

Spencer Schultz

Syracuse Chargers

Applying for: Niagara District Junior Athlete Representative

Sports have always been a large part of my life. At a young age, my parents put value on participating in a variety of activities, from basketball, baseball, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and eventually swimming. From the first time I swam at the age of 6 for my local country club, I fell in love with the sport. For me, swimming has encouraged me to stay physically active and healthy throughout my life. Even so, the most important thing I've come away with from my ten years of swimming is the mental toughness it requires and the lasting relationships I have formed with swimmers and coaches across Niagara District.

I currently swim for the Syracuse Chargers at the senior level. Having competed at the Championship Qualifier, Championship, NYSPHSAA State, and Zone meets during my career, I've gotten to know swimmers with a wide variety of abilities. For that reason, I believe I am a good representative for all Niagara swimmers.

Additionally, I have been president of my class for the past two years, so I'm very familiar with surveying students' needs, organizing meetings, and making proposals with administrators about fundraising and other events. I think the insight that I have come away with from that experience can also help me with the responsibilities of being the Niagara District Junior Athlete Representative.

As Niagara District Junior Athlete Representative, I wish to encourage more swimmer participation at the House of Delegates, promote diversity, and act as a voice for swimmers' needs. This year first I witnessed first-hand the struggles of committed, year-round swimmers as they tried to make the faster qualifying times of this year's championships. Across my team and swimmers from other teams, there was a common thread of concern about not being able to make any of the times. I wish I could have been a voice for those swimmers who were considering leaving the sport due to their frustration. I believe that it is important swimmers be heard, and for that reason, I hope I am chosen as the Junior Athlete Representative.

