

Swimming Secretary Report 27/09/2016

I had hoped to have applied for the licenses for the County Championships by now and circulated the information to the clubs, but we have had a few technical details which needed resolving before I can apply to the region for the licenses.

First off we still intend to host the 1500m/800m & Boys Age group relays at the Leys pool oxford. We have tested the equipment and we successfully interfaced to the sports system timing console so all was good on that front. Unfortunately, the pool length certificate was not sent to the ASA for inclusion onto the list of measured pools. We contacted Dennis Freeman-Wright (Senior Facilities Officer at the ASA) regarding this and he inform us that they do not accept pool measurements from a surveyor who may have any association with the constructor as it has to be done by an ASA appointed surveyor. The Leys Pool is being measured on the 30th of September and we await the outcome of this before sending off for the licenses, as we remain committed to hosting the 1500m/800m and the relays at the Leys pool as it is a significantly better pool. For information it is a requirement for license level 2 and above meets for the pool to have been measured and listed on the ASA website.

Some of you may be aware that the license requirements for County Championship competitions gives the upper age group of 16 & over (this was a desirable condition at first but is now mandatory). Apparently I was e mailed by the ASA advising me of this but I cannot find any record and it was only brought to my attention by an e mail from Kent speed swimming manager (end of July) highlighting the negative effect that this will have, but in usual ASA way as it doesn't really affect them they are not bothered.

We are well aware that this will have a detrimental effect on the retention of 16 year olds in speed swimming having to compete with open swimmers for places in a final with potentially only 1 or two 16 year olds getting in to finals. Peter and myself have been working hard on solutions to address this and comply with the license requirements as the regional licensing panel are hot on this topic and will not let anything through that does not comply. So with that in mind the Promoters Conditions have been amended:

1. Junior Championships (incl Relays) will remain 16 years and under as at 31/12 in year of competition
2. Junior Records to remain 16 years and under as at 31/12 in year of competition.
3. The 16 & Over Age group will consist of an A & B Final.
 - a. Open championship awards will be made to those placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd from the 16 & Over A final and the 15 and under age group finals in 50m & 100m events.
 - b. Junior championship awards will be made to those placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd from the 16 & Over A or B final and the 15 and under age group finals in 50m & 100m.

We believe that this is the best solution to keep the 16 year olds engaged in the sport. This latest change by the ASA has stirred up a lot of discontent and we can only wait and see what they dream up to sort it out.

Ian Powell

Swimming Secretary
Oxon & North Bucks County ASA