest, we will look to schedule another class in October.

**Platform**

The “Platform” is related to officiating and has 2 aspects. The first is the Colorado, which is the electronic timing system that is used to accumulate times for the swimmers. You might first ask, “Then, why do we also need timers?” While the Colorado system is usually accurate, there are times when we will need to use the watches because the Colorado might have malfunctioned. For this job, you sit in front of the Colorado terminal near the pool (on our platform 😊) making sure the system is running properly.

The second aspect is Meet Manager, or the computer software that is used to run a meet. Meet Manager communicates with the Colorado system to collect the times and ultimately is used to print results. As I mentioned, there are times when the Colorado system might not work properly and this person will then go through a process to validate the times. Similar to the official’s certification above, the YMCA has created another role called an “Admin Official” of which you can get a certification for.

If you are computer savvy and would like to understand the Meet Manager role more, please feel free to reach out to me to discuss (r.piasecki30@comcast.net).

Thanks and hope to see you on deck!!!

Bob Piasecki

RBY Lead Official and Parent Board Member