

SECTION XVII

SAFETY AND RISK

A. Air Quality Issues Affecting Meet Operation

The EPA document (EPA-456/f-11-005) "Air Quality and Outdoor Activities: Recommendation for Schools" should be used as a guide that Pacific Swimming can refer to in the decision process for conducting meets.

1. Recommendation

AQI of 0-50	No impact on meet conduct
AQI of 51-100	Meet held or continued. Decision to swim or not resides with swimmers/coaches/parents. No show penalty, if applicable, suspended at meet
AQI of 101-150	Meet may be held or continued, Decision to swim or not resides with swimmers/coaches/parents. No show penalty, if applicable, suspended at meet
AQI of 150+	Meet should be cancelled or stopped (if ongoing)

2. Source of AQI

- a. Reliable website(s) should be used for AQI information. A primary site and a secondary (backup) site that provides AQI information on or near (5-15miles) to the swim venue should be used. AQI indices of any location is quite dynamic and can vary greatly depending on weather patterns. Specific location data should be used as the geographic peculiarities of the Bay Area can greatly affect neighboring locals with vast differences in microclimate.
- b. The preferred primary site is AirNow.gov (an EPA site). A secondary site (purpleair.com) should also be established as the EPA site could be slowed or completely down due to traffic volume especially before and/or during swim meets. A single point of contact should be established and made responsible for providing the AQI data. Continued (hourly) monitoring should be done if the AQI of the venue is between 101-150.

3. Decision Process

- a. Meet host should check with meet venue facility manager to verify that the venue will be open and the criteria the facility manager will follow for closing the venue.
- b. Prior to the meet, responsibility to host the meet or not should be a joint decision between the Meet Referee and the Meet Host after resolving issues regarding closing of the swim venue.
- c. During the meet, a Meet committee consisting of Meet Referee, Meet host, coach(s) and athlete should be established to review AQI monitoring data and to recommend the course of action. The AQI data and common sense should be used in the decision process. Always refer to AQI Index using the EPA recommendation as a guideline.

4. Timing and Communication of Decision

- a. Deadline for decision to hold a meet or not should be made as early as possible giving affected parties such as swimmers, parents, coaches, officials ample time to plan. If the decision is to be made the day of the meet, decision and announcement should be made no later than 6:00 AM the day of the meet.

- b. A single website should be the single information source. Secondary websites should only provide links to the primary website rather than duplicating the information, as the situation may change and using different websites will only contribute to the confusion.
5. Recommendation for PacSwim for Mass Communication
- a. Develop the ability to send mass e-mail to the list of swimmers entered in any particular meet. An electronic list of e-mails of swimmers can be obtained from the online entry system such as Swim Connection. The ability to send e-mails using this list of e-mail addresses to notify swimmers of meet cancellation to augment the host club website is desirable.