

Summary: **2010 YMCA Long Course National Championship Survey**

Filter: None

Options: Show Open Ended Questions, Show Full Text

Total Responses: 109 **Report Time:** 8/15/2010 8:58:15 AM

Enter your Name (Optional)**Response**

Rob Biedenharn

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Sue Rowley

Steve Power

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Samantha Shelley

Linda Jones

JP Oehrtman

Brian Bradstreet

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Lori Riegler

Ben Van Dyk

Ellen Cronin

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Molly Crooks

Tim Weaver

LYNN WILLIAMS

Lia Langeveld

Arthur Athanas

Alex Baxter

Jon

Chris Giordano

Margaret Nichols

Emily Launer

Matthew Donovan

Shannon (Suddarth) Wisne

Eric Meyer

Greg Olson

Jack Caucino

Chris Feintheil

Brian Bickner

Enter your YMCA's Name - (optional)**Response**

Countryside Ralph Stolle YMCA

twin rivers ymca new bern, nc

Anne Arundel

bath area

Brandywine YMCA of Delaware

Sanford-Springvale YMCA

Boyertown Area YMCA

Brandywine YMCA (DE)

Hamilton Area YMCA

Hilliker YMCA

Anne Arundel County-SPY Swimming

Red Bank Y

West County YMCA

Wallingford YMCA 1061

Countryside

State College Area Family YMCA

YMCA of the Fox Cities (FCYST)

Ridgewood NJ

Mon Valley YMCA

Brandywine Delaware YMCA

Boyertown

Middletown Area YMCA

Northwest Family Branch YMCA of Greater Rochester

Oshkosh YMCA

Chapel Hill-Carroboro YMCA

Cape Cod YMCA

Fanwood Scotch Plains YMCA, NJ

YMCA of Anne Arundel County - 2583

Ridgewood YMCA

Mon Valley YMCA

Greater Flint YMCA

ROCK HILL AQUATICS CENTER

Oshkosh YMCA

Northern York County YMCA

YMCA of the North Shore

Lionville Community YMCA

Montclair

Northern York County YMCA

3951

Columbia NW

Kishwaukee

Anne Arundel

Somerset Valley
Topeka Swim Association
West Cook YMCAs
Huntington Y, WV (7015)
3883
Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA
Kishwaukee YMCA

Select the role that best describes your relationship to the National Championship

Response	Response Count	Percentage
Past Swimmer/Meet Champion	<u>1</u>	0.93 %
Parent / Chaperone	<u>1</u>	0.93 %
Coach	<u>45</u>	42.06 %
Meet Volunteer	<u>2</u>	1.87 %
Official	<u>7</u>	6.54 %
Swimmer	<u>15</u>	14.02 %
Parent	<u>35</u>	32.71 %
Friend or sibling of Swimmer	<u>1</u>	0.93 %
Totals	107	

Did you attend the National Championship?

Response	Response Count	Percentage
Yes	103	96.26 %
No	4	3.74 %
Totals	107	

How many years have you attended the National Long Course Championship?

Response	Response Count	Percentage
My first year	26	24.30 %
2 years	18	16.82 %
3 years	13	12.15 %
4 years	10	9.35 %
5-10 years	23	21.50 %
More than 10 years	16	14.95 %
Never been able to attend	1	0.93 %
Totals	107	

How would you rate the Championship overall?

Response	Response Count	Percentage
Exceptional	33	30.84 %
Good	66	61.68 %
Fair	6	5.61 %
Needs to be improved	2	1.87 %
Totals	107	

Why did you rate the Championship the way you did?

Response

no comment

it seems well organized

Too many problems with the timing system and the early issues with the unintelligible P.A. system.

Overall, I think that this meet is well organized and run well.

You cannot hear audio system was much less than good everything else was well run. It is expensive though

ran very well. check in better than last two years

Run very efficiently

3.75 sodas, doors locked down at UW - Maryland so steep stairs had to be climbed, parking fees, arude natl. apparel seller who berated buyers to purchase apparel online as they were out of shorts on the first day of meet - those little things made it a good vs. exceptional...meet was run very well, officials fine, SwimNetwork coverage was great, spirit of the Y swimmers/crowd was generally great - didn't appreciate the coach to rudely tell our little team to "Move it!" when they accidentally sat in four spots that apparently were already claimed by their large team...generally a good experience...

positive experience for my swimmers excellent competition great facility good food

There seen to be a lot of little things that were not working or up to par.

