

**Potomac Valley Swimming  
Competition Committee Meeting  
January 13, 2021  
Video Conference, 7:30 pm**

- Attendance – see attached list of attendants.
- Meeting Called to order at 7:30 pm by Senior Chair, Evan Stiles
- Approval of Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of the Winter 2020 Competition Committee, approved by acclamation.
- Introduction – Evan wants to use the “Together as a Village” approach as we plan for the spring. Instead of only the Age Group Chair, Erik Collins, and Senior Chair, Evan Stiles making all the decisions, he wants all coaches to throw out ideas on if and how PVS hosts meets in the spring of 2021. Is there an interest in Spring Champ meets for the different age groups?
  - Evan comments that tonight is more about getting the great ideas, not making any final decisions. He will create a list of the ideas expressed at the meeting and form a task force to meet and put together recommendations as to how to proceed.
- Tim Husson, General Chair introduced housekeeping reminders for the Zoom meeting.
- Zone/Sectional Update – Tim Husson reported:
  - Meets in the Zone – Eastern Zone Technical Committee has been meeting monthly to get the pulse of the zone as a whole. The Northeast has been hit hard by the pandemic. There are many clubs in the EZ that are in worse shape and some still not in the water.
    - The Age Group Zone meet was supposed to be held in New York in April of 2021. But given the circumstances, they decided to do a Virtual Championships, instead of a live meet. There will be a leaderboard posted on the EZ website. Swimmers will be able to post times from any meet held in February and March. There will be no awards, no team championship, simply a leaderboard by event. There will be more information coming out about the structure and how the leaderboard will work in the near future. They have not yet given up on a live meet later in the spring.
    - There has been no final decision on Sectionals yet. With two of the sites in New York, it is not looking good, but still undetermined. It is Tim’s best guess, that if there is anything it will be virtual type meet. He does not believe there will be any way to have a live, in person meet with so many people needing to travel.
- Discussion about future meets/Championship meets – Senior Chair, Evan Stiles started the discussion on Spring Championship meets in PVS by asking a few questions.
  - How do we run meets in March? How are meets going now? Do we like the way things are, small with only a few teams, or do we want to make changes?
    - Why not have the top 16 swimmers over the course of the season, get together for a “finals” sometime in March. This would be for all age groups in all events. If 16 is too many swimmers, then reduce down to 8.
      - Many coaches felt this was a good idea and something to explore further, but there were some concerns regarding the smaller teams and/or the teams who have not had many/any opportunities for competition.
    - Why don’t we follow the model; prelims and finals, using qualifying times from last season?
      - With an end date for qualifying times (end of February/early March).

- To expand on the “Top 16” ideas, what about, top 16 at the end of the season, then the next 8, with a time standard?
- What is the goal of any of these meets? There are a lot of teams in PVS, each with their own unique needs. Do we only cater to the top 16 or do we look at a broader group? Maybe a survey should be sent out to see what the needs are for each team. We should start with the big picture and then figure things out from there.
- What is the percentage of how many of our swimmers are actually competing? Tim commented that roughly 2100 athletes have competed at least once through December. Which is approximately 30%. There are more meets scheduled in January and February, so that amount is likely to increase.
- Do we have to hold championship meets in March? Or could we push it to April or May? With Easter being April 4, we could hold meets later in April or early May. Hopefully by then more will have been vaccinated and maybe restrictions will start easing up.
  - We would like to think the situation will be better later in the spring, but we really have no idea.
- Since this is now an Olympic Year, will clubs be looking for Long Course?
  - We should try to service our entire population, not just the highest level.
- It was expressed that if we try to service everyone, we will ultimately service no one.
- Pool capacity seems to range from 80 to over 100 in most facilities, which are extremely limited.
  - We all need to think about how we can deal with limited numbers, service our teams and athletes in the best way possible.
  - Those who are in the elite group and preparing for trials, are being serviced. We need to focus on the others.
- MEL commented that less than 5% of RMSC athletes have been able to compete. This is not just a small team problem, but there are other clubs, especially in Montgomery County that cannot host/hold meets.
  - If there is a concept that allows some to compete and others cannot, it may just be the way it is and can not be helped. Similar to the way some clubs can practice and others cannot.
- Tim noted that times from unsanctioned meets cannot go into SWIMS, but each LSC can allow unsanctioned times to be used for qualifying for LSC meets.
- There was a general consensus that any of the swimmers who decide to compete in out of town meets, such as NCSA and others, will not be allowed to also participate in PVS spring “championship” meets. This will help give the opportunities to compete to as many athletes as possible. There is a precedent for this type of policy.
- In looking at how many pools we might be able to afford, Tim noted that we budgeted for Jr/Sr Champs and AG Champs at UMD, we have “at least” that much in the budget for various pools. Ellen Colket, the Finance Vice Chair agreed. Keep in mind, the more pools that are rented with the reduced numbers in participants, the more difficult it will be.

