

CAN-AM Championships for Swimmers with a Disability

Purpose: To bring all Swimmers with a Disability (SWAD) in both Canada and the United States together twice a year to compete in stand alone competitions that will promote fast swimming from development to international level.

Rationale: We must use this domestic opportunity to nurture the developing swimmers that will make their respective national team programs strong in the future and continue to challenge the existing national team members to better performance.

Current Challenges

- Not enough swimmers to provide a critical mass to yield a viable and competitive swim meet in the respective countries.
- Need for more opportunities for SWADs to race other SWADs in head to head competitions.
- Need for more quality SWAD competitions that will draw the world to North America.

Benefits

- A meet with a critical mass of swimmers that will provide challenging racing at all levels.
- Domestic North American competitions will provide reasonably priced travel options for both Canadian and US swimmers.
- As the quality of the competition grows, it will attract offshore competition and eventually, become a destination competition for other countries.
- Provides development athletes with international competition that will prepare them for offshore competition, IPC Worlds and ultimately the Paralympics.
- Sharing of resources in running the meets (officials, meet management, etc.).

Meet Format

- 3 day events
- Events
 - Option 1 - Heats and finals for all Paralympic events
 - Option 2 – Heats and finals in all Paralympic events, timed finals for non-Paralympic events
 - Add consolation finals for any event over 24 entries
- Classes
 - S10 & S13 compete head to head
 - S9 & S12 compete head to head
 - S8 & S11 compete head to head
 - S6 & S7 scored on points charts
 - S4 & S5 scored on points charts
 - S1-S3 scored on points charts

Calendar

- Scheduled for 2005
 - Ø July 15-17, 2005 – LC hosted by USA in Portland, OR
 - Ø December 8-10, 2005 – LC hosted by USA in Minneapolis, MN
- Proposed Jan 06 – August 08
 - Ø Spring 06 - April 7-9, 2006
 - § Rationale – allows for a full training cycle following Dec 05 meet and a short break.
 - Ø Summer 06 - August 8-12 hosted by US -Long Course at San Antonio, Texas . Combined World Championship Trials
 - Ø Spring 07 – Mar 16-18 hosted by Canada - Long Course (Para PanAm Trials)
 - § World Championship swimmers would swim this unrested and unshaved, but may allow the next tier of swimmers to emerge in into Para PanAms.
 - Ø Summer 07 – July 13-15 hosted by Canada – Long Course
 - § Final tune up meet before Para PanAms (August 12-19 - Rio de Janerio, Brazil)
 - Ø Winter 07 – Dec 6-9 hosted by US – Long Course
 - § Final LC international before the final push into the respective Trials. With a break it would allow swimmers to have a Xmas Camp and then have a 12-16 week training block before each country's respective Trials.
 - Ø Summer 08 – July 11-13
 - § Paralympic Teams swim unshaved and untapered – rest of swimmers shaved and tapered, this is the end of season and quadrennial meet.
 - § Swim Paralympic team as a dual meet in one final and then have other finals.
- Ø At the end of the quadrennial, each country will have hosted 4 meets each, plus their respective 2008 Paralympic Trials.

Conclusion

- Ø Idea is solid and has potential.
- Ø Opportunity to work together to continue to develop and strengthen the SWAD swimming.
- Ø Opportunity to push our best swimmers in head to head competitions.
- Ø Opportunity to develop our young swimmers in a controlled environment.
- Ø Opportunity to make North America a destination spot for competition for other National Programs.
- Ø Opportunity to establish a set of stand alone meets that all American and Canadian SWADs want to attend.
- Ø Chance to pick up a major North American sponsor.