

Dear Senior Committee,

Attached are the results of the survey passed out at LC Senior Champs this past summer. I received 19 responses back, by far the most participation I have received on any query I have previously made.

Here are the conclusions I see from the responses.

- Time standards are good, maybe tweak the distance events, (1500, 1000) along with the 500 and 400 IM. Offer some sort of bonus similar to how Sectionals does it (one gets you one, two gets you two, three gets you one, four gets you zero). If we go this direction perhaps set a bonus standard to maintain time standard integrity. I would suggest no bonus for 1500, 1000, 500 or 400 im.
- Most want to keep Sr Champs where it is on the schedule but a fair number of coaches support the idea. Not enough to make a change however.
- A slim majority would like to see dual courses for short course and possible chase starts in long course. The unknown factor with this question though is how fast would the prelim sessions be. Too fast? Probably with the current time standards. If we went this direction then we would probably looking at either loosening the time standards, adding bonus events, maybe both. Loosening the time standards is in direct conflict with the majority opinion that the Sr Champ cuts are just right.
- Overwhelming number of coaches prefer the current prelim setup for the 400 IM and 500 free. The majority of coaches prefer to keep the 200 fly and 200 breast on Saturday although 1/3 supported such change.
- Advise that we discontinue the extra time on Thursday evenings for warmup. We will still have adequate time for swimmers to cool down however teams are not taking advantage of this opportunity. Two responses requested advertising it more. It has been in the meet invitation for people to read.
- Coaches opinion is to keep the time trials on Sunday evening.
- Do NOT open the meet to teams outside of VSI. Do NOT add a fourth heat to finals.
- The one format change I might suggest is with the distance events. A majority of coaches prefer the 800 freestyle on Thursday evening and the 1500 on Sunday if time permits. I believe it is worthwhile to look at the timeline and if this change can be made we should do.
- Some coaches would like to see more of the formal pomp and ceremony such as walking out the swimmers and awarding of the medals. I believe, when done correctly this adds an air of importance to the meet and makes it more special. However, if we decide to go this route then they must be written into the meet announcement that swimmers MUST walk out if they are in the final's heat and the swimmer or a designated rep must be present to receive the award. There must be a penalty attached such as the swimmer is disqualified from their next event.
- Many coaches would like to see VSI financially support the meet. VSI has done so for the past two Sr Champs, \$5,000 for short course and \$5,000+ for long course. Bottom line though, we have restricted access to the meet and these past two meets have had

the lowest number of athletes in years (see attachment one). Along with the significant increase in the facility costs, and our requirement that this meet must be at one of the premier aquatic facilities means that events fees are getting squeezed. The income VSI receives comes from registration and meet rebate fees. By asking VSI to financially support the meet we are saying all the families and swimmers in VSI should help pay the cost for what a few swimmers use. When the meet is not financially supported by VSI it is then paid by the families and swimmers actually participating in the meet. One alternative I see is this:

- VSI bids the meet out to a facility. VSI negotiates and signs the contract
- VSI sets the meets fees, meet invitation etc.
- VSI then pays a specific amount for a host team to run the meet on its behalf.

This way, while VSI is financially supporting the meet, it is not seen as a subsidy but a cost of doing business.

- A primary concern among coaches was insuring there was adequate warmup/cooldown.

Please review the attached results of the questionnaire. I would like to hear your comments on any of the issues I have spoken to above or any other issues/concerns you see coming from this questionnaire.

Thanks.