It was run very well like always and had minor delays that could not he helped.

The meet was run very well but there were a few days that were very long. I feel that some events should be moved around for the best experience.

Final sessions ran slowly score board problems timing system issues

I have been to 5 short course championships and feel it does not compare well. The deck is crowded, spectators could not understand announcements, no gate guys, no athlete visit with an Olympian. The feel was more like a normal USA Swimming meet, not so special.

It was well run.

It's an abosultely great meet for kids, provides an excellent motivational tool for our senior swimmers. The meet is extremely well run. The only downside is the extenseive paperwork required to enter and register.

Very organized, nicely run, professional and courteous with swimmer's needs and concerns first.

truely a fun time with friends and family

Well run and high quality of competition.

The only reason I did not rate it exceptional is that unless you are there on day one, you tend to feel as though you are out of the loop with regards to events and where to be and such. I think there should be a coaches briefing each day so that if you are not coming until later in the meet you have the opportunity to catch up quickly.

There were obvious improvements made over last year. I appreciated being able to just park in the garage - it was convenient and it kept my car cool. Also there were definitely improvements made to the sound system and timing systems. Unfortunately it was still difficult to hear in the spectator areas - very muddy sound that made all the words just go together.

the pool gave our swimmer breathing and skin troubles - and our eye were burning all week. crowded deck and poor sportsmanship from some of the teams. instead of using parents from the stands to push a button lets get some real help. why are the officials not signing up here or in FLA? are all the officals in blue now getting comped, is that why it is the same crew year after year? Or is it no chance for advancement? also it was very sad that the 50's had been cut. it is now not a y for all.

We had trouble adding a swimmer who qualified late. We missed the 3:00pm deadline because of traffic and unexpected troubles on the road to Maryland from Connecticut. We

appreciate that she was allowed to swim in 1 of her 2 events, but it would be helpful if the National Championships took into account that smaller YMCA's are operating on a limited budget and timeline. It was disappointing that our swimmer who had worked so hard to qualify was not able to swim in an event because we had troubles travelling to the meet.

This meet was run smoothly. The facility was very well managed and accomodating.

so much fun

The check in process was awful. Two of the three people working the check in desk on Tuesday morning were very rude, disrespectfu, and unhelpful. There was a problem checking in my athletes and instead of trying to held both the young girl and middle aged man named "Steve" who was on the national committee just keep saying no and did not even bother to try and help sovlе the problem. It was by chance that the meet director and committee chair came by the check in table for another coach that she offered to help take care of our registration. This was above and beyond what she had to do considering all she had to do over the weekend and I give her my most heartfelt thank you. All "Steve" would do was tell us "No!!" blame myself for things out of my control and threaten to throw me out of the meet. I think "Steve" needs to remember what the Y was all about. I thought we were to teach our swimmers about caring and respect. I would suggest that "Steve" remove himself from the commetee until he can remember how to treat others in a way I and everyone would expect from someone at the Y.

Everything except the sound system was really nice, just not enough extras to give it an "exceptional" rating

Led by the Meet Director, the officials were professional, courteous, and ran a very efficient meet.

Because of open warmups, athletes had to be at the pool at 0515am. Most were not getting to bed until after 9 pm because of finals. It definitely affected our swimmers. Lack of healthy food and 3.50 bottle of water for the swimmers was another issue. Please provide concessions adequate for the caliber of athletes.

Meet run rather slowly, lots of breaks with timing, awards downtime, etc. Seems like there were frequent errors in changing over the timing system from starting at both ends, to just one end (for 50s).

Meet did not run on time and pool acoustics were terrible. I couldn't understand a word that was said. Accessibility was terrible for those (like myself) with physical limitations.

Had it not been for the expense, it would have been exceptional. We felt overcharged for everything, especially concessions.

Very well organized - plenty of information on every aspect of the meet was provided. I appreciated all of the continual updates on the website - it contained a wealth of information. A heartfelt thank you to every person who volunteered their time to make this event what it was. What a difference you are making in the lives of so many young people!!

There were enough small issues that when added together, made the meet less than an exceptional experience.

The distance freestyle events are being treated as sep children while we are still over emphasizing shorter events. Why is the target participation only 40 athletes per event when shorter swims are permitted to have far larger entry numbers? The distance athlete has fewer positions open to them as compared to the swimmer in shorter events.

