



Dear MSL families, swimmers, and coaches,

The Marin Swim League Board welcomes all of you to the 2007 swim season! We are looking forward to another year of fun and great competition.

The MSL Board, in consultation with your local swim team boards, has decided to slightly alter last year's changes at our dual meets and at the All-Star meet. These changes are again on a trial basis and after this season next year's board will evaluate whether or not to continue them.

#### Dual Meet Scoring

There were some very close meets last year that were exciting for spectators and participants alike. This year we want to encourage close competition by scoring the relays differently and allowing places 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> to score points. Last year we piloted the 5-3-1 relay scoring process. This year, the MSL board and majority of the team boards voted to try a 7-3-1 relay scoring process. As in the past, there will be a no sweep rule so each team will score at least one point if a team is entered. This way, no team will be shut out of scoring during the opening relays, the teams will enter the head-to-head swimmer competition with a much closer score, and the free relays could have dramatic impact on the final outcome.

This scoring approach should also encourage teams to enter more relay teams into an event and increase the participation of swimmers. It will again be fun to watch how this scoring will affect the scores, not to mention the strategies for coaching.

#### All Star Meet

Did you enjoy the "back from the past" All Star Meet format last year? To repeat the history, long-standing MSL families remember a time when the All-Star meet was run in a "North-South" format, with the MSL teams divided into two teams. Not only did the meet mean something, but swimmers who normally were competitors found themselves on the same team, however now as teammates. This built camaraderie and friendships among swimmers on different teams. In many ways it was a precursor to high school or club swimming where one-time competitors become teammates.

Last year we decided to adopt a "Boys vs. Girls" format, or "Blue vs. Gold." It was great fun trying something new and the swimmers really enjoyed the opportunity to swim on relays with

swimmers from different teams. We have decided to keep this format of All Stars with a few minor changes.

Scoring for this meet will be the same as last year, points for 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> place. However, medals will be awarded to both male and female 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> place finishers and ribbons awarded to both male and female 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> place finishers in each individual event. Medals in relays will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place. Swimmers will qualify for All Stars in the same manner as previous years – by “Q” times. This year’s “Q” times are posted on the MSL website.

Individual swims will count for the record book. So it is conceivable that a swimmer does not win a race, but may still break an All-star record for their age and sex. Let’s take the 9 – 10 50 Yard Freestyle as an example - a boy could come in second place to a girl, but still have set the record for the fastest time by a boy in the 9 – 10 50 Yard Freestyle. He would be awarded the record in the Boys 9 – 10 All-Star 50 Yard Freestyle. In this example, the time swum by the girl will only go against the girl’s record for the Girls 9 – 10 All –Star 50 Yard Freestyle and will have no bearing on the boy’s record.

Relay races will be single sex and thus not comparable to mixed – relay times. These records will be recorded separately.

#### Officiating in the MSL

The MSL held a clinic in April to review officiating at meets and representatives from ALL 10 teams were in attendance. The goal of the meeting was to achieve consistency among officials working meets across the county and to have clear and consistent knowledge of the swimming guidelines.

All the coaches have been working closely with their swimmers on all swimming techniques and the board believes that the adoption of this new rule will help us run our meets more smoothly. And, of course, the golden rule of judging applies to all swimmers: be fair, be consistent and always give the benefit of the doubt to the swimmer!

One final note for parents: Should you or your child have a question regarding any call made during a meet, please address your question to your coach. The coach can then approach the referee on the deck. It is the referee’s job to see that all races are being judged fairly. Please do not ask a Stroke and Turn Judge for clarification of a call, particularly during a race because they need to pay the same amount of attention to each and every race.

The MSL remains a vibrant place for swimmers and families to have fun together. Thank you to all the swimmers for their dedication to their craft, to the coaches for their commitment to our children and to all the hundreds of volunteers that work across the county each weekend during the season to keep our meets running smoothly.

Swim fast!

The Marin Swim League Board 2007