

Review of Eligibility Rules
Eastern Zone All-Star Short Course Meet
March 31 – April 2, 2005

As a result of communications recently received from some individuals in a few Eastern Zone LSC's, we have come to realize that not everybody was aware until recently of some decisions the Zone made last May regarding future eligibility to participate in the Eastern Zone Short Course All-Star Meet.

A special Task Force had been created in May 2003 to address whether changes in how the Eastern Zone Short Course All-Star Meet should be conducted. That task force met during the following year and submitted its recommendation to the Zone at its May 2004 meeting -- a year later. In response to receipt of that report, a motion was made at that meeting to add Speedo Championship Series Meets (Sectionals) to the list of meets at which if an athlete had competed, he could no longer participate in the Eastern Zone All-Star Meet. No provision was made at that time to limit its applicability to meets held after the date the motion was enacted. A motion was also made at that time to add the provision if you had a time faster than "that needed to enter an EASTERN ZONE Speedo Championship Series meet" you could no longer enter that event at zones (for 13/Over swimmers.)

It was clarified in September (as part of the process of formally adopting the minutes of May meeting) that " Any swimmer, who has been to a Sectional Meet (anywhere), cannot swim at the Short Course Zone Meet. Any swimmer who has an Eastern Zone Sectional Cut for an event and has not gone to a Sectional Meet may go to a Zone Meet, but may not swim that event that he or she has an Eastern zone sectional cut in. This will be put into the Zone Rules and Regulations. (This goes back to day 1 in 2001)."

While the Zone has NOT been formally asked to reconsider its decision in this matter, it has nevertheless given consideration to the matter.

It has decided that no change in the eligibility rules should be made -- primarily for the following reasons.

- 1 -- The length of time since this decision was made and initially disseminated both on the Eastern Zone webpage and to all 12 Eastern Zone LSC's present at the meeting via distribution of the Zone minutes,
- 2 -- The fact the Eastern Zone Meet is an All-Star meet and only two athletes from each LSC may be entered in an event -- thus if the eligibility rules were to be changed now-- other swimmers will be kept from attending the meet, and
- 3 -- The fact that some LSC's in the Zone have been publicizing the new eligibility rules to their coaches and athletes for some time and expectations regarding making their LSC's zone team have been made based on the rules already adopted by the Zone.

The Zone has just been asked to reconsider whether an individual who makes the EZ Sectional cut after the entry deadline for a Sectional meet may still swim that event at this year's zone meet. The Zone has not in the past had a rule that permitted you to swim that event if you achieve the QT too late to attend the higher level meet. The only thing that has changed this year is that Sectionals has been added to the list of meets -- which if you were eligible to enter -- you could no longer swim that event at Zones (unless you are 12/Under.) Since this has been long standing Eastern Zone policy, there appears to be no basis to now treat Sectionals differently than Zone policy has dealt with similar situations in the past.

We continue to welcome your input regarding Zone policy. We can of course discuss this further at our meeting in May, but the directors of the Zone do not see a compelling reason to change already adopted policy in the absence of having an opportunity at a Zone meeting to fully discuss the matter.

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Coach Director Zone Director

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Non-Coach Director Zone Director

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