

## Zone Report – Disability Chair

### 2017 LC Age Group Zone Championships

#### Athlete representation:

Pleasant Prairie, WI      1 para-swimmer  
Rochester, MN            3 para-swimmers  
(four times as many as the Mega Zone meet)

#### Summary of Feedback/Comments:

Athlete –            Wished she could do it again, but will age out.  
Felt supported & proud of accomplishment and how they contributed to the team.

Parent –            Slight confusion on entry process  
Overall experience was overwhelmingly positive.  
Support from teammates, officials, meet management and spectators was

Referee -            accommodating the D2 athletes was a privilege.  
Coaches were wonderful to work with.  
Athlete needs were discussed and adjusted made as necessary to accommodate.  
Their swims were not in the original session reports so preprinted documents did not include those finals which could have caused confusion.  
I hope that the athletes felt welcomed and valued.

Admin – The para swimmers at the Rochester meet were amazing. There were times these kids swam alone but the crowd was just as loud as if it was a finals heat of a close race. I hope their experience will encourage other para swimmers to participate next year.

There wasn't a lot of work that needed to be done, just a few extra steps, and by no means was it intrusive to anything else we were doing that weekend. In fact, it was a great learning opportunity.

1. The D-2 swimmers weren't listed as Disabled in Meet Manager which we updated before the start of the meet. Because they were scoring as part of team we couldn't create a D-2 division and break them out. With 3 swimmers we kept a list near the computer and kept track of their events. More swimmers may need a more formal process.
2. We didn't know which events they were swimming before the meet and needed to setup separate finals events for each distance/stroke and add them to the session. Each event was noted as "D-2 Finals Event" which appeared in the session report. If more than one swimmer swam the same stroke/distance we created combined heats where they could swim together but be scored separately. The races were fairly close and fun to watch.
3. The only event that took a little extra work was the 400m free which was not well defined in the meet info as being timed finals vs. prelims/finals. It was decided to be swum as a timed finals

event with top 8 swimming at night. Carson's (D-2) seed time put him into the top 8 but the meet info had D-2 swimmers automatically swimming in finals. After talking to the coach we scratched him from the original event and he was seeded into a D-2 finals event which he did alone.

4. We tried to enter their prelims times as their entry times for finals but we missed that step prior to the printing of the programs for one of the sessions.

Disability Chair Summary:

Overall the experience of this inaugural D-2 was overwhelmingly successful and encouraging for all involved. Minimal timeline changes well worth the recognition and support that these athletes received.

A few communication issues to be resolved in the promotion and understanding of these athletes status on the team as well as entry process to be refined.

Still awaiting feedback from others and will add at the meeting if received.

Many, many thanks to everyone involved.

Plans to share with all other zone and LSC disability chairs as to the success of Central Zone Champs.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Peterfish