

Recommendation for Divisional Restructuring, 2011

In the late 1990s the Georgia LSC adopted the concept of Divisional Meets to deal with increasing pressure on what was then a single State Meet and to provide an environment for a season ending team competition. At that time, the LSC was divided into four Divisions: North Metro, Southeast, and Southwest. Divisions were encouraged to develop their own meet structure and scheduling, while at the same time adhering to the core concept of team competition. The Divisional concept has proven to be a successful one, as Meets have been modified to suit the needs of each respective Division. However, the LSC has grown significantly since the inception of the Divisional concept, with the most significant growth occurring to the west, north, and east of the metro-Atlanta area. In spring of 2011, for example, ABSC hosted a Northern Division meet with over 830 participants. This is both a testament to the success of the concept, and a sign that realignment is necessary. The attached document contains a proposed restructuring of the Divisions.

In attempting this task a number of considerations were kept in mind. First and foremost, was a desire to maintain a degree of stability by minimizing movement of teams from one Division to another. Thus, Metro, which seems to have a workable solution for their situation, was left alone. Second, was a desire to improve each Divisional Meet by enhancing the competitive experience. This involved significantly reducing the number of prospective participants in some cases (North/Northeast), while attempting to bolster the number in others (Southeast). Third was a desire to ensure that each Division was geographically compatible, and had at least one facility capable of hosting a championship style meet.

Given the current situation in Georgia Swimming, a new breakdown of 5 Divisions is recommended: Metro, North, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast. In putting together the proposed breakdown, rather than using total team size, an evaluation was made of team participation in respective Divisional Meets over a time frame of three years. These numbers were used to come up with a rough estimate for total participation in each of the prospective meets. Drive times were weighted heavily since they tend to be closely related to participation. Team size, though not discounted, was a secondary consideration.

Once Divisional assignments are agreed upon, it is recommended that a mechanism be set up for determining where new teams should be placed in the Divisional structure. A straightforward means of doing this would be to require that applications to join a Division be approved by a simple majority of the five Divisional representatives on the Technical Planning Committee. To facilitate this procedure, it is suggested that the LSC post an information page on the website listing clubs in each Division and the contact information of each Divisional representative, along with an application form. Furthermore, information on the Divisional concept and structure should be a part of the LSC's New Club Information packet.

<u>Northeast</u>	Numbers	Host Facilities	<u>North</u>	Numbers	Host Facilities
ABSC	90	UGA	DAQ	130	GA Tech
GA	80	Augusta Aq. Center	LINS	85	Mountain View
ROCK	60	Frances Meadows	TWS	70	Frances Meadows
LA	40		CCAC	45	Cobb Aquatic Center
SUMM	40		FCS	20	Cherokee County
SHOC	20		NGA	15	
GOST	15				
SO	15				
MORG	15				
HRST	5				
WW	5				
Subtotal	(385)		Subtotal	(365)	
ASL	100		GOLD	160	
GAS	60		RRT	15	
NGR	No data		TRSC	No data	
Total	545		Total	540	
<u>Southwest</u>	Numbers	Host Facilities	<u>Southeast</u>	Numbers	Host Facilities
CBF	120	GA Tech	GCAT	70	Chatham County
HURR	70	Carrollton, Lake Park	SST	40	Brunswick Aq. Center
DCS	60	Adamsville	GIST	30	
SCAT	55	Steve Lundquist	BOOM	20	
AAAA	30	Columbus	SBCS	10	
WGSC	30		HEAT	10	
GSAS	30				
TCS	20				
SMART	10				
Subtotal	(425)		Subtotal	(180)	
CAD	50		SMAC	40	
TARA	40		WRA	40	
			WAVE	10	
			BAD	No data	
			DART	No data	
Total	515		Total	270	