

Hello Times Team!

Happy New Year! Hope your holiday was a good one and that you got some time away from swimming because our activities have certainly picked up again in earnest. Our wonderful athletes were very busy swimming fast in the month of December - 30 new American, US Open, and NAG Records were set last month and not just at our SCY National Champs in Atlanta - more on the records later in the email.

### **Times and Recognition Committee**

Attached please find the listing of the T & R Committee for 2008. Special thanks go to Terry Randolph, VA, for her service on the committee and her commitment to the Top 16 program. Thanks also to Matt Hooper, FL, for his assistance as an athlete rep last year. Welcome to new committee members Betty Kooy, MW, and Ryan Littlefield, ST (athlete rep) and also to Alice Kempthorne, representing Athlete Reimbursement. 2007 was an extremely busy year for this new committee - we are seeing the changes in programming in the Scholastic All America program, the new Age Group Recognition Program replacing the Top 16, and soon we will see the newly updated USA Swimming Record applications and guidelines. All of the programs on T & R, as well as the functions/applications available in the SWIMS database are included in the SWIMS Times Module Policy Manual. I have been working on the revision of the policy for the 2008 year and the manual is being submitted to Program Operations and to the USA-S Board of Directors for approval later in January. You will receive a copy of the policy manual electronically as soon as it is approved. The revised manual will also be posted on the web site in several places.

Changes to the SAA program, the application form for the 2007-08 year, and a summary of the Age Group Recognition Program have been posted on the web site already. The first "Top Times" list for the single age group recognition has also been posted so check it out! Changes within SWIMS now allow you to run your own LSC "Top Times" list if you would like to post that on your LSC web site. While the term "NRT" is going to be removed from the system, it is still there until the IT folks determine that all our "flags" for standards will not be compromised by its removal.

### **2006-07 Top 16**

All certificates and applicable pins have been shipped to the LSCs. If your LSC certs have not been accounted for, please contact Chelsey Walden at USA Swimming ([cwalden@usaswimming.org](mailto:cwalden@usaswimming.org)). If you have received your January issue of *Splash*, you will note that the SCY List for the 2006-07 Top 16 is published in the issue. The LCM list will follow in the next issue.

### **Observation of Meets - College and High School Championship Season is Here!**

Based on the numbers of requests for observation you are receiving and forwarding on to me as a list or on the forms, championship time is upon us in many LSCs! I have attached the most current list of meets where swims are being observed. This list is updated weekly and posted on the web site in several locations (NCAA Database and NTV). As a reminder:

- Email me the list of all observed meets as soon as you know of them.

- Check your local colleges to see if they are hosting a conference championship and contact the coach to insure that observation requests are submitted to you in a timely fashion.
- All college meets with Division 1 teams are being loaded through submission to [ncaa@usaswimming.org](mailto:ncaa@usaswimming.org) and not by the LSC Times Officer.
- I need a list of any DQs for backstroke and IM in observed meets with Division 1 teams.
- For high school observed meets, load all individual times as LSC UN and not attached to the club team. If a relay team is composed of four swimmers from the same club and a team time is requested for manual data entry, you may load that relay time attached to the club.

### **Meets Loaded into SWIMS**

Also attached is a list of the times, meets and swimmers loaded into the database in the last three years. There was a significant increase in the numbers in 2007. You are doing a great job and it is appreciated!

Reminder: When you load a meet, please make sure the name of the meet is listed correctly. The meet name should be "2008 LSC Meet Name". Many of you like to add the "AP" or "OB" for the approved and observed meets and that is fine. It makes it a lot easier to identify meets with that addition. Note: If the meet name is not correct when you load it in from the meet file, you can do a "Meet Search", "Select" the meet, click the "Edit" icon and type in the correct meet name.

### **SWIMS Enhancements**

- As you are aware the Export Meet Results feature is operational now. We get mixed feedback as to how well it works from some of our users. If you have a specific problem or error that you see, please email me with the file you exported and we will look at it. Right now the HY3 file is the only type exported (for use with Hy Tek). The SDIF export will hopefully be available later this year.
- The LSC Records/LSC Portal feature is nearly complete. The project is on time and within budget so that is great news! Staff expects the feature to go into testing around February 1st. Look for more information in the next update. Thanks to Jay Thomas for continuing to spearhead the enhancements for us.
- OME (the online meet entry system) has also been receiving continuous updates. Thanks to those of you who used it for LSC meets for your feedback - keep it up! The aim is to make it work for you at the LSC championship level!

### **USA Swimming Records**

As mentioned under the T & R Committee news, the application forms for USA Swimming Records have been revised by a task force led by Jim Holcomb, BD. Look for these new forms to be posted on the web site this week. The applications will be submissible online and any supporting documentation may be scanned and sent as an email attachment or hard copies may be mailed or faxed. All record applications will go to staff liaison Chelsey Walden and to Pat Lunsford, Program Ops VP, for American/U.S. Open Records or to Isabelle Fraser for NAG Records.

Based upon a request for interpretation by the Rules and Regulations Committee last summer, an interpretation of Article 104 as related to **NAG Records** was issued by Bruce Stratton.

- **The new NAG Record application will require measurement of a lane when a moveable bulkhead is in use.**
- **The pool does not have to be certified, but the lane must be measured by a registered engineer or surveyor according to the Rule Book at the conclusion of the session when a moveable bulkhead is in use.**

The T & R Committee has asked that a task force be set up to look at Article 104 as it relates to all pool measurements for USA Swimming records. I will keep you informed as this task force takes shape under Pat Lunsford's direction. If changes are recommended by the task force, legislation will be presented to the Rules Committee for consideration. Please make sure that your LSC understands that moveable bulkheads will require that a measurement be taken for any USA Swimming record application.

Also, unless a potential record swim occurs at a USA Swimming championship level competition, an application must be submitted. Loading of the time into SWIMS does not mean it is acceptable as a record. If you, as a Times Officer, load a potential record swim time, you will see that you have to manually "confirm" the record from the holding tank in order for it to go into the database. If this occurs, please validate the time as a record and insure that the results are not "faulty" and make a note to contact the coach of the swimmer to confirm that the record application is submitted. I deleted some 12 second 50 butterfly times and 24 second 100 free times that showed up as NAG Records in running a records report today! Somehow they got confirmed as legitimate times and went into the live database.

I think you probably have enough on your plate to digest for one day! Sorry for being long-winded! Continue to do your good work for our athletes - things are really going very well with few issues on the loading of times. You've gotten really good at your job!

Here's to a great 2008 and some really fast swimming as we prepare for Omaha! Thanks again.

Suzanne Heath  
Chair, Times and Recognition Committee