

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

JUNIOR CARNIVAL FORMAT

MIX OF INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM EVENTS

This has been supported over the past few years by the YDC and 96% of Junior Carnival survey responses indicated they liked the mix of individual and team events at carnivals. In the past we have trialed Team Carnivals and Individual Carnivals which were also welcomed over trying to fit all events in. This was only possible many years ago with smaller numbers at Carnivals and eventually took longer to complete with most carnivals finishing without getting through the program.

It is proposed to trial an even mix of 50% individual and 50% team events across all Age Groups alternating this format over two (2) carnivals to ensure all events are conducted.

We would still strongly encourage clubs to combine to form teams where individuals are left out, especially to assist the smaller clubs that may not be able to form teams so as to increase participation.

EMPHASIS ON PARTICIPATION

This has been a topic of discussion over the past two years amongst the Youth Development Committee who have consistently agreed to ensuring maximum participation. 8.0 out of 10 was the average rating in support of participation over ensuring finals where completed. This was considered only at the first four (4) carnivals until we get to the Qualifying Carnival and ultimately State Championships where some events will require pre-qualification as in the past.

To encourage this it is proposed to incorporate events that most can participate in subject to no qualification award requirement Flags, Wade (or Wade Relay), Sprints (or Sprint Relay) and Cameron Relay (running legs) in each format (i.e. at every carnival).

Inclusive events are conducted first for the younger Age Groups with the swim last.

PREDICTABILITY - TIMETABLE, ROTATIONS, and AN EXTRA WATER AREA

8.9 out of 10 was the average rating in support of a timetabled Carnival Program. It is proposed to move to a timed rotation of events so that everyone involved in these Carnivals (Officials, Water Safety personnel, Age Managers, Participants and parents) can predict where they need to be, what they will be doing and when this will occur.

To achieve this (which will also achieve flexibility and decrease the time spent on the beach) it is proposed to introduce a fourth water area to include one (1) modified water area and three (3) senior water areas (see attached diagram for the Beach Set Up). This would increase the Areas to six (6) including a sprint and flag area at every carnival.

Announcements will be made at the start of each event including a reminder of what an Age Group's event is and where they are meant to be. Each event will be timed and a 'half way' and '5 minutes to go' message will be communicated. Commentary of events or music could fill the gaps on the PA.

At the first carnival it is proposed to trial a 1 hour event based program taking the rotations from 9.00am to 3.00pm. 24% of survey responses supported this length of carnival (6 hours – finish by 3.00pm) however the majority (at 57%) would like to finish by 2.00pm. If after trial 45 mins per event is possible we could implement this and finish earlier.

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The U/9 and U/10 Age Groups can certainly finish quicker if they wish to as they have their own area for the last two (2) event rotations (U/9's have it for the last three (3) in fact).

The last two (2) water rotations (Board Rescue in Format 1 and Ironperson in Format 2) for the U/11 – U/14's are the potential longer events and these could actually be provided with more time if required.

We know that some events may normally take longer than 1 hour to complete. This is where we need to be very efficient with marshaling and try get through these events quicker with maximum participation without compromising the event or safety.

MARSHALING

Comments and feedback from the survey and forums indicate efficient marshaling to be the main area which will maximize participation time.

Predictability of the program should assist with having everyone within the area as early as possible. We could trial a colored flag or 'lollipop' system which an Age Group can identify with and follow as they move around the events from area to area (this has worked well in Vic apparently) or identify each area with same. *Resolved to identify Areas with coloured Flags.*

Age Managers will be required to assist with this process by being in an area on time and ready to go with their competitors assembled. As has been utilized before, marshaling could also be assisted by having Club markers. *Resolved to have Club markers in each area.*

Where finals are not conducted seeding can be assisted by placing better competitors at the front of the line and competing in the first heat and so on.

An event entries sheet per Age Group per Club which could be trialed may provide approximate numbers prior to the event and assist with predicting the number of heats required and whether finals might be possible and/or how many to take through from heats or rounds. *Resolved to trial this process.*

A standardized heat/rounds and finals calculator should be utilized to quickly construct the event once numbers are determined based around the time limitations.

It may be worthwhile discussing the following also. Introduce an SLSSA Age Group Marshal which follows each Age Group to the next event and then works with the Area Marshal or this is one of the same. This Age Group Marshal will build a working rapport with the Age Managers over the day and should be able to determine the most likely numbers for the next event. A Club Age Group Marshal may also be useful if they have the parent numbers to provide this extra support. *Resolved to trial the Age Group Marshal.*

Where it is possible for Officials to accommodate late entries without disruption to the program, this would be encouraged (i.e. if a competitor arrived late to the carnival).

WATER SAFETY AND WATER DEPTH

The proposed program is designed to allow the U/14's to swim first for better assessment of the conditions and normal tide (longer swim early to shorter as the tide recedes). Again, the younger Modified Age Groups swim last. It is acknowledged this could in fact be safer if the modified Age Groups completed this early if conditions are predicted to change later in the day. The program is flexible enough to cater for this which will be a contingency and program ready

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to go if this is deemed safer by the Water Safety Officer and/or Chief Referee/Modified Area Referee.

PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY

This program is very flexible and can be modified (to a point) to suit conditions or requirements of certain Age Groups.

For example if we wanted to start the younger age groups first with the swim then the U/11's swap with the U/14's program and the U/12's swap with the U/13's program. In the modified area the U/10's swap with the U/9's program and we swap the swim with the wade event.

If Age Groups do not always want to do sprints first or last for example then we can swap Age Groups around amongst the U14 to U11 Age Groups and swap the U/9's and U/10's however with only four (4) carnivals and two (2) format rotations an Age Group is only contained to this over that one (1) year period and they then move up an Age Grouping and their program changes.

CONTINGENCY PROGRAMS

These should be discussed and have some up our sleeves.

EXAMPLES

Hot weather– beach is too hot but not considered hot enough to cancel the carnival. Flags and sprints have been cancelled. Beach Area Officials can relocate to assist create another water area (wade course). Flags would be changed to a wade or wade relay (depending on the Format – not doubling what the modified Age Groups are already doing - however they would most likely have finished their flags by the time it gets too hot as they are within the first two events). The senior Age Groups could participate in these wade events. Sprints would be converted to a Break.

Waves are huge, wind, etc – water safety officer deems modified area too dangerous to run swim and board based events. Modified Board/Board Relay event is converted to the Wade Relay/Wade depending on the Format and Events 5 and 6 are cancelled allowing these younger Age Groups to get off the beach earlier but still had four (4) events. Whilst they are programmed for sprints or beach relay depending on the Format they may conduct a sprint relay or sprint depending on time and numbers allowing five (5) events or if a smaller area is available we could plan to set up a modified sprint relay (no track) and run it as Event 5 alternating U/9 first, then U/10.