

## CHAPTER 13 WINTER CHALLENGE

- 1.1. The winter challenge is held, each year, in the month of August. Its purpose is to encourage swimmers to get back into the water; to entice new members to join and to raise funds for charity. Visitors, friends and family are welcome to participate and to have a load of fun.
- 1.2. The 'challenge' is to determine how far the participant can swim in one hour in the pool. The swimmers can do this in their own time provided they have lap counters or alternatively, clubs can arrange to meet at a specific time and place to do the swim. The applicable form, which indicates the distance swum, is signed by both the swimmer and the lap counter and is submitted to the club chairperson (see below).
- 1.3. Club chairpersons' send to SAMS a summary form which indicates the distance swum by each swimmer and their age. A form for relay teams is also provided (see appendix 2). The summary forms are for information only and is used by SAMS for use in newsletters. Prior to the 2011/12 season the forms were used to determine a winning club derived using a formula (see below) which takes into account the size of the club (as determined by the number of club members at the end of the prior season), the number of participants, their ages and the total distance swum.
- 1.4. The entry fee is decided by the region. All proceeds go to a charity as decided by the particular region.
- 1.5. In earlier years SAMS also offered a T-shirt which could be purchased by participants. However, with the growth of master swimming and the complexity involved in ordering and distribution thereof this has been dispensed with. Regions are nonetheless encouraged to provide their own T-shirts as this will also help to promote the winter challenge and new members to join masters.
- 1.6. The formula previously used for calculating final positions and developed by Western Province is as follows:  **$F = N/C (A \times D)$**  where F = final determining position; N = number of swimmers participating; C = total number of club members registered in the prior season; A = average age of participants (years) and D = average distance swum (metres).
- 1.7. The Gauteng SAMS (0708 and 0809 seasons) introduced relay team events as well age group categories for individuals and the relay team events. The objective being to establish records for the most distance swum for individuals and teams. The records however, have since been abandoned because:
  - It is pointless keeping records when the integrity of which is always in doubt.
  - The winter challenge is a fun/charity event and
  - It is just another administrative burden which somebody has to manage.
- 1.8. WP masters in the 10/11 season introduced a new individual event, the "WFC Mile Challenge" which may be done as an alternative to the standard individual event.
- 1.9. An example of the covering letter which SAMS may send to the regions as well as the necessary forms may be found in the appendix 2.



*Durban Champs: 2016*



*East London Champs: 2017*