

**Report to the Niagara Swimming House of Delegates
Technical Planning Committee Chair as of 9/01/07
Deborah Burke**

Technical Planning Committee Report

The new Technical Planning Committee has met once since officially beginning our service as of September 2007. This Committee includes the following Niagara Board Members (per by-laws) of Paul Crist, Marci Callan, Kendra Bush, Eric Houlahan, Mike Nowicki and Shawn Parkhurst. Additional members of the committee are Rick Aronberg (STAR), Amy O'Brien (LCAT), Barb Paradis (former Niagara General Chair), Ross Munson (KVAC), and Patty Terry (SEAS).

1. IMX Series Meets – the Bronze meet hosted by SEAS and the Silver meets hosted by UNAC at SUNY Binghamton and FAST have been posted on the website. The 14 & Under Gold IMX meet hosted by HAST & WSSC will be posted by October 31, 2007. The format of the IMX Series remains as a multi-age prelim/single age finals meet, with one heat returning to finals. The awards program has been bolstered to include Best Time ribbons and “grab bag” heat winner awards for the Bronze meet, Custom IMX swim cap participation awards and 1st – 3rd place medals for individual events, 1st place medals for relays at the Silver and Gold IMX meets. In addition, the random drawing for IMX Camp participation is again included again as part of the awards structure for the IMX Series as is the special IMX Power Point Improvement Award, and the Niagara Gold and Silver Time Standard Achievement awards have been revived.

An added feature of this year's IMX Series is that the team scoring will include designated distance events. The following events will, in addition to the IMX events, be scored using Hy-Tek Single-Age Power Point scores for purposes of determining the IMX Series Team Championship. The events below are also available as “Bonus” events:

- ◆ 12 & Under 200 Backstroke, Breaststroke, and Butterfly events
- ◆ 500 Free for 10 & Unders, and 1000 and 1650 Freestyle, all ages
- ◆ 400 IM, all ages

Upon the conclusion of the IMX Series, the team with the highest Power Point Average per swimmer in IMX **and** designated distance events will receive a custom “Niagara IMX Series Team Champion” banner that will travel yearly to the winner of the IMX Series.

2. Awards Program – As noted above, the Silver and Gold Time Standard Achievement program has returned for the 2007-2008 short course season, and the awards for the IMX Series have been expanded to include medals for individual places 1st – 3rd, and 1st place relays. Due to financial considerations, the medals at these meets will be “stock order” medals as opposed to the custom Niagara medal. In addition, the Technical Planning Committee is exploring the provision of an award to swimmers who achieve a Zone Championships time standard. Please note that expansion of our awards programs are subject to financial approval and availability of funds. The Committee also plans to review the awards structure for the second series of Niagara meets (i.e. the Bronze/Silver/Gold meets of Jan – March 2008) for possible updating.
3. NYS IMX Swimming Pentathlon – proposed by D. Burke to the Adirondack and Metropolitan LSC's, this event is in the developmental stages (not approved for participation by any of the three LSC's). Niagara has proposed having a New York LSC championship-type meet primarily for swimmers aged 14 and under. The current thinking regarding this meet is that the events would be limited to IMX events in a 2 to 2.5 day format, and could be either short course meters or long course. The time frame would be in May 2008. All three LSC's have indicated high interest in developing this idea further, with possible implementation in 2008. D. Burke has developed a format for the meet and has forwarded it to both the Adirondack and Metropolitan LSC's for review. If these LSC's remain interested, a committee comprised of representatives from the three LSC's will be developed to

explore venue options and clarify format and entry details. If realized, this meet will not be subsidized by Niagara Swimming at any level.

4. Possible new IMX-focused Zone Meet – At the USAS Convention in September, the Age Group Development Committee unveiled a concept meet that is planned for possible implementation in the fall of 2009. Known currently as the “Zone IMXTreme Games” each Zone (there are 4 zones in USA Swimming) would sponsor a championship-level meet that would focus on the IMX program. It would be a single-age format, likely including swimmers aged 11 –14. D. Burke will monitor the development of this program and report any developments in this area.
5. Just a reminder – New silver and gold time standards are in effect for this season, with the Niagara using the USA Motivational BB and A time standards for silver and gold levels in the 2008-2009 season. Time standards are available on the website in the 2008 Swim Guide.
6. Meets that Offer Distance Events – The Technical Planning Committee, in conjunction with the Age Group and Sr. Swimming Vice Chairs are asking you to let us know of sanctioned meets that offer distance events. We would like to highlight these meets to promote distance swimming and improve our collective performance in this area. Technical Planning will also review the current surcharge and event fee structure for sanctioned meets and develop strategies that encourage the inclusion of distance swimming in more Niagara-sanctioned invitational meets.
7. The Niagara Swimming Festival – Inclusive of the “Go the Distance” meet and the Sr. IMX meet, we again are planning to have a national-class athlete attend this year’s event at the Webster Aquatic Center. This has been included in this report as the Technical Planning Committee is investigating a possible expansion of the “Go the Distance” portion of this event to include swimmers not eligible for the Sr. IMX meet. While no determination has been made at the time of this report, you are advised to watch for the meet announcements for potential inclusion of 13 & 14 year-old swimmers in the “Go the Distance” meet.
8. “Chasers” and “Two Swimmers per Lane” events – It is my opinion that within one year, we will have had a meet within the Niagara LSC that utilizes either the “Chasers” or “Two Swimmers per Lane” to manage meet timelines while not disallowing entries into distance events. The reason I have included it here is to encourage officials and meet directors to become knowledgeable of how to incorporate these strategies into meets when necessary, and to encourage coaches to prepare swimmers for the same.

Not bad for one formal meeting and one conference call!

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Burke