

## Technical Planning Committee

1. We have made an adjustment to the eligibility requirement to the district A/BB meet. Swimmers with one qualifying time for a session can any event in which they have a "B" time up to the limit of events for this session. We feel this will allow more swimmers to participate in the district A/BB meets while swimming a full schedule of events. The following is a break down of participation averages for district meets this year:

<b>SE DISTRICT</b>		<b>C DISTRICT</b>		<b>N DISTRICT</b>	
<b><u>B/C</u></b>	<b><u>A/BB</u></b>	<b><u>B/C</u></b>	<b><u>A/BB</u></b>	<b><u>B/C</u></b>	<b><u>A/BB</u></b>
703	399	639	452	547	252

2. We have the number from the first B/C meet with the new criteria for A/BB meets from the SE District. They have 568 swimmers entered into the meet. I do not have preliminary figures for the SE District A/BB meet but we are hoping this increases attendance at A/BB meet. If this holds true the adjustment has had the desired affect in the SE District. We believe that there should be a similar adjustment to Central District as well but we will not know until later in the month, likewise with the Northern District.
3. LSC wide meets have been varied. The October meet was 416 and the November meet was 252. The January meet will likely be higher than both but it is too early to tell. Age Group Committee and Tech Plans have agreed it was a mistake not to limit the SW District meets to "A" swimmers and below. Requiring the swimmers with "AA" and higher events to participate in the LSC wide meets would help restore some of the numbers for the AA meet. Also we will likely have to make an adjustment to the qualifications for the 11-12 swimmers. This will have to be coordinated with the AGC since any adjustment to the LSC wide meet will result in a corresponding adjustment to the District level meets.
4. The remaining issue with regard to the meet schedule is the number of weekends meets are held. It impacts teams, officials, families, coaching staffs, and even the BOD. A number of the VSI BODs are unavailable due to the robust meet schedule. The time to administratively support the added meets has become a burden for this committee. Coupled with the added number of new meet directors, complaints over the new schedule, coordinating meet fees, with an added layer of meets has had a significant impact on providing the necessary support to our teams.
5. Releasing meet invitation has been the best ever so far this year. It is not that the fines associated with late submission has had an affect on teams turning in their meet invitations as much as the added time requirement has pushed teams to submit their information earlier. This has helped tremendously because it now takes 12 days to publish a meet invitation versus 5 days last year. The delays are due to other requirements. Meet invitations are also coming in with less editing requirements as the templates have been more universally utilized.
6. Many teams are still awaiting the resolution of the inappropriate entries from the Tide BB/B/C meet from last May. We have also had several incidents of the same inappropriate entries at meets this fall. Without taking action on one makes it very difficult to take action on any. We also get contacts weekly on the status of the fines for the Tide meet.

7. Proof of Times and Payment of meet fees still remains unresolved. With the coordination of the meet invitation for senior champs there was a long discussion regarding proof of times. Several solutions were offered. Some are quite practical.
8. We recommend that SWIMS be used as much as possible to verify times with exceptions reported to the team with the unverifiable entry. Only those entries will need to be proven by the entering team or individual if unattached without a team affiliation at the time of their initial check-in for the meet. This is consistent with what is done at national level meets. We should establish qualifying times for relays for senior champs if we are going to require proof of times. This facilitates using SWIMS and the automotive process Hy-tek programs has to develop a report of proof of times. Otherwise, proof of times for relays should only be provided by challenge.
9. Payment of entry fees must be done prior to the start of the meet. Currently the deadline is fixed to three days prior to the meet start. This also coincides with the date most host teams finalize the heat sheets, programs, lane assignments, etc. This date can be rolled back to an earlier time but at no time should the entry fee date be the same as the meet entry deadline date unless you eliminate emailed entries or accept a fee postmarked on the deadline date. All issues regarding acceptance of entries or determination of late fees should be to the greatest extent possible be handled prior to the meet and not on deck. This is a consensus of coaches and volunteers that handle meet entries.
10. Ignorance of policies or procedures is not an appropriate mitigation of penalty. If a requirement is contained in the Virginia Swimming Policies & Procedures and/or articulated in the meet invitation then it must be enforced.
11. Team assignments for the Regional (formerly A/BB) Champs have been sent out. They are very similar to last year with one team from the Central District changing locations (BAC).
12. The LCM schedule will be released by mid-February. Teams have been slow to send out bids based on the changes to the schedule discussed at the October HOD meeting. We have not followed up aggressively due to the aforementioned circumstances. Now that the SC season is nearly complete there should be sufficient time to resolve the remaining issues with the LC schedule.

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