

### **CBST LC Meet Entry Process Explanation**

Because of the small number of long course pools there are relatively few meets for a lot of teams. Our experience is that this leads to a frenzy when long course meet information is released. Our coaches are experienced with the meet entry process and have devised a system and timeline to maximize our chances of getting into the meets they've chosen. We can't know ahead of time which meets we'll be shut out of. The entry window for most long course meets begins at midnight and the meets are filled almost immediately, with coaches from many teams (including ours) waiting up to hit send at the stroke of midnight. This results in somewhat of a lottery system as meet hosts get entry files basically simultaneously over filling their meets.

To give us the best chance of getting into meets, the administrative staff makes sure the coaches have an accurate schedule of the entry opening dates and confirm with them the day of each to be sure they'll be ready to submit. The coaches stay up and submit the entries right at the moment of the deadline. They also try to use relationships they have with the meet directors to get assurances of entry acceptance but meet directors need to be fair to everyone and generally just put entries in in the order they're received and we can't control how the email servers order the mass of emails that are submitted at the same moment so we're not always first. Meet directors will not accept entries that come in prior to midnight. Further, the size of our team means that we take up a lot of space in a meet so some smaller teams may get in with a later entry submission but once the host puts in their entries, there may not be room for CBST's entries even if we're first to submit. Because of this whole process, some teams in Mid-Atlantic have experienced long course seasons during which they did not get into any meets.

Meet hosts some years decide to have their meets open very early (Feb 1st for some meets), further accelerating our meet entry timelines. All parties involved (meet hosts, entering teams, Mid-Atlantic administrative staff) are working to make this process as fair and painless as possible. The unfortunate reality is that there are limited meets and many swimmers so it is difficult to make it a completely smooth process. Surely, all CBST swim families will need to pay careful attention to all communications and deadlines and exercise patience throughout this process and we thank you in advance for doing that.

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