

The Competition Committee (membership listed at the end of this document) has made one MAJOR change in the format of the VSA State Championships meet. The change is allowing bonus events for any swimmer who has qualified for at least one event but has not qualified for the maximum allowable four events to swim. The idea is to let swimmers who have qualified for 1, 2, or 3 events to possibly add more events (up to the max of 4) to give them more chances to swim State Meet weekend. The caveat is that they can only add Bonus events, IF they make the Bonus events qualifying time.

The VSA Time Standards and Bonus Standards 2017.pdf file is attached. This lists all the events by age group, the official time standard for each event (qualifying) and the bonus time standard for those events that will allow Bonus entries. Essentially the Bonus entries allow the swimmers within 2.5 seconds of a 25 yard event, 3-5 seconds of a 50 yard event, 6 seconds of a 100 yard event, and 12 seconds of a 200 yard event to swim in the event. So it is the close but not quite there times.

Remember bonus events can ONLY be used if the swimmer has made the official qualifying time in at least one event (and is entered in that event). Bonus events cannot be used for swimmers who do not make the qualifying time but are a team's sole representative in an event. That swimmer cannot add even more events unless he/she has at least one officially qualifying event. The same goes for relay only swimmers. They cannot add bonus events just because they are on a relay.

The GOOD news: this gives swimmers with just one or two official events, who are close to other events that opportunity to swim those other events. It can make a difference for a family who doesn't want to commit to come for only one event but is willing to come if the child is in 3 events.

The BAD news: this will take more work for the person putting together the entries. The hy-tek events file can only flag for the official qualifying times. The Bonus events will have to be checked manually. So for your swimmers that do have at least one qualifying time but don't already have four times, you'll need to check against the standards listed on the Time Standards page to determine if a swimmer qualifies and you can add them. It is going to be more work on you for those marginal swimmers when you create your entry file IF you want to take advantage of the opportunity to add Bonus events.

Here are some of the rules to follow

- Like official qualifying times, bonus qualifying times must be from official, legal results achieved since January 1, 2017. DQ's and no times do not count.
- Swimmers with at least four official qualified events –nothing more is needed.
- Swimmers with AT LEAST ONE qualified event and entered in that qualified event, can add Bonus events if they meet the Bonus qualifying time.
- 1 qualifying time = up to 3 bonus events, 2 qualifying times = up to 2 bonus events, 3 qualifying times = 1 bonus event, 4 or more qualifying times = 0 bonus events.
- A swimmer with a Bonus qualifying time in an event is considered an official entry for a team. The team cannot enter another swimmer to be the team representative.
- A swimmer with a slower than bonus time entered in an event as the team's sole representative, cannot use that entry as his/her one official entry to qualify for up to three bonus swims.

- Conversely, a swimmer with an official qualifying time in one event, could be the too slow solo entry for the team in another event (assuming the team has no official or bonus entries in that event)
- Bonus entries are eligible for team points and awards.

#### How to Enter Bonus Events

- For swimmers with less than 4 qualified events, check against the VSA standards page to see if any of their other events meet the Bonus qualifying time.
- When entering a swimmer in a Bonus event – click on the Bonus box next to that event in your team entries file.
- If you add a swimmer to an event as your team’s sole representative in an event and that swimmer’s best time is slower than the Bonus time, enter that swimmer with the Bonus qualifying time.

All other Bylaws requirements are still in force. E.g., a swimmer must still have competed for his/her team in at least 3 meets during this summer VSA season.

The Competition Committee would like to try this change this year to increase participation for those swimmers who do qualify for the State Championships. The Committee will solicit your opinions on how well it worked after the meet – like all your other suggestions for improvements.

#### The VSA Competition Committee Membership

- Caleb Hall-Potvin – CVSL – Head Coach – EDGE [calebh@edgevt.com](mailto:calebh@edgevt.com)
- Jessica Workman – CVSL – Meet Referee [jessworkman@comcast.net](mailto:jessworkman@comcast.net)
- Kelly Theroux – GMSL – Head Coach – Montpelier [kjtheroux@gmail.com](mailto:kjtheroux@gmail.com)
- Melissa Patterson – SVSL – Assistant Coach – Rutland [melissawelchpatterson@gmail.com](mailto:melissawelchpatterson@gmail.com)
- Susan Carey – SVSL – Head Coach – Quechee [scareyswimcoach@yahoo.com](mailto:scareyswimcoach@yahoo.com)

Additional State Championships Resource: Mary Gentry – Meet Director [vsaentries@gmail.com](mailto:vsaentries@gmail.com)