

Dear friends,

Another year and here we are again. If you are doing the meet entries for your team, I have a few thoughts to share with you. I will be processing all these e-mails, disks and the occasional paper entry, so help me out here and actually READ the meet information before you start this process.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Cherita

#### Elite meet entry notes

- 1) **Check your entry.** I know this is almost beyond the realm of possibility here in Middle Atlantic, but every child will not qualify for every event. When you run the TM reports (you DO run those, don't you?) if you see an NT, you still have some work to do. If little Susie is in the 200IM with a 58.59, you have a problem. If your swimmer is that fast, I will know about it. (and so will the rest of the world).
- 2) **Use the TM events file** from the website. Like Santa, I have checked it twice but I am sure someone will let me know if my proofreading skills were not up to the task. There are almost 400 qualifying times in this meet! Enforce them!!!!
- 3) **Include the TM reports with your e-mail (attachment) or check.** I rarely make mistakes, and they are even more rare if I have nothing to compare. (I may try next year's entry notes in iambic pentameter.)
- 4) **Show me the money.** The Rolish Rule of Reimbursement will continue to be in effect for the duration ("no \$\$\$, no swimming"). Do not be surprised to find your swimmers have not been entered in the meet if your check is still sitting on your desk or "in the mail." After a recent purchase in Brooklyn, my gullibility warning radar is on high alert.
- 5) **Waive the signature** if you must use a carrier that requires one. I may develop carpal tunnel if you make me sign all those forms. And who would do the entries then???? Do you really need to spend \$15.00 on mailing? A little check and the summary sheet will only cost you \$0.37 if you are organized and mail it a couple of days BEFORE THE DEADLINE.
- 6) Speaking of **summary sheets, send one (preferably legible).**
- 7) **Send me your entry ONLY ONCE.** If I get an e-mail and a paper entry or disk, I am just going to use the e-mail. You are trying to confuse me and I refuse to be befuddled! It would be nice, however, if you sent me a note with your check so that I can credit the appropriate team. (see #4 and #5).
- 8) **Provide the correct information in the body of your e-mail** or it will be returned to you....unprocessed. (See, I told you that you should read the meet information. We put good stuff in there!)
- 9) **Make sure your swimmers have ID numbers and that they are correct.** I upload meet results into the National Times (STAR) database. Swimmers with improper ID numbers will not upload. It's that simple.
- 10) **And, as always, don't worry about getting it in early.** If it's a harsh January, I will borrow my new neighbor's 4-wheel drive so that I can make it to the office to take care of your entries. Neither rain, nor snow, nor dark of night...