

Teams, Swimmers, and Coaches,

Over the past few weeks, we have seen the very few entries into the upcoming Long Course Eastern Zone Super Sectional Meet. We have worked with the Eastern Zone Directors to make the meet more attractive to other teams and swimmers by easing the restrictions on bonus swims and relay only athlete, however we have only seen negative results from these changes.

The original meet ended OME with about 155 swimmers and 575 total swims (relays, bonus, hard cuts). Some teams questioned the viability and competitiveness of the event and started to withdraw from the event. At this point, approximately 60 swimmers have withdrawn from the meet. What was 30-45 min sessions for prelims, is now a fraction of that.

Working with the Eastern Zone and USA Swimming, we believe the meet should continue. However, due to the aforementioned factors, it will continue in an abbreviated form. We understand no format is perfect when changes are made and the following is the best attempt to provide a prelim/finals format for the remaining teams and athletes. We will be working to produce a more firm timeline over the next 24-48 hours; this is our best attempt at this time:

Wednesday, July 15

Dorm Check in

Thursday, July 16

Athlete/Team Check in: 6:00am

Coaches Meeting: TBA

Session 1: Warm Up: 7:15a; Start Time: 8:15a

All Thursday Preliminary Events (Including any athletes wishing to do a Thursday event time trial merged into the regular meet)

All Friday Events offered as Time Trials. Will last 30 minutes, and serve as a break if finished early.

All Saturday Preliminary Events (Including any athletes wishing to do a Thursday event time trial merged into the regular meet)

All Sunday Events offered as Time Trials. Will last 30 minutes, and serve as a break if finished early.

Thursday Distance Event Heats

Session 2: Warm Up & Start TBD based on entry volume

All Thursday Final Events (including relays)

10 Minute Break

All Saturday Final Events (including relays)

Session 2 end time: No later than 3:30pm.

Friday, July 17

Athlete/Team Check in: 6:00am

Session 3: Warm Up: 7:15a; Start Time: 8:15a

All Friday Preliminary Events (Including any athletes wishing to do a Friday event time trial merged into the regular meet)

All Saturday Events offered as Time Trials. Will last 30 minutes, and serve as a break if finished early.

All Sunday Preliminary Events (Including any athletes wishing to do a Sunday event time trial merged into the regular meet)

All Thursday Events offered as Time Trials. Will last 30 minutes, and serve as a break if finished early.

Sunday Distance Event Heats

Session 4: Warm Up & Start TBD based on entry volume

All Friday Final Events (including relays)

10 Minute Break

All Sunday Final Events (including relays)

Session 4 end time: No later than 3:30pm.

Dorm Check-Out

Saturday, July 18

No swimming

Sunday, July 19

No Swimming

Additional Notes and Information

Hard cut times will remain the same with no changes. There are no bonus cuts. Relay Only swimmers can swim bonus events and time trials.

All swimmers are eligible to swim up to 6 events. USA Swimming rules say that a swimmer can only swim up to 3 events per day in a P/F meet format. Time trials DO count towards the 3 event daily count.

As of this e-mail, there is only 1 heat of 800/1500 freestyle for both genders and 1 heat of each relay. Expect those events to swim in sessions 2 and 4 only.

800/1500 bonus rules still apply per original meet packet.

OME will be adjusted and your entries will be amended to the above format. We will work with teams/athletes who now have entry exceptions.

There is no financial penalty to withdraw from the meet at this time, including those of you who have checked out. We need written request to remove an athlete/team no later than Monday, July 13 at 6pm. At that time, entries will be final.

Those of you who have withdrawn can remain in the meet if you so choose. If you would like to compete, please reply to this e-mail indicating so. If you still do not want to compete, we do not need anything further.

Dorms will still be available for a Wednesday Check In; all dorms should plan on checking out on Friday by the end of session 4. Those of you who have reservations will be adjusted with no further action from you.

Thank you all for your patience while we have worked to make this meet work. We understand that this is not what a Sectional meet in the Eastern Zone should be, but feel strong that a meet should be offered for all of you who want to swim.

We will reply to e-mails as quickly as possible. We are currently competing in our LSC Championship meet and will do our best to respond in a timely manner.

Regards,

Adam Zaczkowski and the Syracuse Chargers