

Hi Age Group Committee Members,

I have listed the 5 changes made to Age Group Championship Meets last summer. I have also included the original benefits and challenges for each change. Please review the 5 changes and consider if we are on the right track or if we need to go in a different direction.

I would also like you to consider a new proposal about expanding the bonus events rule.

Finally, I set a date and time for our next meeting at the bottom.

1. Changed Summer 200 Medley Relay for 13-14 and 15-Up by entering a 200 time. Currently, these meets are entered with the 400 Medley time.

Benefits: Making everyone enter a 200 time for the 200 Medley

- Accurate timelines (currently timelines are based upon the 400 Med. times)
- Encourages 50's of stroke for older swimmers
- Many coaches enter 200 Med times anyway (admin needs to change or fix to 400 time)
- Can use team time, aggregate time from 50s, use watches to get those 50 splits
- Sprint relays can be very different from the 400 Med. Relay
- More accurate seeding of this relay

Challenges: Making everyone enter a 200 time for the 200 Medley

- TU does not aggregate these times unless all four swimmers have swam the 50 of strokes that they are swimming
- Puts the responsibility on Coaches to place an accurate time for this event
- Coaches would need to know a team time, find splits times for these swimmers, or put a watch to the swimmers in the race to enter a time that reflects the relay
- We have a system that seeds by 400 Med and that works fine

1. **Changed the check in system for Age Group Championship level meets to a coaches scratch each day. We moved away from swimmers check in with parent volunteers and long lines.**

Benefits:

- eliminated the lines for swimmers to stand in for check-in
- eliminated the need for a host team to staff check-in
- allowed the swimmers to not worry about check-in or the process etc so they could focus on warming up and racing.
- eliminated the need for admin to constantly deal with swimmers who forgot to check-in or are checking in later in the meet because the swim towards the end of the session.
- allows admin to set the entire meet before the start of the meet.
- no penalty if a mistake is made by a coach or if a swimmer gets sick at the meet and cannot swim, except those that are over entered. The event would count as part of their six possible swims.

Challenges:

- puts more pressure on coaches to communicate with their swimmers if they cannot attend or do not want to swim an event.
- coaches have to be trained to do this each day (I thought it went very well at the Spring Meet and heard good things about the WAG Meet where it was done).
- admin might need to train on using this system if anyone is unfamiliar.
- admin might need extra help to implement this system.
- it seems to require an extra ream of paper to print out races each day

2. **Changed SCS Age Group Meets (JAG/WAG, Summer Age Group Champs, Spring Age Group Champs, Elite Age Group Champs) slowest to fastest with the exception of the distance freestyle events (800 Free and 1500 Free) which will continue to be fastest to slowest.**

Benefits:

- circle seeded heats are already in order and no need to change
- competition is built through the event
- faster swimmers know how fast they need to swim to make it to finals
- consistent with how we swim consolation finals and championship finals
- same format as senior championship level meets

Challenges:

- Less experienced swimmers in early heats of an event do not always show up on time
- have heard the meet flow is better fastest to slowest
- faster swimmers are done earlier and get more rest for finals
- this would be a change in what we have been doing or what people are used to

3. Swimmers will be allowed to enter Bonus Events in the following situations:

- Swimmers who qualify for 1 events can swim two bonus events for a total of 3 events
- Swimmers who qualify for 2 events can swim one bonus event for a total of 3 events
- Swimmers who qualify for 3 events can swim one bonus event for a total of 4 events

The Bonus Events Rule will be in place for JAG/WAG and Summer Age Group

Championships.

- Bonus events may only be entered in races 200 or shorter
- All Bonus events must be National BB or faster
- If the swimmer qualifies for either the 800 free (1000 free) or the 1500 free (1650 free), they may swim the other distance as a bonus event

4. The Age Group Committee widely supported moving the final heat of each distance event to swim in finals. For JAG the 1500 free will be day 1 on Friday. Teams will have an option to swim relays in the AM on days with the distance events so that their relay only swimmers do not have to wait the extra 40 minutes in finals. The 800 free will be Day 4 on Monday. Teams will have the opportunity to swim relays in the AM already because it is the final day of the meet.

Benefits:

- Showing value and respect for distance swimmers
- Encouraging swimmers to participate in distance events

Challenges:

- Adding time to the finals timeline
- Creates challenges for swimmers with other finals that evening

I would like to make a new proposal:

1. Amend/Expand the Bonus Events Rule to include Spring JO's and the Elite Meet. I would also propose that we allow: if a swimmer makes 3 or 4 cuts they would be eligible for 1 or 2 bonus events not to exceed 5 total events.

Benefits:

- Bonus events are very popular
- Bonus events have encouraged swimmers participation in championship meets
- Senior Swimmers often have the same opportunity to attend high level meet with bonus events
- Adding one additional swim over a three day meet further incentivises swimmers to attend
- Attending the highest level meet encourages swimmers to continue to work to get better
- Further supports the development of the Elite Meet

Challenges:

- Holding the standard encourages children to rise to the challenge
- Could it overflow championship meets
- Slowing down the timeline

We will have an Age Group Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 22nd at 8:00 pm. During this meeting, the Age Group Committee will evaluate how the 5 changes are working or not working. We will also vote on the new proposal of expanding the bonus events rule.

Please let me know if you will be able to attend or if you have any questions or additions for this meeting.

Thank you,

Chris Barber
SCS Age Group Chair