

Virginia LMSC Top 10 and Records Annual Report 2012

Submitted by Chris Stevenson, LMSC Top 10 & Records chair (Oct 2012)

General Comments

Online sanctioning is up and running. Regarding Top 10 and USMS Records, this is significant because pool measurement requirements are explicitly mentioned in the sanctioning process; so, for example, if a bulkhead pool is used, the applicant is reminded that placement must be confirmed before the meet and after each session. Also, online sanctioning automatically creates an event on the USMS calendar, which may encourage meet results upload.

More than ever, Top 10 Recorders are being encouraged to upload meet results into the USMS results database; this is the database that feeds into "Current Event Rankings," and can also be used to display a swimmer's individual results organized in a variety of ways (eg, time progression in a particular event over the years). As more people upload results in a timely manner, then the rankings will more accurately match the final Top 10 lists; accuracy of those lists improve too, since there are more "eyes" on the results. Nobody is more motivated to ensure accuracy than the other swimmers in an age group...!

The latest version of the LMSC Standards specifies that meet results should be uploaded within 2 weeks of the event. The Virginia LMSC meets these standards, but I was told at Convention that this is the standard that is most commonly NOT met. So we still have a ways to go.

The USMS results database will be expanding at some point to include Long Distance results (open water, postal swims). I am not sure who will be responsible for uploading these or in what format the results must be. The task is complicated by the fact that the Long Distance committee uses a non-traditional results format, one that is not easily converted to other formats.

As E2EEM continues to develop there is going to be more of an emphasis on pool measurements. As a reminder, in order for times to be eligible for consideration for Top 10 or USMS records, a pool must be certified to be long enough by measuring in each lane. (Pool with movable bulkheads must verify bulkhead placement at the meet by measuring in three lanes.) LMSCs are tasked to keep those certification measurements on file, but USMS also has a listing of certified pools. In the coming year there is going to be a push to have Top 10 Recorders verify and update that USMS listing, which will then be connected directly to the E2EEM process for sanctioning and results.

There were a few noteworthy rule changes regarding measurements. First of all, the USA-S listing of certified pools will no longer be accepted without more information; in other words, the mere listing of a pool on the USA-S list is insufficient for USMS purposes. FINA's listing of pools, on the other hand, will

be accepted for swims achieved at international meets. Speaking of international meets, swims achieved under FINA measurement standards will now be acceptable for USMS Top 10 and Records as long as the pool length has been certified. Currently, FINA does not require bulkhead placement measurements for Top 10 or Records, which means that this step is not required of USMS members for swims at international meets. However, USMS has submitted a rule proposal to FINA that they adopt USMS measurement standards in the future.

Finally, swims of USMS members at USA-S meets will adopt USA-S measurement standards to be considered for Top 10 eligibility. Currently, USA-S does not require bulkhead measurements for rankings, so this step will not be required of USMS members either. Bulkhead measurements will still be required for USMS records and in dual-sanctioned meets.

Again, these rule changes will take effect on Jan 1, 2013.

By the Numbers

In the last three complete seasons (SCY12, SCM11, LCM11), here is how the LMSC fared. As a reminder, the seasons are June 1 thru May 31 for SCY, Oct 1 thru Sept 30 for LCM and Jan 1 thru Dec 31 for SCM.

Season	USMS Top 10	USMS #1	FINA Top 10	FINA #1	LMSC Records	ZRs/NRs/WRs
SCY 2012	176	14	n/a	n/a	86	15/2/-
SCM 2011	148	22	59	4	90	20/1/0
LCM 2011	137	19	44	3	51	13/1/1

The above tallies combine relay and individual performances. Note that times from Recognized meets (notably Senior Games and USA-S meets) are not eligible for inclusion in FINA Top 10.

In the year 2011 there were also: 16 pool individual All-Americans, 18 pool relay All-Americans, and 6 long distance All-Americans. All-American status is awarded at the end of the year to a swimmer finishes ranked #1 in at least one event in his/her age group. In 2011 we also had three All-Stars: two pool, one long distance. All-Stars are swimmers who had the most top-ranked swims in his/her age-group. Further details are given on the LMSC website.

Given its size, the LMSC does quite well at the national level. In a “Mythical National Championship” scored from USMS Top 10 swims, the LMSC places 8th, 10th, and 11th in the SCY12, SCM11 and LCM11 seasons. In those same seasons, VMST placed 5th, 9th and 11th nationally. These rankings include all teams, regional and local; in fact, in the recently-completed SCY12 season, VMST was the 1st-ranked “local” team in the country. VMST also won this category “for real” in the 201 USMS Spring National Championship.

Since 2006, I have been attempting to assign meets and dates to all LMSC records (partly for quality control purposes). There are currently 1430 individual LMSC records: 83.1% of them have a specific meet identified for them, and 95.9% of them have a date associated with them. There are 220 relay LMSC records: 81.4% of them have a meet assigned and 90.0% of them have a date.