

Virginia LMSC Information—2012

Submitted by Chris Stevenson, 10/5/12

Participation in Races

There were 1119 swimmers registered in the LMSC as of 10/1/12. How many participated in a pool or open water event? The results from the following 13 events that took place in 2012 were examined:

- Jack King Ocean swim (open water, VA sanctioned)
- Chris Green Lake cable swims (open water, VA sanctioned)
- Jim McDonnell Lake swims (open water, PV sanctioned)
- Great Chesapeake Bay Swim (open water, not sanctioned)
- The Commonwealth Games (LCM pool, VA recognized)
- David Gregg Memorial meet (SCY pool, VA sanctioned)
- Pickin' Up Steam meet (SCY pool, VA sanctioned)
- RCA Dive Into Spring meet (SCY pool, VA sanctioned)
- WAVA Dreaming of Spring meet (SCY pool, VA sanctioned)
- Virginia Senior Games (SCM pool, VA recognized)
- Colonizes Zone SCY Championship (SCY pool, PV sanctioned)
- USMS Spring Nationals (SCY pool, NC sanctioned)
- USMS Summer Nationals (LCM pool, NE sanctioned)

This list is missing the VA Beach SCM meet, which will occur in November, so it is likely that the numbers reported are slight underestimates of actual participation rates.

Participation rates are given in the table below.

All Events	434	38.8%
OW	167	14.9%
Pool	304	27.2%
OW only	130	11.6%
Pool only	267	23.9%

Considering all 13 events, there were 434 unique members who participated, 38.8% of our LMSC membership. There were 167 unique members in OW events and 304 in pool events, while 11.6% of our membership participated ONLY in OW events and 23.9% participated ONLY in pool events.

What I find significant, perhaps a little surprising, is the relatively high number of members who competed only in OW events; without their participation, only 27% of our members would be competing. The overall participation rate of almost 40% is also larger than I thought.

It is interesting to compare this to the national rate. Looking at the USMS Results Database information for 2011, which included ONLY pool events, there were 16,244 unique participants out of 55,848 USMS members for a 29.1% participation rate in pool events, which is similar to our rate of 27.2 % of unique participants.

LMSC Demographics

Of the 1119 LMSC members, 93.5% (1046) are from Virginia, 3.0% (34) are from West Virginia and 3.5% (39) are from outside both states. The average age is **46.5** (median age is 47), while 47.3% are male and 52.7% are female. The table and chart below give more details. Generally speaking, the younger age groups have more females than male: 63% of swimmers under 40 are female while 58% of swimmers 65 and older are male.

Age Group	% of Total	Within Age Group	
		% Male	% Female
18-24	6.8%	39%	61%
25-29	8.1%	40%	60%
30-34	7.1%	46%	54%
35-39	9.0%	27%	73%
40-44	12.8%	46%	54%
45-49	14.1%	41%	59%
50-54	13.9%	55%	45%
55-59	10.5%	62%	38%
60-64	6.6%	54%	46%
65-69	5.3%	63%	37%
70-74	3.1%	51%	49%
75-79	1.3%	73%	27%
80-84	0.7%	25%	75%
85-89	0.4%	60%	40%
90-94	0.2%	50%	50%
95-99	0.1%	0%	100%

