

Adapted Swimming 2004

Last year:

1. Swimmers who have competed in National Championship meets and have been classified have been issued an ID card to present to referees. The Card lists their classification and rule exceptions. This will make inclusion easier for these swimmers in any level meet.
2. US Paralympics sponsored a swim meet for swimmers who have been classified in November 2003. They plan on making it an annual meet. It has been scheduled for early December 2004 in Indianapolis.
3. Toledo Swim Club held a meet the first weekend in April for swimmers with a disability, both classified and unclassified. They used the guide posted on the US Paralympic website and determined a tentative classification for any swimmer who was not classified. They hope to make this an annual meet.
4. Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, in conjunction with Blaze Sports Foundation of Georgia, held a Paralympic academy training weekend in January. The weekend concluded with a meet sanctioned by southeastern swimming. Some of the swimmers were competing for the first time and others are world record holders. They hope to offer more training and competition weekends in the future.

This year:

1. US National Championships for Swimmers with a Disability are this weekend in Minneapolis. The meet is also a team selection meet for Athens. Southeastern Swimming has always had one of the largest groups of swimmers at this meet.
2. The national adapted swimming committee held its first workshop for adapted swimming chairs, coaches, and athlete reps at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. The workshop was designed to be a source of information and networking contacts. Coaches, parents and athletes who have questions and concerns have a resource base of information available to help them. Mentors, and support information may be obtained by contacting the adapted swimming chair for each LSC.
3. A pilot program at the zone level has been in place for two years in the Central Zone. It is to be expanded into all 4 zones beginning in 2005. An equal number of swimmers with a disability will be selected from each LSC to go to the zone meet.
4. A proposal to include swimmers with a disability at our LSC championship meets is to be voted on at this meeting. I would like to voice my support for this proposal if it is amended to include developing appropriate time standards by classification. Adapted swimming is poised to take a giant leap forward into inclusion. Let's be among the leaders in serving the section of our swimming population. Our LSC has the largest number of classified swimmers, and record holders of any LSC. We need to be helping to lead the way for the rest of the country. Officiating clinics need to be expanded to include more training and

clarification of Section 105 of the rule book. Referees will need more training on the judgment calls they will be required to make as we expand this population of swimmers.

Please contact me with any concerns or questions you may have about adapted swimming. I will try to attend any meets or clinics if you give me sufficient notice.

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