

COMPETITIVE AQUATICS NEWS SPLASH



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA OF THE USA

101 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago IL 60606

Winter 2018

ymca.net

THE LATEST NEWS IN YMCA COMPETITIVE AQUATICS PROGRAMMING

YMCA AQUATIC NEWS

New Swim Lesson Pathway Tools Launched

As part of continued development and resourcing of the YMCA Swimming Lesson program, two new pathways have been released for participants who wish to continue their swimming development including Aquatic Conditioning and Endurance, Games and Sports.

Regional Network Meetings

Several regional aquatic network meetings are being held in 2018 with selected leaders from local YMCA gathering to develop strategies for increased member engagement and program growth through aquatics. Competitive swimming and diving regional representatives are being included in these meetings.

Virtual Meet Report

195 YMCA teams with over 12,000 swimmers participated in the 2017 YMCA National Virtual Meet. This is a significant increase from 2016.

The Somerset Valley YMCA was the combined team champion. Certificates are available on the national website for coaches to download for their swimmers. Find link [here](#).

PROGRAM STATS

To date in the 2017-18 season, we have the following participation numbers based on registrations and certifications:

- 629 YMCA teams and over 61,000 swimmers
- 2,310 YMCA registered coaches
- Over 5,200 Level I and II YMCA Swim Officials and over 700 Admin Officials



IN THIS ISSUE

New Pathway Tools Launched

Regional Network Meetings

Virtual Meet Report

Updated Program Statistics

Coach, Athlete, CEO/COO
Partners and Officials Updates

Program Spotlight

National Event Partners
Announced

ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who you think may find it useful.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

Contact Meredith Griffin at
mgriffin@myy.org

COACHES UPDATES

- The YMCA Swimming Coach of the Year Award will be announced during the 2018 Short Course YMCA National Championship Meet. Nominations were due March 1 and a record 28 nominations were received. The recipient does not need to be present to be selected.
- Four coaches will be selected to participate in the 2018 YMCA Swimming Leadership Development Camp. Applications will be posted this spring on the YMCA Swimming and Diving Website.

ATHLETE UPDATES

- The athlete representatives to the national championship meet committees are Susie Issenman from the Kettering YMCA in Ohio and Shannon Culbert from the Ocean County YMCA in New Jersey.
- The YMCA Swimming Leadership Development Camp will return in 2018. The camp will be held in Orlando, FL on October 11-14. Twenty student-athletes and four coaches will be selected to participate. Applications will be posted this spring on the YMCA Swimming and Diving website.
- The Adolph Kiefer Youth Character Award and Scholarship will be presented at the 2018 Short Course YMCA National Championship Meet. One female and one male will be selected from applications that are due March 21. Find the application [here](#).

YMCA NATIONAL EVENTS

- YMCA Short Course National Championship – April 3-7 in Greensboro, NC (entry deadline March 26, 5 pm ET)
 - Rogers Award Ceremony for recipient *Joel Black* on Monday, April 2
- National YMCA Diving Championship – April 19-22 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (entry deadline April 13)
- National YMCA Masters Meet– April 19-22 in Ft. Lauderdale (entry deadline March 20)
- YMCA Long Course National Championship – July 30-August 3 in College Park, MD

USA SWIMMING UPDATES

The #SwimBiz: Social Media, Sponsorship and Swimming conference will be April 8-10 in Colorado Springs, CO. #SwimBiz features insights from prominent brands on building memorable stand-out social media and marketing strategies for their teams, while emphasizing advertising, branding, communications, sponsorship and local promotions. Go to www.usaswimming.org/swimbiz for more information.

OFFICIALS UPDATES

- Eddie Hughes is the new chair of the YMCA Officials Committee
- Brad Bason began the 2017-18 season as the new leader of the regional officials coordinators. Much of their focus so far this season has been on increased communication and coordination locally, and clarification of rules interpretations.

CEO/COO PARTNERS UPDATES

- Welcome, Steve Ives, CEO of the YMCA of Central Ohio. He joins the Partners, representing Southern Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia.
- Several new tools are available to the CEO/COO Partners group and to their peers in YMCA leadership. These highlight the multi-faceted benefits of a YMCA swimming and diving program and offer resources around common questions about the program.
- Individual Partners have selected areas in which they will serve as consultants for fellow CEOs and COOs around common questions with local Y swimming and diving programs.
- The Partners are identifying and scheduling 2018 opportunities including state, regional and national conferences and meetings where they will advocate for YMCA swimming and diving programs.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS HOWARD JOHNSON AND SPEEDO FOR SUPPORTING OUR 2018 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE EVENTS



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Twenty-six years ago, Art Raynes, a member at the Somerset Hills YMCA in Basking Ridge, NJ, created a program for children with autism like his son to engage in physical activity and social interaction at the Y. Today, Saturdays in Motion (SIM) serves children with a range of disabilities two Saturdays each month between October and April. Participants are paired with teenage volunteers for two hours spent playing, learning and socializing in the gym and in the pool while their parents enjoy caregiving respite. The program is free for participants and their

families and is supported by the YMCA's annual support campaign. It is the longest running, non-public recreational program for children with autism in the country.

Saturdays in Motion has also become a central part of the Somerset Hills YMCA Swim Team. Roughly half of the teenage volunteers are YMCA swimmers from SHY, as well as some from neighboring Somerset Valley YMCA. They take pride in supporting the program and at times the program has more volunteers than participants on a given Saturday. SHY swimmer Paige Johnson calls it "an amazing opportunity to give back to the sport and the YMCA that has given me so much. It's a great way for us to get involved with the kids in our community."

Each year before the swimming season begins, Art meets with SHY Swim Team Director Lori Riegler to set the schedule of Saturdays. They are careful to avoid swim meet dates so that the swimmers are available. During the busiest months of the season, it can be tough but the swimmers and the YMCA are strongly committed to the program. "Although it can be hard work," says swimmer Dylan Wachenfeld, "the smiles on the kids' faces are so worth it at the end of every session." Dylan followed his three siblings as a volunteer in the program.

The swimmers are the first to say that they get as much, if not more, from Saturdays in Motion than do the participants. "Being involved in this wonderful program makes me feel like I'm making a difference in the community and the lives of others," shares SHY swimmer Lukas Sheidl. His teammate, Meredith Riegler, adds that "I always look forward to a SIM session because of all the joy and happiness and positivity. I truly believe that it makes a difference."