

File

Nov. 5, 1978
10011-40th SW
Seattle Wash
98146

Dear Connie,

I'm sorry our paths haven't crossed at recent swim meets but I trust you are getting our newsletters and see we're alive and well in the Northwest corner. Meet attendance is very high and so is the enthusiasm this year so we're looking forward to a good year. This note is in response to your request for our views to help you represent us at the national meeting.

- 1) Distance events at national meets. Our group continues to be interested in seeing the 400 IM & 200 Fly at these meets
- 2) 20-24 age group at National. We also feel very strong on this item. The major percent of teenage swimmers do not continue in Senior AAU or collegiate swimming and a Masters 20-24 age group is a natural for them. The 5-7 year gap until 25 years old, get most of them both out of shape and out of the mood for swimming. They either pursue other athletic options or sadly many just deteriorate.

The two items above represent ones our board has approved in the past reference support. I favor them strongly myself and also have a couple of items that represent my individual thoughts as follows

- Entries at National meets Swimmers at nationals should only be permitted to enter the maximum number of events they can swim. I was appalled to see swimmers allowed to enter a larger number of events than they'd be allowed to swim and then selectively scratch to get down to the limit after they reviewed heats sheets or the competition. I don't see any redeeming virtue in it and we certainly don't permit it at our local meets.
- Foreign swimmers at national meets I'm somewhat confused on this though I know Juanita Correa was subjected to undue pressure at Spokane nationals worrying about it. It seems that our national meets should be open ^{on an equal basis} to all residents of the U.S. (maybe 1 year minimum residence) whether citizens or not. I do feel we

should treat foreigners who are mainly short term visitors to this country differently. maybe let them swim exhibition or not at all. The latter may be hard nosed but the most realistic particularly if a plane load showed up as at Montreal from Germany. In any case they should not bump other US competitors regarding place or awards.

Best of luck at the meeting. I know you'll represent us well. Being a fellow engineer I'm sure you'll excuse the engineering paper and lousy writing

Sincerely

Tom Foley

Pres. PNA Masters