

## **2017 MODELS FOR NIAGARA LSC REGIONAL MEETS AND IMX/SRPPT**

In agreeing to design an updated meet format for the current 12 + under IMX/Senior PPT weekend, while important, I think it addresses only half of the issue we are facing. I would like to present 4 models to fully understand and address what is occurring with the current bid calendar. First, by taking out all the regional qualifiers, we have ignored the needs of servicing the majority of athletes in our LSC, as well as disenfranchising the clubs that support Niagara in hosting these meets, and additionally disrupting a successful model of the 12 + under IMX /SRPPT meet with no plan or explanation.

A complete evaluation of the Niagara Regional meets and their decline in attendance/interest provides an opportunity for a “face lift” of this program. For historical information, these meets were originally designed by me as an athletes’ rep, by request from parents and athlete surveys.

**MODEL #1** Reconsider the Bronze/Regional meets and move them to the Senior meet weekend March 24-26. Maybe 1 session Friday, 2 Saturday and 1 Sunday. Or keep it Saturday and Sunday. It will keep swimmers at this level engaged longer during the year. Check with the clubs that normally host these meets and get feedback from them as to whether they would reconsider a new date and run a revised Regional/Bronze meet. Make this a team event with great awards. I spoke with a group of boys that are new and at this level and asked them what they thought. They said trophies and medals and a team award, more of a team championship. Do a postcard mailing to promote the event, (this has been done in the past and was successful), bring in an Olympian, or attraction. Entice the coaches with a clinic; incentive/winning club gets a clinic, training equipment, something to celebrate their win. Niagara needs to invest in building the base. Spend the money! We spend over \$50,000 on our top 2-3%. That includes the zone team and some of these swimmers don’t make the cuts. The bronze level is over 3000 swimmers, what have we done for them lately. The clubs that host these meets have been loyal volunteers serving our swimmers, we have failed them.

Niagara stipend \$1000 per site

**MODEL #2** If the Bronze series can be reinstated, (the HOD can change anything); we then look at the 12+under IMX/SRPPT. They are actually 2 meets that have lived in harmony for a number of years. They have been well attended and enjoyed. It even gained the reputation as the Niagara Winter Festival. The host club was successful many times in bringing in an Olympian,

hosting a clinic. The past "Go the Distance" meet was morphed into the 12 + under IMX meet. It seems everyone is doing an IMX meet now, so a possible JRPPT meet has been discussed in the past 2 years to replace the 12 + under IMX meet. To follow the SRPPT model, it may be necessary to do 3 sessions, to look something like this. No 8 + unders, same award system as the SRPPT, bell ringers and gift certificates, PPT scoring. High scorer gets a T-shirt printed on site. 4 events per session plus relays.

Session 1: 100 brst, 200 free, 100 bk, 200 IM, 50 free, 200 free relay, 1000 free

Session 2: 50 fly, 50 brst, 400 IM, 200 brst, 100 fly, 200 med relay, 500 free

Session 3: 200 bk, 100 free, 50 bk, 200 fly, 100 IM, 400 free relay, 1650 free

Niagara stipend \$1000 per site

**MODEL #3** By allowing multiple bids/sites, we have diluted the SRPPT. Have a standalone SRPPT meet. There is a group of Senior teams that look forward to coming together at this time of year from all 4 areas. It serves as a prelude to the championship season in March. Senior swimmers are interested in seeing swimmers from the other areas, not the same ones they swim in every HS/local club meet. Suggestions would be to keep 1 site for the SRPPT, make the cuts a bit slower, keep it 3 sessions and possibly add a 4<sup>th</sup> session for the 13 + overs that don't qualify with a modified list of events. Call it session 1 slower than SRPPT cuts

Session 1: 200 med relay, 100 IM, 200 IM, 500 free, 50 fly, 100 fly, 100 free, 50 bk, 100 bk, 50 brst, 100 brst, 200 free relay.

Allow those that have only 1 SRPTT cut go to this session 1. Many might make the just 50 free.

Session 2: Becomes traditional session 1

Session 3: Becomes traditional session 2

Session 4: Becomes traditional session 3

Niagara stipend \$1000 per site

**MODEL #4** Keep both meets together. It may not be manageable due to the JRPPT added events and no cuts. Niagara stipend \$1000 - \$2000

Additional notes, evaluate awards for all these meets. Make it great!!

Resources for these models: friends in the following LSC's, Metro, Adirondack, CT, Southern California, USA Swimming Club Development Committee member. I can embellish further if we would like to move forward..... Ryan Callan

