



Dear Parents,

To start, I want to sincerely congratulate your swimmers on qualifying for the 2026 PA YMCA West District Championships. Their hard work, commitment, and perseverance have paid off. I hope they are proud of what they have accomplished — they should be. Each of these athletes has made their YMCA, their team, their coaches, and their families proud, and now it is our privilege to celebrate them.

As we prepare to host this meet once again at the SPIRE Institute, I would like to address a few important expectations so that this championship experience is positive for everyone involved.

SPIRE Venue Expectations

Upstairs near the bleachers, there is a recreational area with games and tables. Last year, this space unfortunately became chaotic, and one of the air hockey tables was destroyed.

Please ensure that if your swimmer or guests are using this area, they clean up after themselves, treat the equipment with care, and conduct themselves appropriately.

If you observe inappropriate behavior, please notify a member of the meet staff so it can be handled promptly. We are extremely fortunate to have access to a facility as large and accommodating as SPIRE, and we must be responsible stewards of that privilege.

Officials

Districts is an emotional meet. Every swimmer is competing for the opportunity to advance to States, and emotions can understandably run high.

If you believe your athlete has been disqualified incorrectly, please allow your team's coach to address the matter through proper channels. Confronting officials in hallways or attempting to

argue a call will not be tolerated.

Our officials are volunteers. They give their time to ensure a fair and well-run meet and make decisions based on what they observe and what they believe is in the best interest of the competition. While no one is perfect, concerns must be handled through coaches and the head official — not by parents.

Any parent, guardian, or supporter who accosts an official will be banned from this and future West District Meets. There will be no exceptions.

Contacting the Meet Director

Each year, I receive direct emails and phone calls from parents regarding relays, meet rules, or team decisions. I will not be responding to individual parent communications.

If you have a question: Please contact your swimmer's coach first. If the coach needs clarification, they will contact me.

Regarding relays specifically, I have no authority over relay lineups or team strategy. Each team manages those decisions independently, and I will not become involved in individual team matters.

Deck Access

If you are not volunteering in that specific session, you are not permitted on deck.

The only individuals allowed on deck are: Athletes competing in that session, Certified Coaches, Officials, Timers, Assigned meet staff, Approved disability seating support.

There are no exceptions for coaches' spouses, partners, former swimmers, or others unless they are actively volunteering in that session.

If your swimmer has a documented medical or physical need that requires you to be on deck, please have your coach contact me in advance so we can work toward an appropriate solution.

We are all part of the YMCA of the USA. As we gather for this championship meet, I ask everyone — swimmers, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, and spectators — to remember and model the YMCA's four core values:

Honesty. Caring. Respect. Responsibility.

When we lead with those values, this meet becomes not only a competition, but a true celebration of our athletes and our community.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. I look forward to a positive and successful championship weekend for all.

Sincerely,

Anita Murphy
Anita Marie Murphy
Meet Director