Age Group Chair End of Year Report

This report will cover the 2014-2015 short course season as that is when I began as Age Group Chair. The biggest things to happen during that time was the rearranging of the PVS Open Meet events and elimination of some distance events to attempt to make the timelines more manageable. Working with the General Chair, Senior Chair, and Secretary, we came up with what we thought would be the best event line up, moving some of the events out of the Saturday and Sunday sessions, and adding them to the Friday night events. Along with reducing the number of events that swimmers could swim, this did help to reduce splash numbers and keep timelines in check. I emailed the host teams after the meets were done to seek their opinion on how they felt the meets ran and the numbers were with the new event lineups and most approved, though I did get feedback that having the 100 free on Friday may need to change. I spoke with coaches from various teams as well about the changes, and most liked how the meets ran, but the number of swimmers on deck was still an issue. The Board approved the renting of additional pools for the 2015-2016 short course and 2015 long course season to try and help spread our growing numbers out.

The only other major thing for me this year was the Junior Olympic Championship meet. This was my first year of making the Qualifying Times, and I did my best to both be fair to the swimmers, but also take into consideration the optimal size for the meet. The JO meet went well, with only one timeline issue on Saturday. There was an abundance of 13-14 swimmers at the Saturday session, and despite lowering the cut time in 23 events, the JO numbers actually were up. The meet was able to run as intended with 11 and overs in the morning, 10 and Unders in the afternoon, and a nice break before finals. After the meet, I had many discussions with various coaches from various teams, and my goal for the coming seasons is to lower the JO cuts even more, but also work on finding a way to add another championship meet for the kids who are being cut out of the JO's. I will be presenting a proposal to the competition meeting in May about this issue.