- Equipment and officials might be limiting as well, if there are multiple sites needed on the same weekend.
    - There is already money in the budget, and there is other money we could move around if needed.
      - It may be difficult to find enough pools to service all the swimmers.
  - There are approximately 10 pools currently being used for PVS meets, they are only in Virginia. DC Prince George's County, and Montgomery County are currently not allowing any competitions.
  - How important is it to have a "Championship Meet" or should we just continue to provide opportunities to as many swimmers as possible?
  - One possible proposed meet schedule for Junior/Senior Champs – April 15-18, in 2 facilities that allow 8-10 lanes of competition and continuous warm up/cool down. With 2 prelims sessions and 1 finals (no TT, no relays, no bonus). For QT...look at what the numbers allowed. For Age Group Champ - April 22-25, in 2-3 facilities with 8-10 lanes and continuous warm up/cool down. 3 sessions for prelims and one finals...QT based on what the numbers allow.
    - These ideas are based on the championship meets Virginia Swimming is planning for this spring.
  - While we could try to split the the meets by male/female or by age group, we know this can be hard for smaller clubs. But it would be a better competitive environment.
  - Some feel this year it is more about getting the opportunity to swim, not as important on how they placed.
  - Since PVS was able to host 18&U Champs in December, it might be hard to tell the community that we cannot do anything in the spring. They may be small but we should try to do something.
  - A spring "championship" meet, might help to give some swimmers a purpose.
  - OCCS did two prelim/finals meets in 4 days in Decembers with lot of small sessions. They only allowed 3 events per session.
    - These were long days but was a way to maximize time at the pool.
    - Ellen was the Meet Referee and commented that Aaron did a great job hosting the meet and feels the kids are getting used to the protocols.
  - If we pushed later in the spring, what is the latest we would want to go?
    - Will look for dates first; mid-March to mid-April to begin with.
  - What is Olympic Trials going to look like?
    - USA Swimming has not made any final decisions yet. There will be a meet, but they have not decided what the format will look like yet.
- Discussion about Long Course Schedule – What do we think we can do this summer for Long Course? We need to have a basic plan.
  - Maybe start the summer with Short Course Meters and then season culminating with Long Course?
    - In the summer, outdoor pools are not lacking and most are Short Course Meters.
  - RMSC coaches feel the outdoor pools in Montgomery County will open this summer. MEL commented that the Rockville City plans to open the outdoor pools around April 1. He doesn't think that there will be any competitions in Montgomery County for a while.
  - We still have the summer Long Course time reserved in the various Fairfax County facilities. As we get closer, we will be able to decide what we do with them.

