

Technical Planning Committee

1. The 2006-2007 calendar has been updated. We have added a LC meets in June (WST) and July (LY). Unfortunately, we have not been able to fulfill our needs for 13&O Meets in the Central District. The North District and SE District 13&O meets have been canceled for February. Host teams are citing concerns over HS meets impacting the potential participation levels of the meet.
2. Team assignments for the region champs have been posted to the VSI website. Likewise the templates for the district champs and region champs have been posted to the VSI website and sent to the host teams' point of contact.
3. Team assignments for summer awards have been posted to the VSI website. The meet template will not be settled until the qualifying times for LC age group champs and LC senior champs are established. Likewise the team assignments for the Commonwealth Games will not be determined until after the spring HOD meeting.
4. The webpage bid form and sanction request is available for use on the VSI website and has been used by a number of clubs requesting sanctions or submitting bids. No bids or sanction requests have been received by this chair via any other means since the establishment of these web based forms.
5. All meet invitations have been posted for meets up to the beginning of February. The only remaining invitation to be published is the ODAC SE District 12&Y Meet, Feb 3-4. The North District Champs invitation is posted and the remaining district should be sent in shortly as each host team has corresponded with TP about the meet parameters. Likewise, each of the region champs host teams have been in contact with TP about region champ parameters.
6. As reported earlier, teams continue to do much better about getting their sanction requests in and draft meet invitations in for release. They do sometimes forget to request approval for meet fee increases. In several cases this year the meets hosted were being held under similar circumstances and the host team assumed they did not need to request approval for their fee increases. Meets in early January were posted quicker than in past years, but still late by comparison to the rest of the year. The delays are typically holiday related.
7. 13&O meets have not been attractive enough for teams to host. Also when hosted the meets have not been well attended. The Eastern States Senior Circuit competes head to head with the November meet and the January meet really reducing the available pool of participants. Also high school swimming competes with the January and February meets eliminating this as a viable option for our 13&O swimmers. The swimmers most affected by this are the 13 year olds swimmers and 14 & Older swimmers not participating in high school swimming. Offering a viable LSC-wide senior circuit meet schedule for October, November, and January (early) for the SC season would be potentially a better option. Likewise possibly offering a late April or early May LC senior circuit meet would be well received.

8. The concept of district integrity is being challenged regularly. The LSC started utilizing regions, then districts (previously termed areas) to keep lower level competition local, convenient, and manageable in the 1970's. This system has served the LSC well. TP feels it has become important to recognize that each district has unique participation patterns and geographical challenges to consider when establishing its in-direct meets. Having standardized meets throughout the LSC has been a goal of the coaches and age group committee. TP believes we can ensure standardized opportunities throughout the LSC but not necessarily the same types' meets and still meet the needs of our swimmers. We recommend that we allow for greater flexibility within the district scheduling to allow adjustments for in-district needs. This is the best way to preserve district meets that are supported by all the district teams. Hosting district meets that invite out of district and even out of LSC teams to create a viable meet is a sure sign we are missing something.

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