Very well run and scheduled

I love the spirit of the meet, because it is competitive, but still so much fun.

Everything was great except seating for the athletes. It is really difficult to maintain energy to coach a 4 day meet when you need to get up at 4am and get to the pool by 4:30-4:45 in order for your athletes to not be on the floor.

I would have rated it exceptional except for 2 things. 1 - The sound system was only audible on one day. It was unfortunate that the audience could not understand the speakers. 2 - The price for parking was way too expensive. Families pay so much anyway in order for their swimmer and family to attend this event, and then to have a daily charge of \$8 for parking, and to have the parking be so limited was extremely negative for such a special event.

It ran smoothly. Good number size.

Well run, very good people running the meet, planned out well

I felt the overall management of the meet went well. I was a little concerned about the

hastiness of the chase starts for a lot of the events. I feel that a National meet should be run for the benefit of the athletes. I felt the timeline wouldn't have been negatively affected if they slowed the starts down a little more.

It was my first nationals so i couldn't compare it to any other national meet. I did enjoy the meet though.

They were very enjoyable. My swimmers had a great time.

There have been many improvements made over the years. The reduction in the number of swimmers is a positive. Eliminating the qualifying times for 50's has been good. Sessions are still too long often that is a result of facility issues at Maryland so I hope that will take care of itself as we go to a new facility

Very well run meet.

Disappointment in air quality of the pool for not only the parents but more specifically the swimmers.

The number of swimmers was good, and the timelines were wonderful this year. The officiating was a little spotty at times in terms of communications and consistency, but administratively I thought the meet was excellent.

I thought it was a very well run meet. The timeline was very accurate and the officials did a great job of keeping everything moving. It was much nicer with the 50 swimmers having to swim the 100 or 200 of the same stroke.

I would like to rate it somewhere inbetween Exceptional and Good. Exceptional I would think is too strong of a word but Good is not enough. The meet was run smoothly and had a very happy air around the event.

This was an amazing meet for the kids and the spectators! Everything was very well run and easy to navigate through...thanks so much!

I thought that the meet was very mediocre. Sounds system is horrible, the heat sheets for finals were not done very well (finals heat sheets had prelim info in them), pictures for awards were not clearly spelled out how you could even obtain them, multiple delays due to bad pads, parking passes were a joke since many folks didn't pay the \$40 and just parked in the ramp free of charge while others paid and didn't get the same deal, etc...

MUCH BETTER THAN LAST YEAR. NOT AS MANY TECHNICAL ERRORS AND MORE DECK SPACE DUE TO FEWER SWIMMERS.

Good competition, well run, on time.

Very well run! Great facility! Looked forward to coming every year!

Pool deck and warm up more manageable than in the past. Hospitality decent and better than Fort Lauderdale.

I felt like as far as the meet ran, it went very well. The heats ran on time and everything was run as quickly as possible. Meet staff, for the most part, was very friendly. Seating for spectators is very good and warm-up space was OK.

all of the positives that it promotes for the kids lives. Constructively, as much as I like the excitement of the PA announcer, we need to move sessions along a bit

It was a well run meet but there was nothing that really stood out as exceptional.

I felt the evening session ran a bit slower than they could have been run. Other than that I thought the meet ran well. I attended the new coaches meeting on Monday and I thought the information provided there would have been helpful before arriving at the meeting and the meet. I have other coaches I was able to use for help and I did not have any problems but I think some other coaches without others to lean on could have used information about registration/insurance... before the meet.

Its a great meet - our kids swim fast and have a blast.

It was one of the best meets I have ever been too.

The meet was very well-run. From the very beginning with preordering heat sheets/wristbands/apparel all the way through the prelim competition and finals, every thing seemed to be very efficient.

I am very unhappy with the mile being swam on day one. It has a great effect on how swimmers will perform the rest of the meet.

Everything ran smoothly. Parking should be cheaper.

The meet was run efficiently. The swim network coverage was great, and allowed those who couldn't attend to view the meet and see family or friends competing.

The meet itself was excellent as always - but the management of the meet and the air on deck was poor at best, esp. when you consider that this is supposed to be one of the top 2 events offered by the YMCA to its members. Additionally, the warm-up structure is out dated and unsafe. It is a miracle that no one has ever been seriously injured!

Because of the improvement comments listed below, especially the attitude of some larger East Coast teams.

Swimmers swam well, but finals sessions were too long, due to announcing and awards ceremony. The venue was equally overcrowded.

