

## **Wheaton 25-Meter New England Championship: Enter Now!**

There's plenty of excitement brewing for the Wheaton NEM 25-Meter Championship. Based largely on our performance at the 2001 Wheaton 25-Meter Championship, New England Masters has won the inaugural 2001 Mythical 25-Meter National Championship, see story <http://www.greatbaymasters.org/mythical.htm> Can NEM repeat it's National Champion title in 2002? The key to our success will be for NEM's to swim at Wheaton, and to swim lots of relays.

NEM has also challenged other meets across the country to a "25-Meter Virtual Meet Challenge". In this contest, the meet results from other major 25-meter masters meets across the country will be scored against each other. The top 16 swimmers and relays will score points. Southern Pacific Masters, Pacific Masters, Pacific Northwest, Arizona, and Midwest (Indiana) have already accepted the challenge. Can NEM prove we've got the largest and fastest 25-meter championship in masters swimming? We think so, and need your support – swim with us, and join in the fun.

Entry deadlines are approaching: Entries must be received by November 29 or postmarked by November 23. Get those entries in early! Check the meet web page for psych sheets, and list of entries with problems that must be resolved: <http://www.greatbaymasters.org/02scmchamp.html>

### **All Events are Positive Check-In; IN PERSON CHECK-IN ONLY**

All events will be deck seeded from entry form times. Swimmers must confirm their entries by 8:30 a.m. each day. Each swimmer is responsible for checking in personally, you may not designate a coach or another swimmer to check you in. Swimmers who do not check in by 8:30 a.m. will be scratched from all their events for that day. If you arrive after 8:30 a.m., check-in immediately and you will be re-entered in events that have not yet been posted. Seeded heats for each event will be posted on a rolling basis throughout the day. Seeded heats will be posted to provide sufficient time for swimmers to comfortably check their heat and lane assignments before their event.

A meet timeline will be generated and posted on the meet web page before the meet. Meet timelines are approximate. Due to scratches at a deck-seeded meet, the meet may go *faster* than the preliminary timeline predicts. It is the swimmer's obligation to arrive in plenty of time to check-in before the seeded heats for their events are posted.

### **USMS/NEM Registration**

You must be USMS registered to compete at the Wheaton meet. New England swimmers must be registered by November 29. To avoid a \$5 charge, you must attach a photocopy of your USMS card. Swimmers who are not presently USMS registered can likely receive their registration card in time to avoid the \$5 charge by mailing their membership form immediately.

If you have lost your card, you must order a new card from Paul Griffin, NEM Registrar, P.O. Box 602, Newmarket NH 03857.

### **Sign the Waiver!**

Take care to fill out your Wheaton entry form correctly. One of the most common errors we see is that swimmers forget to sign the waiver at the bottom of the entry form. You will not be entered in the meet until we have an entry form with a signed waiver in hand.

### **Workout Group Leaders Encouraged to Help**

Workout Group Leaders can do a lot to help with the Wheaton meet entry process. By taking an active role Workout Group Leaders can help assure that all their swimmers swim at Wheaton:

- Make sure that your swimmers who are not presently NEM registered do so immediately
- Check over your swimmer's Wheaton entry forms. Look for common errors like unsigned waivers, no copy of NEM registration card, and seed time errors. Work with your swimmers to correct these errors.
- Collect your swimmers Wheaton entry forms and mail them in one package.

### **Dive Over Starting: All events except backstroke**

"Dive Over Starting" is a meet management technique used to reduce the time between heats. There may be close to 200 heats in a day, so saving 20 seconds per heat could save an hour during the course of the session. Swimmers completing a heat will finish at the wall, and stay in the water until the next heat is called to the blocks. Swimmers will stay in the water until the next heat "Dives Over" the top of them. Immediately after the next heat has started, the swimmers from the previous heat will exit the pool. The touch pads will be dead for 20 seconds, so swimmers must exit the pool within 20 seconds of the starting tone for the next heat. Some swimmers may wish to use the ladder to climb out of the pool. If you need to use the ladder, notify the starter in advance.