

Proposal for Summer Championship Meets:

For the past few summers, we have tried to have a 14&U P/F meet and an Open meet for our season ending meets for our lsc. The current 14&U meet, while good in basic idea, is much too large for an 8 lane 50M pool and most people do not agree that we need finals for the 10&U (especially due to the session length). The sessions are outrageous for the kids swimming distance events and we as a group need to find a way to accommodate our top end kids and our newer less experienced swimmers. This type of format (same as a 12&U spring meet or 14&U spring meet) don't take care of anyone in the lsc well. It doesn't help our top age groupers and it doesn't help our newer kids.

I think we need to start looking at our age group formats in 4 year cycles (each Olympic year would end a cycle). We can create goals for what is good and what is not good but that is for another proposal. The major goal would be to try and get more kids qualified for Olympic Trials / Nationals / Junior Nationals. At the end of the 4 years (in this case ending with the Olympics in 2008), we could evaluate if the things we were doing were working or not working.

My largest complaint about our championship meets is on the quality of swimmers we are allowing to swim in the meets. We have watered the meet down just to get enough kids into the meet and it has only hurt the overall quality, in general, of the swimming in the lsc. I truly believe that if we start making the meet harder that kids will start doing what it takes to make the meet. Kids don't quit because they have to work hard or because the standard has been raised. They quit because of the outside pressures that coaches/parents/peers/themselves place upon them. Controlling this pressure is how we keep athletes continuing to achieve at a high level for a long time.

If you have an average 11 year old boy and he can make the state meet by practicing 3 times per week, then what is the incentive of coming more or working harder? He can already make the season ending meet. If we make the meet harder, then this boy would need to work harder to swim in the season ending meet both in the practices and/or by increasing practice attendance. Most kids in our sport don't magically get fast when they turn a certain age. They start getting faster and faster when they start working harder.

With all of that background, I would like you to consider this proposal to try and improve the quality of our senior swimming...

July 15-17th -- Silver Championship --

--held in a scy pool (Waukesha has agreed to run it this summer if we do this).

-- This meet would have a very light time standard on it (just for the sake of a #, around a "B" time but maybe easier.

-- This meet would be for 14&U swimmers only and would be all timed finals. 8&U and 10&U in one session and 11-12 and 13-14 in the other. I would suggest that we only offer the shorter relays for this meet.

-- No seniors in this meet as our goal here is to try and increase the level of participation within the age groups. Bigger base equals more kids to make the next level.

--currently, there is no meet for our entry level kids or less experienced with championship meets.

-- This would give them a taste of a higher level meet and then hopefully encourage them to strive for the next level.

--Kids could swim events that they do not have cuts in for the gold championship.

--Kids can qualify for the gold level meet at this meet. Fax deadline would be the day after the meet ends.

July 22-24th – Gold Championship –

--held in LC pool at Schroeder or some other like facility

--this meet would have considerably harder standards than we currently expect (at least “A” and in some cases it may have to be almost “AA”).

--we would look at a standard not a number of kids for each event but we would put a significant cap on heats (for example 3 heats maximum of any event)

--some kind of p/f format with either 14&U or 12&U (probably 14&U though as sessions would be pretty great in size).

--use same standards for all summer meets until 2008 olympic games.