Officiating was great. Facility is okay. Hotels and restaurants around the area are not friendly or accomodating for the event. The hotels are the biggest disappointment.

It's hard to know where to start. Today at a rec league meet I spoke with one of my parents who no longer wants to work as an official at these meets. I could see why: every session for every year I see the same officials working their tails off as glorified timers, and some of them are top-notch. Einstein said it best: insanity is when you do the same thing over and over and expect a different outcome... why do we think that anyone is going to come back and be treated this way and then expect it to be better next time around?

The public address system could not be understood. The 'chase' system used appeared to be insensitive to the exhaustion of the those finishing up their heats. This was especially evident in the 400 IM/

Good meet, team atmosphere, fun for atheltes

i have 4 swimmers. one has been a national swimmer in the 50's, trains really hard but was just shy from the 100's and 200's. could not be used as a relay swimmer this year, so my child had to sit in the stands because the 50's had to be cut. cutting the 50's might have made sense to a comittee somewhere to help save time or to motivate swimmer to make the 100/200's but it hurts all the sprinters.

U of M staff & Y staff have the experience necessary to conduct an excellent championship swim meet; like the idea of the 1500 on Monday night; should do the same thing @ short course meet

Finals took too long

Perfect number of athletes. Tuesday prelim was still a bit long, but otherwise the meet was very timely.

If you could make one suggestion for improvement, what would that be?

Response

no comment

There should be a better method for answering questions on the website. I have asked a question and have not received an answer and it has been two days. This is during nationals, and I wouldn't have asked if I didn't want to know. I filled out the anti-spam form and still no one answered! Why even have links if emails go ignored.

The air in the natatorium was frequently eye-irritating in the spectator seating area. I only hope that the air on deck wasn't quite so strong.

I'm not looking forward to it moving to Georgia next year as that will cause us Northern teams to have a much higher cost. I know that Univ. of MD wasn't the best area to hold it in but going this far south will cause some of us parents to not be able to afford to attend.

better sound system

make area/tables by concession area for concessions only. people camping there on tables with computers and just sitting there aand saving seats. This area should be for people/kids eating.

Food way over priced.... soda 3.50.....

Fix the audio - impossible to decipher devotions or other messages from the PA - swimmer bios were difficult to interpret...

let swimmers continue to warm up during the parade of athletes

Make sure the sound system and annoucer can be heard in the stands. The parents and spectators pay a lot and missed out on a lot this week.

Not have the mile on the first day. I was a swimmer of the mile and talked to many other swimmers who also swam the mile and would agree with me that we didn't go as fast as we could have in other events if the mile wasn't the first day.

To change the arrangement of the events.

get timing system checked out ahead of time

dont do chase starts

Good warm ups were very hard to get in because the pools were very crowded and teams did not have specific places to be at specific times. It might help to have more organized warm ups available.

More warm-up space.

I believe some of the problems (acoustics, timing system issues) will be addressed by being in a new venue next year. New policies and procedures could be explained more clearly in the meet information.

Improve the sound system - could not fully hear announcements and testimonials at times.

Add the 50 of stroke qualifying times back. It was very hard to tell a swimmer that had attended this meet the past two years that she could not go because she did not have the 100 fly time. YMCA swimming was always about everyone swims. Swimmers who qulify in the 100 and 200 did not always have the 50 times. If it is going to continue for the only way to swim the 50s is to qualify in the 100 or 200 you might as well just say you have to qualify in the 200 to swim the 100. We attend a meet in March that has 1100 swimmers swimming in 146 events over two days. If it is a time thing there has always been more then enough time. The break between prelims and finals does not need to be so long.

National registration database for swimmers that could include membership expiration date. Proof of times matched against the USA Swims & SWYMS database, anything not in database auto kicked out and needs proof. For Georgia Tech- will need to add 100 or so swimmers, eliminate chase starts &/or change timeline - the meet will go really fast in 10 lanes. Once a team has registered at the meet, please allow swimmers to register/check-in on their own.

Cordoning off area to spectators; policing entry of swimmers (better ID) to allow no non-swimmers on deck.

make sure the timing board is working right before the meet starts.

Announce this year often could not be understand. Not sure if pa system to blame or speaker.

I think there should be a coaches briefing each day so that if you are not coming until later in the meet you have the opportunity to catch up quickly. Also the announcing system was very hard to understand for most of the pool deck.

