

## SE Championship Meet Committee Conference Call Report

Coaches who were present during the conference call included: Jay Newton, Pam Braseth, Vic Moore, Jonathan Kaplan, John Morse, Len Strom, Matt Weber, John Woods, and Jackie Bertucci.

Discussions:

- I. Should we establish 2 separate Championship Meets, one for age group and one for Seniors?

Through the discussion there seemed to be a consensus on the following points:

- Two separate meets in different locations would not be a good idea due to cost for families, logistics for teams and coaches, and the loss of the excitement factor of having young and older swimmers competing together.
- We support having the SE championships and utilizing 2 pools in roughly the same geographic area (EX: Summer LC SE in Nashville/Brentwood)
- We feel that it is important that the finals session include both age group and senior finalist because this promotes team and increase the excitement level for younger and older swimmers

### II. Adding a B Final for 11-12 and 13-14 age groups at the SE Championships

We have opinions on both sides of this issue:

#### **PRO-**

- This would increase the development of 11-12 and 13-14 swimmers by offering more opportunities to compete and experience Finals.
- Families make a large commitment of time and money to attend the SE Championships so more opportunities to swim in finals honors this commitment.
- Second swimmers would provide opportunity for more swimmers to have breakthrough swims in the evening and the success of making finals would further encourage these swimmers to continue swimming.

### **CON-**

- If the cuts are based on 32nd place, then finals would consist of 45-50% of the swimmers making finals.
- 25-30 minutes added to the timeline would make finals get out too late and negatively impact future performances in the meet.
- It will be discouraging to swimmers who swim in the B final if there is not even a full heat (Sunday especially).
- If we add this to the timeline we will have to make changes in such as limiting relays at finals (something this group already voted against). Limiting relays at finals leads to coaches lying about relay times to swim at night.
- The times fall off significantly after 8<sup>th</sup> place.
- 

In the end the committee had 5 votes against adding the B final and 3 votes for adding the B Final. Those that voted to add the B Final also preferred that just added the B Final effectively adding approximately 30 minutes to the finals session.

III. Should we move the 10 and under and 11-12 400 free from Thursday night at the LC SE Championships?

Once again we have opinions on both sides of the issue.

### **PRO-**

- Families will not have to arrive at the meet quite as early on Thursday.
- This would equal out the number of events offered for age group swimmers throughout the weekend
- More swimmers may enter the event if it is on a day where they are already going to be swimming (it is currently the only event on Thursday).

### **CON-**

- Families are going to arrive on Thursday regardless and don't mind getting there for the meet.
- Adding this event into Friday through Sunday will overload age group swimmers and not allow them time to better break up their event schedule.
- This is an attempt to limit our 3 ½ day meet to only 3 days.

In the end the committee had 5 votes against changing the order of events (do not change the current event order) and 3 votes for changing the order of events.

IV. How can we increase participation in the LC SE Championships in the 10 and under and 11-12 age groups? Should we make adjustment in the LC SE qualifying times for the 10 and under and 11-12 age groups?

We agree that we would like to see more participation in the 10 and under and 11-12 age groups in LC Southeasterns. Several options were discussed on how this could come about.

1. Refigure the LC time standards. Currently if there are not 32 athletes who achieve the qualifying time, the time standard formula does not ever slow down it still gets faster or stays the same. If there are multiple years where 32 athletes did not make the meet the time standards do not reflect this. Options for refigure the time standards include moving the figure to 40<sup>th</sup> place or further back, using stats from SWIMS or other stat collection. Or we could come up with a uniform way of adding time the cuts in this age group and then adjust them bases on 32<sup>nd</sup> (or another place) using the current method.
2. Allow SC SE time standards to also qualify for LC SE and vice versa. We believe that this will help to build the LC meet but it will also build the SC meet which is currently at a good size.

We would recommend trying option #1 first and quantifying the effects before putting option 2 into effect. We are requesting Chris Corriago's help in coming up with an alternative set of LC SE time standards for the 10 and under and 11-12 age groups.