

2008 Winter Zone Information

To: All Maine Swimmers and Parents

Subject: Selection Process for 2008 Maine Short Course Zone All Star Team

Dear Swimmers and Parents:

It is that time of year again. The information for the 2008 Maine Swimming, Inc. (MSI) Winter Short Course Zone Team has been sent to coaches for distribution to each team's swimmers and parents. The 2008 United States of America Swimming (USA-S) Eastern Zone Short Course Championship Meet will be held April 3rd – April 5th (Thursday - Saturday), 2008 at the Erie Community College in Buffalo, NY. We will be leaving by bus on Wednesday April 2nd from Portland with a stop in Kennebunk and returning Sunday April 6. Swimmers from northern Maine will spend Tuesday night April 1st in Portland at a designated hotel. Travel to Portland on April 1st shall be provided by the swimmer.

The qualification criteria for the meet are as follows:

1. All athletes must be registered with USA-S and MSI for the 2008 swim year. Swimmers must have an annual membership; seasonal memberships are not allowed in Zone competition.
2. Age qualification for the meet is the swimmers age on the first day of the meet, April 3rd, 2008.
3. Swimmers attending zones are eligible for the subsidy provided that they have swum in two (2) USA-S sanctioned swim meets; one of which must be a MSI swim meet, held prior to Winter Championships within the qualifying period. The qualifying period is March 19th, 2007 until February 28th, 2008.
4. A swimmer must compete in the 2008 MSI Winter Combined Championships meet to qualify for the 2008 MSI Eastern Zone All Star Team.
5. Any swimmer transferring to MSI must be a registered member of MSI for the preceding period of 120 days to be eligible to compete in the zone meet.
6. Swimmers qualify for zones based on his/her swims at MSI Winter Combined Championships.
7. Swimmers do **not** need to fill out an application form prior to the meet in order to be eligible for the Zone Meet.
8. The swimmers who achieve the top two times in each of the final results of the events from the Winter Championships will be selected to the Zone Team as long as they have an "A" time in that event.
9. If one or both of the top two swimmers opt out or are not allowed to attend (according to the Eastern Zone Policy), then the swimmers who place third and so forth will be selected to the team provided that they have a 'AA' time in that event.
10. Swimmers are only allowed to swim six individual events at the Zone Meet. If a swimmer qualifies for more than six events they must drop the event before the end of their last session at Winter Championships. If we don't hear from the swimmer or their coach, the Age Group Vice Chair and Zone Team Head Coach will make that decision for them.
11. Swimmers who qualify need to declare their intentions to participate in each event he/she qualifies in no later than 9:00PM that day.
12. **All paperwork must be completed and full payment made as soon as possible with the deadline being the end of event 108, the 11-12 100 yard Butterfly on Sunday Night.**
13. The selection of the relay swimmers will be the sole responsibility of the Zone Team Head Coach.
14. Swimmers, ages 11 and over, and chaperones must travel with the team. Swimmers, ages 10 & under and their parents, who have qualified for the Zone meet may ride on the

- bus to and from the Zone Meet, but their parents have sole responsibility for their swimmers for the duration of the trip, except on the pool deck.
15. 10 and under swimmers and their parents may eat with the older swimmers at the Wednesday night and Sunday morning meals for an additional cost, but 10 and under swimmers and their parents will need to eat on their own for all other meals.
 16. Any one interested in being a Chaperone must fill out paperwork at the MSI Winter Combined Championships.
 17. Chaperones will pay for room and board and MSI will pay the travel expense and t-shirt(s).

The cost for the zone trip will be available on the Maine Swimming, Inc. website by the end of January for the 11 and Over Swimmers, the 10 and Under Swimmers, the Chaperones and the 10 and under Parents. For additional information please see the Zone Team Section of the Maine Swimming, Inc. website www.maineswimming.org. If you have any questions you may e-mail them to Laura Branch at zonechair@maineswimming.org or call (207) 657-6487.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura G. Branch".

Laura G. Branch
Maine Swimming, Inc.
Zone Chair/Camp Coordinator