Our poor men's 800 free competitor also had to swim in our 200 free relay - perhaps an award or 2 between could be helpful at that point.

switch up the officials and put the 50's back. if we are leaving maryland then lets give up the old boy network of officals and who gets the "comp" and make a fresh start.

Extend the registration process longer to account for swimmers and teams who arrive later than expected due to travel problems.

The only suggestion would be to put SWIMMING on the T-Shirt designs. This year swimming was not mentioned.

technological fixes

See above

More spirit from spectators and fans

Bring back time standards for the stroke 50s.

See above comments. The actual meet itself ran well.

Learn computer systems better?

Improve the audio

Choose a venue that doesn't charge \$8 a day for parking and \$3.50 for a small coffee.

It's harfd to pick one thing. Also, I heard that the pool was changed from chlorine to bromine. The poolside air was almost impossible to breathe for spectators and can't have been healthy for athletes. Also, it was impossible to hear anything that was said over the PA system. Both were major detractions from the experience.

Get someone with experience to run the timing console. Its extremely embarassing when a national meet has tens of timing issues and much lower level meets run much more smoothly.

More room at warm down pool. Better concessions

I have no complaints.

I hope that next year the pool in Atlanta has enough seating for the athletes for us to get to the pool by 6am and still find seating.

Sound system ... the crowd would LOVE to understand the announcers and be able to follow along with what is being announced!!!

I think that there could be a way to make Tuesday a better/easier day. Our team showed up at 5AM to get in line for a spot on deck, we left the pool around 1 PM, returned to the pool at 4 PM to warm-up before opening ceremonies and left at about 9 PM after finals. It was a total of 13 hours at the pool. 13 hours at the pool is a rough way to start the meet. Each of the last 3 days were very good for swimming well, but the first was a little over the top.

Slow down the chase starts

I would love for the meet to stay in Maryland.

At the last SC Y Nats, my swimmer was disqualified for going underwater at the finish of the 200 backstroke. I appealed the decision unsuccessfully. I was absolutely appalled at the number of backstrokers who did the exact same thing at this meet and were not called. There were at least 6 to 8 swimmers who egregiously violated this rule and were not called. In the C final of the 200 back, the swimmer in lane 1 went entirely underwater at least 12" from the wall. In lane 2 of the B final, the swimmer in lane 2 went under at least 24" from the wall. The rule itself is poorly written. However, if we are going to have it, lets be consistent in its application.

It's impossible (with the large numbers of volunteers needed), but the officiating was spotty at times. It was almost like ,many officials did not think that National-level swimmers would ever make stroke errors (as opposed to start/turn errors, which were fairly judged in my opinion). I watcher many butterflyers with rather obvious fluttering motions (alternating action) just get stared at, as well as a few breaststrokers with obvious separate dolphin

kicks...including two top national swimmers. Those errors gain a much greater advantage than being fully submerged at the finish of backstroke (which was the point of emphasis for the week), and should have been easily seen by the number of walking officials we were able to have.

The only thing would be the 1500 on that first day. I know that event does not have an ideal place in the order of events, but I think that having that first can really affect those swimmers for the rest of the meet. I think going back to having it on Friday would be in the athletes best interest.

All Good!

I think moving the meet to Georgia Tech is actually the best suggestion.

CONSIDER ALLOWING TEAMS TO ENTER RELAYS WITHOUT PROOF OF TIME. FINE THE TEAM IF THEY DO NOT SWIM THE QUALIFYING TIME IN THE MEET AND CAN NOT PROVE THE TIME EITHER AS A TEAM RELAY OR WITH COMPOSITE TIMES FOR SWIMMERS IN THE MEET.

Fix the sound system. Cannot hear what the announcer is saying, whether in the stands or on the deck.

Sound system was the only problem!

Have more bleachers so you don't have to get to the meet at 5:00 to avoid sitting on the floor.

Emergency exits need to be clear. I know teams were talked to about this but the next day, they were right back to where they were before. Kids don't listen to other coaches or even officials who asked them to move. This is a serious issue that could have been very bad had there been an emergency. Maybe roping them off somehow would work better but this is the one issue that needs to be addressed.

Start the trials and finals sessions 30 minutes earlier. Everyone is up anyway. It would make the nights a little earlier so the kids could go to bed

add time trials

I would like to see the return of the 50's qualifying times with the move to Georgia Tech and the extra room/lanes that the move provides. I would like to see a contact provided for new coaches to talk to when trying to do registration and planning before the meet. I did not have any problems but I heard about at least one new coach who did have issues.

