

After having received some – justified, in my opinion – concerns about the need for transparency and objectivity in the process of naming a Pacific Swimming Senior Coach of the Year, I gave the matter some thought.

1. The Senior Committee and the Senior Coaches Representative should be involved in some way with the selection process.
2. The award should be based on understandable criteria related to a program excelling at Senior swimming with 18-under Pacific Swimming swimmers.
3. Voters for the award should be in a position to make reasonable judgement concerning team and coach performance at high levels of competition.

With these points in mind, here is an early draft of proposed criteria by which a Senior Coach of the Year might be chosen using ASCA Coach of the Year criteria as a model, scaled to include appropriate levels for LSC coaches of 18-under athletes:

1. Olympic or World Championship performances.
2. Swimmers making Olympic or World Championship team.
3. Swimmers making other USA National Teams.
4. Swimmers making National Junior Team.
5. National meet individual performances.
6. National meet team performances.
7. Records.
  - a. World.
  - b. National/US Open.
  - c. National Age Group 15-16, 17-18.
  - d. Junior National Meet.
  - e. Pacific Swimming Senior or 15-18.
8. Junior National individual performances.
9. Junior National team performances.
10. Futures, Sectionals individual and team performances.
11. NAG rankings 15-16-17-18.
12. Consideration also given to post-grads' performances if training with a Pacific Swimming club program.
13. Significant contribution to the sport of swimming, community, and/or profession.

Some subjectivity.

1. Noteworthy Senior performances in the face of situational or program challenges.
2. Noteworthy rates of Senior improvement.

Voters for this award be familiar with appropriately high levels of competition. Here are my suggestions for voter eligibility:

1. Coaches of record who have attended Sectionals, Futures, Junior Nationals, and/or Nationals or Trials meets during the term under consideration.
2. Senior Chairs for each Zone.

3. Pacific Swimming Senior Chair.
4. Pacific Swimming Senior Coaches' Representative.

Determining eligible candidates and the voting pool looks to be a fairly large task. I propose that the Senior Coaches' Representative be assigned this task as part of the position's overall duties. This award seems like it should fall squarely in that position's purview. (When I held this position it seemed to require very little work.)