

CPAL MISSION STATEMENT

The Central Penn Aquatic League recognizes that competitive swimming is an activity shared in an atmosphere of mutual respect by athletes, coaches, parents, officials, and organizations which foster, promote, and deal in the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual development of youth. It recognizes that competitive swimming is not a means to an end but is an activity that is ethically good in itself and as such involves commitment to the sport itself. The league is therefore organized to provide an opportunity for its members to share in and become committed to a wholesome competitive swimming program.

The league sees itself as one particular model among many organizations (high school, YMCA, PIAA, USS Clubs, and leagues in other areas) and is committed to maintaining strong loyalties to them as an expression of working creatively to gather to achieve these ends. The following constituents shall:

LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE: shall maintain a high level of ethical goodness, organizing the league into dual meet and championship formats that build equitable competition among teams through selecting and adapting a proven set of rules and regulations (NCAA, NAT, FED, USS, etc.).

OFFICIALS: shall apply the rules and regulations so that during competition everything is equal except the talents of the swimmers.

PARENTS: shall decide the level of wholesomeness of the league in general before permitting their children to participate. After a decision to participate, parents shall maintain and improve that level. It is their responsibility to observe how well their swimmers are doing what they set out to do and to encourage them into a deeper commitment to the sport.

COACHES: It is the responsibility of the coaches to direct the ongoing development of individual talent and commitment to the sport among the swimmers, parents, and officials that represent his/her team.

COMPETITIVE SWIMMERS: Swimmers must recognize that competition is an opportunity to discover how well they have progressed through practicing swimming; and they must also realize that only through competition is this possible. They must recognize their need for competitors, officials, the league, a team, coaches, and parents in order to become fully committed to the sport.

“Success in competition is not necessary success in the sport. Winning races is of value only to the extent that it represents the quality of the experiences the child has had along the road to victory.”

If winning is important only in and of itself, our present program is insane. It produces dozens of losers for every winner.

The mission statement must appear on all Divisional and All Star programs.