

Participation in overseas events.

Swimming as a competitive sport in the Cayman Islands can only move forward if there is communication and co-operation between the various parties involved.

The Cayman Islands Amateur Swimming Association is the national governing body for swimming in the Cayman Islands. Our constitution was approved by the Governor in Council in January, 1986 and by FINA, the international Swimming Federation. We are also affiliated to the Amateur Swimming Union of the Americas and CCCAN (Confederacion Centro Americana y del Caribe de Aficionados a la Natacion). We pay annual affiliation fees to these three bodies, plus annual registration fees to the Cayman Islands Government as an incorporated company. We are also a member of the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee, the National Council of Social Services and send representatives to meetings of the Sports Committee, who in turn report to the National Sports Council. As with other sporting associations in Cayman, our committee members are elected volunteers.

Swimmers cannot compete in overseas swim meets, from the CARIFTA Games through to the Olympic Games unless they are registered swimmers, i.e. members of CIASA, who in turn has to be affiliated to and in good standing with the aforementioned international bodies. Invitations to such meets are received by our Association or the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee.

One of our objectives is to promote swimming at all levels in the Cayman Islands. This includes competitive swimming and the promotion of swimming as a aerobic exercise for all ages and all members of the family, a healthy alternative to the destructive force of drug abuse.

The Lions Aquatic Centre, built by the Lions Club and handed over to Government, has been a great asset to the community and many people have been introduced to swimming there. A recent Compass editorial, 14 June, 1989, referred to it. The youngsters that win medals in the pool meets, (the Lions Club National Swimming Championships were reported in the Compass the same day), are those that train regularly in the pool 3 or 4 times a week). Either they live within walking distance or have parents who can transport them to and from the pool. The officials at the pool meets, apart from the two Aquatic Directors, are all volunteers, mostly parents. Many people are necessary to make pool meets and sea-swims successful events. The standard of swimming is improving all the time, as can be seen by the number of records broken at each pool meet. The children do need the incentive of overseas events in order to keep improving, even if they are not in medal categories and may not be for some years yet. They should be encouraged and given the chance to "be the best that they can be", as was printed on their T-shirts for the National Championships.

Overseas swim meets take place in swimming pools and the best place in Cayman for swimmers to train is the 25 metre Lions Pool. The full potential of swimmers training there and of the Swimming Association cannot be reached independently of the other. Therefore, it should be understood by all parties involved that they have to work with each other.

In addition to helping out with the Lions Pool meets, & the organisation of the popular sea-swims, the Swimming Association initiated the Nabisco Team Triathlon (which has a family category), the Milo Kids Triathlon and the Don't Try Drugs, Try Fitness Hyatt Triathlon (with special emphasis on the 15 - 19 year age-group) and plays a major role in the organisation of these events.