I would prefer the opening ceremonies to take place before the meet starts. This has always been something I felt, but now that there are two sessions before opening ceremonies I would like to see it moved to the distance session night. JON

Find a way to find space for all swimmers and coaches.

Somehow arrange for prepayment of parking.

Speed up awards and intros for final heats at finals

Swim Network should archive all finals (A, B and C.) They did for individuals, but didn't archive the relays. It would have been nice for the swimmers to see their event, and for families to be able to see the relays on demand. It wasn't always easy to sit and wait for the coverage because of time zone changes, etc..

The people running the Colorado Timing System need to be held to the same high standards that the athletes are.

Continue to change location annually so all YMCA swimmers are able to attend. What about a Midwestern State, which would be the most centrally located?

start finals earlier

Move nationals to another location. (I know we will be in a different location next summer, thank goodness!)

Larger facility, LC warm-up/down area. Ability for tapered swimmers to sit on something other than bleachers and deck.

So much has changed, it still is a good meet, but someone needs to take control of this bus FAST. Between the wild changes in qualifying standards (like cutting all the 50s except freestyle -- I think I must have missed that meeting...), letting Maryland know they lost the contract in an open meeting (that was awful to witness, by the way), and constantly treating parent volunteers as peons, we seem heading toward a day when attendance and participation at these national meets will dwindle and we will lose swimmers and their families to USA teams. Sadly, the day that happens is the day that value is gone for our

parents and swimmers, and frankly we can stay home and maybe save enough to buy a new Colorado system for short course season. I do not want to see that day come.

Improved coaches & officials hospitality

put the 50's back into the meet.

Do not allow 1 or 2 people to save an entire bleacher area, especially when the team does not arrive for another 45-60 minutes, or longer

speed up the bio's and awards

I would move the 1500 freestyle back to Friday. I think the swimmers who swim this event on Monday are at a big disadvantage later in the week. Many of these swimmers swim faster in the first 800 of their 1500 than they actual swim in the 800 later in the week. Furthermore, it is extremely tough for these swimmers to swim on Monday evening, and then compete in the 400 Free the next morning. Swimmers who did not swim the 1500 on Monday night have a big advantage over these swimmers in these events.

Additional Ratings

	Select Your Rating				
	Exceptional	Good	Fair	Improvement Needed	No Opinion
Pre-Meet Planning (Meet Information, Hotel & Restaurant Info, Maps & directions, Meet Entry Procedures)	35 33.02%	50 47.17%	13 12.26%	2 1.89%	6 5.66%
Facilities/General (Parking, Swimmer Seating, Warm-up/Warm-down facilities, Public Address System, Spectator Seating, Concessions, and Meeting/Training Rooms)	18 16.82%	45 42.06%	21 19.63%	20 18.69%	3 2.80%
Officiating (Meet Referee, Meet Starter(s), Chief Judges, Stroke & Turn Judging)	42 39.25%	51 47.66%	4 3.74%	3 2.80%	7 6.54%
Meet Operations (Programs, Awards, Hospitality, Results posting, Smoothness of the meet, Announcer, web site coverage, handling of problems/issues)	36 33.64%	49 45.79%	15 14.02%	6 5.61%	1 0.93%

Do you have any comments about your additional ratings you would like to share with us?

Response

no comment

see previous commments about emails via website.

I also think the \$8/day is exceptionally high. I would like to know how much of the money from this meet goes to the Y vs. the Univ. of MD.

why are not all top 16 kids given medals. seems pretty cheap for only ribbons for 9-16.

Need more pictures on the web site.

the ref and the judges were soo nice! i love ed miller and eddy from south carolina, they make me feel at home!

Very positive comments from parents and swimmers regarding the Swim Network coverage

The pa system was horrible. You could not understand a single word that was being said in the stands. There was not enough parking close for coaches. Not enough concessions options and coaches hospitality was basicly non exsitant. Why can't the coaches recive a bag tag that says coaches on it.

Hospitality food was great, but much too much ordered! Could cut down costs considerably by better estimating amount needed. Official shirts for women not available in small (again).

See above re announcer.

Already commented on the announcement sysytem, the announce was outstanding! I also think we need more seating for the swimmwers and coaches on the deck. With only one swimmer there didn't seem to be anywhere to sit where you wern't in the middle of a team.