- Chris Natoli (on the USA Swimming Senior Development Committee) commented that USA Swimming is looking to do something similar to the 18 & Under Champs, like they did in December for the month of March. It is be similar/parallel to the December meet with qualifying times. So that might be an option for the higher end athletes. If we do that then maybe we can move the younger swimmers to April. He noted that information will be released once they finalize the plans.
- Is there any protocol in PVS that if anyone travels outside the LSC they have to quarantine upon return? Does PVS have any policies regarding this?
  - At this time, PVS does not have any policy about this. We defer to the state and local policies. But clubs might have their own policies and many do. Maryland does have travel restrictions/travel policies...if you go outside the DMV plus any contiguous states (WV, PA, DE) if you travel you have to quarantine for 10 days and/or produce a negative test.
- 2021-2022 PVS Meet Schedule – Schedule was proposed, January Distance (Jan 8-9), 14 & U Champs (March 10-13). We will send this to the board and softly approve the 2021-2022 PVS meet schedule.
- Additional Discussion items – If there are any meets with extra space please contact MEL at RMSC. They are looking for competition opportunities for their athletes.
- Adjournment – Everyone was thanked for participating and adjourned.

Name	Club/Representing
Tim Husson	PVS
Mark Eldridge	RMSC
Shelley Gesker	YORK
Mat Campet	YORK
Beth Sellers	PGKS
Jenni Halem	TIBU
Thomas Ugast	NCAP
Nicole Linn	NCAP
Teresa Meike	SNOW
Karyn McCannon	NCAP
Greg York	YORK
Evan Stiles	PVS - Sr. Chair
Lance Page	TANK
Terri Marlin	PVS
John Tollefson	TOLL
Ray Benecki	FISH
Erik Collins	PVS - AG Chair
Ailynn Park	APAC
Chris Natoli	NCAP
Heather Haddock	MAKO
Robert Walker	ASA
Ellen Colket	PVS
Aaron Dean	OCCS
Jason Blanken	ASA
Lynne Gerlach	MSSC
David Chu	MAC
Reid Owen	PM
Ian Handerhan	SDS
Henry Tollefson	TOLL
Brian J. Thomas	GWU
Mark Faherty_NCAP (Mark Faherty)	NCAP
Jeremy Cochran	NCAP
Brian Cheng	RMSC
Dave Arluck	GUEST - Fitter and Faster
Paris Jacobs	MACH
Peter Morgan	NCAP
	15714364433
Rebecca Fayed	ASA
Trish Buswell	NCAP
Margaret Williams	Unattached
Peter Ward	MAKO
Shanna Howat	Guest
Jason Cochran	MACH
Manga Dalizu	FAST
Bridget Dromerick	ASA
Rob Green	DCPR

Rob Green  
Paige Alona Sass  
Julia Koczot  
Michael Kraeuter  
Yolanda Perry  
Jason Adler  
Joe Flaherty

DCPR  
SDS  
FXFX  
BWST  
Guest  
NCAP  
JFD

## 2021-2022 PVS Meet Schedule

Meet	2020-2021 dates	2021-2022 PROPOSED Dates	2021-2022 Endorsed Dates
October Open	October 16-18	October 15-17	October 15-17
November Open	November 13-15	November 12-14	November 12-14
January Distance	January 2-3	January 1-2 or January 8-9	January 8-9
January Open	January 23-24	January 22-23	January 22-23
February Distance	February 14.	February 13.	February 13.
18 & U Qualifier	February 19-21	February 18-20	February 18-20
Junior Champs	March 4-7	March 3-6	March 3-6
Senior Champs	March 4-7	March 3-6	March 3-6
14 & U JOs	March 18-21	March 17-20 (or March 10-13)	March 10-13
LC Distance	June 13 - 14	June 11-12	June 11-12
LC Open 1	June 20.	June 19.	June 19.
LC Open 2	June 27.	June 26.	June 26.
LC Open Champs	July 15-18	July 14-17	July 14-17
LC 12 & U Champs	July 15-18	July 14-17	July 14-17
LC 13 & O Champs	July 22-25	July 21-24	July 21-24