

Disability Chair Report

Spring 2008

National Meets

US Paralympic Trials were held April 3-5 at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Southeastern Swimming was represented by 2 officials, 2 athletes, and 1 former athlete.

Athletes

Aimee Bruder - Lakeshore

Ivy Garrison - Huntsville

Carrie Willoughby – Colorado (formerly Birmingham)

Officials

Peter Soderstrom - Starter

Rayleen Soderstrom - Referee

Congratulations to Aimee Bruder for her selection to the US Paralympic Team for 2008.

GTAC Disability Open will be held April 25-27, 2008 at Eastern Michigan University. The meet will be used as the national team selection meet for deaf swimmers. An official's certification course will be conducted for US Paralympic Swimming.

Endeavor Games will be competed June 6-8, 2008 at the University of Central Oklahoma. US Paralympic Swimming will also offer an official's certification class at this meet.

Can – Am Series

Summer Can-Am Championships will be July 11-13, 2008 in Victoria, British Columbia.

The next US meet will be March 19-21, 2009 at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon.

LSC

I am tracking several age-group swimmers who are currently competing in LSC meets for possible selection to the 2008 Zone Team. Coaches who have athletes with a disability should contact me with the name, age, gender, and disability of any athlete who should be added to my list.

Coaches

Remember you or your athlete are required to check in with the referee at the meet if you have any athlete with a disability competing. Do not assume that the meet entry information will be transmitted to the deck officials. Even if you are not requesting any accommodations for your athlete, the referee will need to be informed prior to any possible rule interpretation that might become necessary.

Zone Meet

2008 Zone meet will be in Atlanta at the Georgia Tech Olympic Pool. Athletes with a disability will need to fill out an application and compete in either Summer Southeasterns or Districts to be eligible. We are currently budgeted for 2 athletes with a disability on the team.

Mentoring

We have a very extensive mentoring group of athletes, parents, officials, and coaches of swimmers with a disability. Contact me for referrals to this valuable resource. We will match you by the disability type and you will be surprised at how much help can be received from those who have traveled the same path you are on.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns that you have about disability swimming. I am in the process of moving so my mailing address and home phone have changed. The best way to reach me is by e-mail or cell phone.

Rayleen Soderstrom

Disability Chair

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