Birth Certificate Proposal

Proposal: Beginning with the 2011 Registration Year (September 1, 2010), for swimmers 18 years of age and younger, Indiana Swimming will require a copy of a birth certificate or another approved date of birth proof to be sent with all registrations.

History: Swimming is an age-defined sport with competitor's age determined **to the day**. Over 1/3 of the LSC's in the country already require this including the largest LSC in the country- Southern California. Other youth sports also require this (soccer, baseball, softball, hockey and lacrosse). With the onset of SWIMS (the national database for registrations and times), accurate records for all athletes are of the utmost importance. Many swimmers have two or more records in SWIMS due to faulty registrations. Now, with Team Unify, even more mistakes are made as swimmers are inputted without middle initials, in addition to variations of spellings and dates of birth.

Procedure: Upon registering of any swimmers 18 or under, a copy of birth certification must be supplied. Each club should develop a secure, safe method of keeping these documents until they are delivered to the Indiana Swimming office. This may be a registration night where copies are hand delivered to team personnel or a slotted, locked box for parents to submit the document. They may be hand delivered to the Indiana Swimming office, or mailed to our offices. We will also allow for these documents to be faxed or scanned and e-mailed (using a secure server) to our offices. Once we have processed the documents, they will be shredded. A birth certificate will only be required once. After the first year, teams will only supply birth certificate copies for new swimmers. If a birth certificate in unavailable, a copy of a passport, driver's license, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a certificate of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency or document on school letter head will be accepted. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

If a parent is unwilling or unable to produce ANY proof of age, that swimmer will have a PROBATIONARY registration. Upon receipt of registration and payment from the club, that swimmer will be registered with USA Swimming. This allows the team to be in accordance with all insurance and liability requirements. However, this swimmer will not be able to compete until proof of date has been provided to the Indiana Swimming office. On a pre- or post- meet registration report run in our office, if a swimmer shows up who has not confirmed their date of birth, that team will have a deadline to produce the date of birth proof they will be fined $100 per meet occurrence. This fine falls under USA Swimming's false registration rule.

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