

Dear JSSL Swim Families,

On May 9, 2006 the JSSL board met with club coaches and their league representatives to discuss the upcoming season. The main issue on the agenda was 6 and under judging and scoring. The issue was discussed at length, a vote was taken, and the following decision has been made:

Beginning with the first meet of the 2006 swim season children swimming in the 6 and under age category will be judged the same as all the other swimmers and will be subject to disqualifications.

There are advantages and disadvantages to this new policy. Below are some reasons why the Board and coaches feel this new policy is appropriate:

- Judging the swimmer will help the him/her swim the stroke correctly which will encourage proper technique and will ultimately lead to better times.
- Although DQs can be upsetting to children (and their parents) they should be viewed as a learning tool. Once the coaches have the DQ slips in hand they (or a swimming instructor) can take the information and improve that child's technique.
- The scores for the 6 and under age group are included in the total score for the club so they should be impartially judged like the other swimmers.
- Since this age group has always been subject to judging and disqualification at the Championship Meet at the end of the season, it is prudent to implement this system at the beginning of the year so the children and parents know what to expect.

We encourage all coaches and parents to help us to implement this new policy and reinforce the positive aspects of this change. This new change is being implemented to help the children to be the best swimmers they can be. Swimmers in this age group are very impressionable and if the adults embrace this change in a positive way then the younger swimmers will follow suit.

Thank you in advance for your time and efforts to make this a fun experience for our children!

JSSL Board
Veronica Polini
President