

To all 12 and Under Zone Qualifiers,

Hello! My name is John Bradley, and I am the Head Coach for the 12 and Under Age Group of Team Wisconsin for the 2007 Zone C Championship meet being held in Topeka, Kansas this August. I'd like to take a few minutes of your time to discuss with you what the Zone C Championship is all about, why you should go if you have the opportunity, and what I have seen and experienced as a four time Zone coach.

No discussion of the Zone C meet would be complete without first extending congratulations to you, the swimmer, for the outstanding performance that allows you to attend the Zone C meet. In order to be a part of Team Wisconsin, you have to have obtained a AAA time standard in a yard, short course meter, or long course meter meet. These time standards are based off of the National Top 16 age group rankings, and place you within the top 10 percent of all athletes in these events in your age group and gender in the United States. You should be proud of your achievement and excited about your future opportunities in competitive swimming. There are many athletes who go on to be productive High School and Collegiate swimmers who never attain standards you have achieved.

The Zone C meet is a fantastic opportunity for you to experience a very competitive, high level meet. Many of you have probably attended a Wisconsin State Championship or a meet like the Schroeder A+, Lake Country WGLO, or Express NIKE Challenge. These are all meets run with time standards, although none of these qualifying standards are as challenging as the AAA standard needed to qualify for Zones. The Zone Championship is a gateway to more challenging meets you may get to experience through hard work and determination. These meets include the Speedo Series Championships, the USA Swimming Junior National and National Championships, and the USA Olympic Swimming Team Trials. Zones gives you a taste of what a higher level meet is like, giving you the opportunity to learn the skills you will need to be successful at a higher championship level.

If you qualify for the Zone meet for the summer of 2007, you are afforded a number of things that make the meet worthwhile. First and foremost, you have the opportunity to become teammates with many of your competitors. You will see many of these people throughout your swimming career. It is not unheard of for Wisconsin teammates who first meet at Zones to be competitors and teammates in their later years as college athletes! Some of the best swimmers in the history of Wisconsin Swimming have participated in the Zone C Championships, including current Wisconsin Olympic Trial qualifiers. Many current Wisconsin State Record holders made a mark at Zones. Zones allows you to be a part of something larger than yourself, and as we all know, when you have the opportunity to contribute to a team, it is always an exciting experience.

Zones allows you to answer some of the more entertaining questions you may have as a swimmer as well. We are allowed to enter A and B relays for each age group and gender. Have you ever wondered how fast the best kids in your age group could go if

they were all on the same relay? Look no farther than the Zone C meet for the answer to that question. Team Wisconsin swimmers also receive a generous outfitting package rivaling the best gear many College teams are given at the start of their competitive seasons. Finally, you get to meet a lot of interesting coaches and people who are at the meet for one purpose - to assist you in achieving whatever goals you may have in mind in any way they can. You are the future of Wisconsin Swimming! We all want to see you succeed.

Personally, this will be my fifth Zone Championship as a member of the coaching staff. I have been to Zone meets in Oxford, OH., Indianapolis, IN., Grand Forks, ND., and soon Topeka, KS. I have always enjoyed watching the athletes I have met from many other teams go on to achieve so much in the sport of swimming. Some have made it as far as Olympic Trials, and others made it as far as High School swimming. All of them have big dreams, and for many, the Zone meet provides the opportunity to take a big step in the direction of excellence. I would urge you to attend if you have the opportunity.

If you have any questions about what to expect, feel free to email me at [john@waukeshaexpress.org](mailto:john@waukeshaexpress.org). You can also contact the other coaches if you would like. Any team questions should be directed to Dave Clark, Zone C Manager for 2007. Dave's email address is [h2o@uwm.edu](mailto:h2o@uwm.edu). We will provide further updates to you as the meet date draws closer.

I look forward to meeting all of you and wish you the best in your taper meets leading up to Zones. Good luck to all of you!

John Bradley  
Team Wisconsin Head Age Group Coach  
Head Age Group Coach - Waukesha Express Swim Team