

Splash Times

THE JAX50: HOW IT WORKS

Each April, Planet Swim offers the JAX50, a unique swim meet that includes a 50-meter-freestyle “tournament-style” competition among various age groups. While the meet includes other events in both Timed Finals and Prelim/Final formats, the 50 freestyle is the highlight event of the meet. Please note the attached event list, which will aid in the explanation of the format.

On Saturday morning, the first event is the Open 50 Free. It is run as a Timed Final, multi-age group event, with results created for 10 & Under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16 and Open. The top eight finishers in each age group, girls and boys, advance to swim in the Saturday night Finals, or “tournament.” An exception is the Open category, where typically two male and female professional or elite sprinters are placed as the top two seeds.

In the break after Prelims, the qualifiers are manually placed in their respective events/heats for the first round of 50s in the Finals. This is the only round that will show in the Finals heat sheet, since subsequent rounds will be determined from results in the “match” races.

Let’s feature the 10 & U Girls age group to provide an example of the first round of 50-meter races. From the morning results, 4th place will race against 5th place in a single, two-swimmer elimination heat. Then, 3rd place will race 6th place, 2nd place against 7th and, finally, 1st vs 8th. The winners of those races will advance to the next round after all age groups’ 50-free races and several heats of Finals for non-50 free events.

In Hy-tek, this first round of evening 50s are labelled as events 101 through 140. As those races are progressing, the winners are being manually

placed (Adjust Screen) into the next round of 50s, that being events 201 through 220. Note that notations for each event displaying who will compete in each event have been added in the event screens under “Note.” For example, event 201 is Girls 10 & Under 50 Freestyle 2-7 Winner vs 3-6 Winner. Adding such notation simplifies the process of determining which swimmers to drop in events as the tournament progresses. The seeding process for the forthcoming round is completed during Finals heats for other events, and it’s important to be precise and expedient in creating heat sheets for the next round, which must be promptly distributed to various parties.

The final round (events 301-320) takes the winners from the previous round and consists of two races in each age group, the Consolations Final to determine 3rd and 4th place and the Championship Final for 1st and 2nd place. While age-groupers battle for medals, the professional swimmers compete for cash prizes.

Awards presented are 1st through 3rd medals in each age group. Creating awards labels for 1st and 2nd place is easy, simply selecting the Championship Final events in Hy-tek to create the 1st and 2nd place label based on their finish.

However, printing 3rd place labels is a little tricky. In Hy-tek, the operator checks all Consolation Finals to print just first place in those events (insert print 1-1). Instead of printing in that moment, the labels should be saved as an .rtf file and opened in Word (or word processing program). Then, run the “Find and Replace” function for “1st” and change it to “3rd”. That will leave you with a page of third-place finishers, ready for label printing.

It’s a lot of fun, but it requires speed and precision, perhaps more than any other meet!