

PROCESSING FEE FOR NON-ELECTRONIC MEET ENTRY

Current policy: Five or more swimmers submitted as a non-electronic entry requires payment of \$5/swimmer as a processing fee

Requested change: Any swimmer currently registered with a USA Swimming member club who enters any Middle Atlantic sanctioned meet will be assessed a \$50.00 processing fee if the entry is not submitted using Team Manager or other Meet Manager-compatible software.

Rationale: Every club has access to TM software. Clubs and coaches should know where their athletes are competing, regardless of whether the meet is viewed as a "team" meet by the club. Clubs should submit one check for entry fees into MA meets. Results from all meets are loaded into two accessible databases (MA online and SWIMS). The SWIMS database is also the USA-Swimming registration database. Electronic registration, coupled with electronic meet entry, ensures that the data remains as consistent as possible. This reduces "false drop" on the meet recon report. The same athletes that show up on meet recon also appear as a problem (for each swim!) when the times are uploaded into SWIMS. The electronic procedure would also eliminate calls and e-mails to the office and the webmaster regarding duplicate or "missing" swimmers/times from coaches, athletes and parents. As more and more swimmers sign up for the "My USA Swimming" feature on the new USA Swimming website, this last issue becomes larger and larger.

Summary: Clubs should do the work on meet entries and not expect the office or the meet director to handle individual entries and the finances associated with same. Five dollars does not inflict enough pain. We have one or two clubs that have TM and are too lazy to use it. We are pushing for all registrations to be submitted electronically. Let's do the same for meet entries. Most of our clubs follow these procedures anyway. It's the only way to go forward with user-accessible database systems. Garbage in - garbage out.