

Hello Everyone,

As promised here is the information on two new Age Group Recognition Programs that have been authorized by the Times and Recognition Committee and approved by the Program Operations Vice President and the USA-S Board of Directors. Please note that the SWIMS Times Module Policy Manual and information on the USA Swimming web site will be revised to reflect these changes. The policy revision and the web site changes will be completed as soon as possible but certainly by the end of the calendar year. Appropriate changes for the Rule Book have already gone forward for the 2008 publication.

National Age Group Recognition Program

As you are aware the legislation R-9 which was passed at convention allowed for generalization of an age group recognition program such as the Top 16. After careful thought, discussion and debate, the T & R committee has authorized a new program to take the place of the Top 16. In addition to discussion within the committee, the Age Group Planning Committee and Club Development were consulted and overwhelmingly supported the new concept for age group recognition. Please read below for details on how the program will accomplish its goal of recognizing more age group swimmers at an appropriate age:

National Age Group Recognition Program 2007-08

With the passage of R-9 permitting flexibility in the management of an age group recognition program, the T & R Committee, with the support of the National Age Group Planning Committee and Club Development, has voted to recommend the following program to take effect retroactively to September 1, 2007.

- The recommendation to Program Operations is as follows:
 - Initiation of an age group recognition program for SCY and LCM that will recognize:
 - The top ten individual times in a single age group beginning at age 11 and continuing through age 17.
 - The top ten relay times beginning with age group 11-12 and continuing with 13-14 and 15-18.
 - The Age Group Recognition Program will use the qualifying period of September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008 and follow a similar schedule for each succeeding year.
 - Certificates will be printed and distributed by HQ staff to the LSCs for ages 11-14 (individuals) and 11-12, 13-14 (relays). Blank certificates will be furnished upon request to the LSCs for printing of certificates for ages above 14 (individuals and relays).
 - Lists will be posted on the USA Swimming web site and furnished to *Splash* and *Swimming World* for publication as determined by those magazines.
 - The term “NRT” will cease to exist and will not be used in any SWIMS look up feature. All times are reportable.
 - A “Top Ten” time may be published from the previous year as motivation (replacing Appendix 2-B in the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations this year). The National Age Group Motivational Times (B, BB, A, AA,

etc.) will continue to be published in the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. The NAG Motivational Times - Percentile Based chart will not be continued and will be removed from the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

- NAG Records will not be affected by this recognition program and will continue as presently implemented.

Attached to this email is a descriptive piece that will be posted on the "Age Group Recognition" link under Times/Time Standards and may also be posted on your LSC website. Also attached is a listing of the top ten times from each of the new age groups(2006-07 times) that will be published in the Rule Book for "motivational" purposes for the 2007-08 year. When the 2007-08 listing is published in final form, the top ten times in each age group as noted will be recognized. No achievement of a certain standard will be necessary. Note that the NAG Records will not be affected by this recognition program - 10 & Under NAG Records will continue to be recognized. As most swimming is done using the standardized age groups, 11-12, 13-14, etc., the records will continue to be appropriately recognized.

USA Swimming Scholastic All American

The SAA sub-committee, chaired by Marvin Lanphere, and the T & R committee have recommended changes to the SAA program effective for the 2007-08 year. A history of this program shows us that SAA required participation in a national level meet for recognition (the old junior championships and nationals). Upon the demise of the junior meets in 2000, the sectional meets were used as criteria for selection. Over this last seven years, the disparity among these meets was noted by coaches who requested a change in the swimming criteria. After discussion at convention and in conference call meetings with the sub-committee and the T & R committee, the following has been approved by the T & R committee for the 2007-08 season:

Scholastic All American Program for 2007-08

The T & R Committee, with the support of the SAA Sub-Committee has recommended the following changes for the USA Swimming SAA Program:

- The adoption of a uniform time standard qualification rather than participation in a sectional meet for the swimming component.
- The Time Standard to be used will be the 2000 Junior National Time Standard, also known as the Bonus Standard for the current Junior National Championships.
- All times in the USA Swimming SWIMS Database will be eligible for qualifying for SAA if they were swum in the qualifying period and meet the applicable time standard. This allows the use of times from approved meets and observed meets that are considered official times by USA Swimming.
- Changes will be effective with this year's program; the qualifying period will be July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

- Swimmers on the 2006-07 list that do not make the time standard for 2007-08 will be “grandfathered” and recognized if they submit an application and are academically qualified.
- Academic qualifications remain the same as in prior years – a 3.5 GPA attested to by the athlete’s school.

Applications for the 2007-08 year will be available by January 1, 2008, and posted on the USA Swimming web site. Please note that times from observed and approved competitions which meet the 2000 Junior National Time Standards are acceptable for the SAA program.

SWIMS Export Features

With the new export features from SWIMS now functional, your LSC may be wondering how best to offer the options now available to your LSC. Below is information developed by Pam Lowenthal of Illinois Swimming. Feel free to copy the info (thank you Pam) or adjust it to suit the needs of your LSC. Note that IL uses a central office for all registration and times input. You will only be able to export files from your own LSC. Currently the export feature supports Hy Tek programs which are used by 90% of our teams - we hope to have a SDIF export in the future that will be accepted by other programs.

SWIMS has developed a new feature for importing TIMES and ATHLETE ROSTERS into TEAM MANAGER.

At this time the office can create a file of the following options for you to import into Team Manager (you must have the latest update to complete this process- version 4.0RE or newer).

- Meet Results File of a complete meet held in any LSC
- Club Results within a specific date range for your club, this export will be available only for your own club upon request, and only available for clubs within Illinois Swimming.
- Selected athlete times for a specific date range, only available for athletes within Illinois Swimming, no other LSC options are available from this office.

You will receive the exported file in a zipped format which must be unzipped and saved prior to importing it into Team Manager.

In TM you will go to FILE to IMPORT to SWIMS and then choose either SWIMS Roster or SWIMS Results, then proceed with import as instructed per each screen.

If you have requested a file of an athlete that has recently transferred to your club, upon importing you will need to click the add new team/athletes due to the fact the athlete's times will be associated with the club he/she was previously attached to at the time of the swims.

Here's hoping you and your family will have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. Thanks to each of you for your continued support of SWIMS, our athletes and coaches!

Suzanne