The website coverage for those at home during prelims proved difficult for knowing what heat they were on - I know that info is available somewhere but it is not easily accessible by those over 30? Also, the starters seemed to be a bit inconsistent - I don't think you should see 4 false starts in any one event at this level. (I think my info is accurate.)

kids in hotel rude! loose power and they are shouting cheers at each other. running around. kids hit all the buttons in the elevator. typical but to also clog up hotel corridors and lobbies. rude to other teams and guests. disrepectful. uncaring. not responsible at the pool or hotels. is this the new y way? as for georgia tech. it is a new start but who is thinking here? the host hotel with a shuttle to the pool! are you kidding. just look at the parking lot here at maryland. i can only think of the horror show getting onto a shuttle to get to the pool to hold a space. then not having a car and trying to fight these same teams for food like you fight them for deck space. why not have the host hotel have buffets for people staying at the hotel. the teams pack into the concierge level and upset the business travels so why not set up the food in a function room as a bonus that goes along with the hotel.

The cost of parking was pretty high for coaches and athletes that had to attend the meet. Perhaps not charging coaches for parking would be a great idea.

Directions to the facility with an address for GPS would be very helpful. Full Service hotels are not necessary for this type of function. It would have been helpful to have a hotel with internet connection included.

Are the pictures taken by a photographer of the awards available for purchase? The seating was too far away to capture with my camera.

Parking filled up for a few sessions. Had to park far away, or at a metered space. Warm-down pool was really crowded for most of the time. Hard to warm-up/ warm down during the meet. Seating on deck was limited, but better than previous years. Could have used some additional bleachers on deck. Continued problems with timing system, especially when "changing ends." The PA was hard to hear for most of the meet.

The pool had horrible air circulation as all of our on deck, and some patrons in the stands, needed to put in eye drops numerous times a day. This was especially prevalent in the warm up/warm down pool. Hospitality was great this year but it would still be nice to have beverages available throughout the entire day - they were frequently empty. The heat sheets were a concern as well when they are not ready when teams arrive for finals, and that we have to get a punch on our tags for each one. If there were just a supply for each

team it would be much easier and the guy wouldn't have to sit there all meet and punch cards.

Pre-meet information was great. The meet ran slow on several of the days which made it difficult to follow for those watching online.

Better sound system; reverb was very bad. Meet ran very quickly and smoothly.

Good information available on the web site prior to the pool. Little information available once we were actually at the pool. Exceptionally expensive for parking, admission, heat sheets and concessions (especially for those interested in just a single event in a day). PA was absolutely horrible. Air in pool was difficult to breathe. Meet ran slow. Spirit of athletes was inspiring to watch. Registration was smooth for our team.

Not much turn around time with the new YMCA logo but great job getting it out there in the many colors for people to see.

The air quality in the pool was horrible.

Other than the seating the warm down pool was too small for the number of swimmers but I think the larger facility we are going to next year will take care of that. In order for us to attend next year we would have to have Dorm accommodations. I don't think we could afford two meets with airfare without being on campus. Our Y is financially struggling and I have many parents out of work.

Heat sheets for finals should be free to those who present their paid heat sheet from prelims.

Not impressed with hospitality.

Facility has been very poor.

It was very difficult to hear the announcements. The morning devotions/singers it would have been nice to see the swimmers. Very disappointed in the web coverage. Family and friends indicated the system went down. We had hoped (like last year) to watch the finals on video once we got home and most of them were gone.

Parking was too expensive and pretty limited for the number of drivers we have at this meet. It will probably improve at GT due to more teams flying and shuttling to pool from hotel.

This is a huge undertaking for all involved...we appreciate very much the time and effort that went into this event...Thanks!

POSTING FINAL RESULTS IN PUBLICATION ORDER IN PDF FORMAT IS MOST HELPFUL WHEN HAVING TO PRINT THE RESULTS FOR PROOF OF TIME FOR SWIMMERS FOR FOLLOWING SEASON. PA SYSTEM WAS VERY HARD TO UNDERSTAND ON THE DECK. SOME CALLS MADE BY OFFICIALS SEEMED VERY QUESTIONABLE. ERROR IN DAY THE DAY OF THE 800 FREE FOR WOMEN & MEN WAS UPSETTING AND CONFUSING FOR OUR SWIMMERS AND COACHES. MEET HANDBOOK HAD IT CORRECT BUT COACHES EVENT CARD & SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IN HANDBOOK HAD IT BACKWARDS.

Parking cost too much.

I think there needs to be either more warm-up time or more warm-up space which is why I assume the meet is moving to Georgia Tech. Also, I only noticed minimal problems when team chairs were allowed on deck - if the issue was big teams, allow smaller teams to bring them in. It's a long time for coaches to be standing or trying to find a space on the floor. If you don't allow people to bring their own chairs, there needs to be a lot more seating put out. The big teams should have the bleacher space but there also needs to be somewhere for little teams to sit. Maybe mark the chairs as they do in some meets, officials chair, coaches chair, swimmer chair, etc. Also, in the handbook the number for faxing forms was wrong but was correct on the website. Would like to see more healthy/vegetarian options for coaches in the food room. Thanks for a great meet - see you next year!

Maybe (and I do mean maybe) review the DQ's a bit. There must be a review process if there are DQ's appearing in one lane more frequently

The free-for-all for swimmer seating worked out for us but seemed like it could have been ugly. I have been to some meets which had assigned areas for teams and I wonder if that might work at Nationals as well. My answer for the question below is a YES, ABSOLUTELY we would like the option of Georgia Tech Dorm Rooms!

On the last day, a young man working in concessions on the top level was wearing a very inappropriate bracelet. I spoke to a gentleman at the door manning attendance and informed him. I do not know whether the young man removed the bracelet, but I do know

the "man at the door" asked him to remove it.

Make sure every lane's speaker is fixed right. On the first day there was a 15 minute period where they were fixing it.

After you pay the fees for your swimmer to attend (travel and meet), it is frustrating to be nickel and dimed when attending. Paying for parking, entry fees for each session and heat sheet costs added up quickly -- on top of higher hotel costs, etc.. To be YMCA friendly and realize families are struggling now, I think they could have been more considerate when adding on these additional expenses.

Maryland has been good to us for many years - but it is time for a change.

The website should offer information sooner, so it is easier to find qualifying times, additional meet information, etc. It was extremely difficult to understand the announcer. Some larger YMCA teams were very rude to smaller teams, specifically telling them to leave the bleachers, because they were theirs, which continued daily-including from the coach. I thought the YMCA principles were to be used by both swimmers & coaches?

The volunteers did an exceptional job:operations, officiating, pre-meet, post-meet, etc. I believe more volunteers from participating clubs should be utilized to make the meet more manageable, and to better assist in eventual succession.

University of Maryland has worked hard for us, and every time something went wrong on deck I saw them on top of it immediately. I was there last year during the coaches meeting when it was mentioned in an offhanded way that they didn't get the contract, and I found their reaction to be professional and much more "high road" than the path we took. That was pretty shabby for us to do, and if we truly live our core values, we would have handled this entire business in a more professional and respectful way. I sure hope that someone has apologized to them and at least thanked them for the many years of good service they've given our teams.

Hey! I wasn't at the meet, I just can't figure out how else to contact a YMCA swimming person - I won the breaststrokes back in 1996 for the short course spring meet. I got 1st? 2nd? 3rd? in the 200 and 400 I.M.s and am trying to figure out what my times were. Is there anyway you could possibly help me with this? I can't find them anywhere on the web. Thanks! Shannon Wisne (maiden name - Suddarth) from the Topeka Swim Association. jswisne6@live.com

the website information is ok if not basic. it is not great for first time parents/swimmers from our team. can only hope for more 'in depth' information georgia tech. Also, Patti and Heidi from Kastaway swimwear are just AWESOME. they just do not just sell you a tech suit or goggles but actually have customer service and help you. they are very patient and take the time. a parent in vendor village was upset that some national theme items had been sold out! being told to order online, so not to be disappointed next time - is words to the wise.

maybe more water in hospitality available all the time

For COACHES, would you be interested in Georgia Tech Dorm Rooms for your team

Response	Response Count	Percentage
Yes	17	34.00 %
No	13	26.00 %
Maybe	20	40.00 %
Totals	50	

For COACHES - If you are interested in Dorm Room Accommodations, how many rooms do you think you would need (include swimmers, coaches and chaperons

Response

6-8

1

3

4

8

5

8

2

3

50

4

5

14

8-12

4

8 rooms

10

20

10

4

16

4 to a room? 8-12?

5

4

14

16

35-40

12

4

15

10

n/a

25