

AGE GROUP

Coach of the Year Nominations

(Bio Information was provided by the person who submitted the nomination and has been edited only to delete references to non-USA Swimming programming.)

Bryce Whitehead (DTAC)

Bryce has coached for 9 years and most has currently coached the Desert Thunder Aquatics Club 10 & Under Elite Team for 4 years. Bryce pushes his swimmers hard and cares for them even more. This is shown by the records and titles many of his swimmers hold including a #1 ranked swimmer in Arizona for the 100m Breaststroke.

Michael Polak (TJCC)

During the past year, TJCC Stingray age group swimmers have earned the following individual achievements:

4 SCY LSC records: 11-12 Boys 200/1000/1650 free; 13-14 Boys 1000 free
3 LCM LSC Records: 11-12 Boys 400/800 free; 13-14 Boys 800 free
7 USA Swimming Age Group Top 10 rankings, including a 2nd place
9 USA Swimming Top 100 all-time listings, including two swims in the top 20

As a team, TJCC finished 4th at the 2014 SCY LSC Championships, the highest team finish ever for the Stingrays.

Max Laney (MAC)

Max has lead the elite age group squad for a number of years as a part of SDA, and now with MAC as well. After long course season, MAC age groupers finished in 3rd place thanks in part to Max's hard work developing well rounded, versatile, young swimmers (14&under) that go on to be successful senior level swimmers.

Joe Zemaitis (NEP)

I would like to nominate Joe Zemaitis, Swim Neptune - who many may not view as an age group coach but as an owner, but in fact he is an excellent Age Group coach, and as the 8 time Age Group State Champion Team has produced several top end State Swimmers. He has a "kids" first mentality to what needs to be done and as such fills in coaching at all levels of his club, from the young 6-8 year olds to his senior group. He is a tireless supporter of swimming, and I feel has not record the credit on the coaching end he deserves.

Bryan Crane (DTAC)

Bryan has always taken the purist approach with all his swimmers
Bryan truly cares about each swimmers long term success
Bryan is incredibly humble
Bryan is extremely genuine and honest
Bryan never takes short cuts and always takes the time to do it the right

Ryan Kent (YWSE)

Ryan continues to produce top 10 national level athletes. This past year is no exception with Paolo Gurreara placing top 10 in the 50 and 100 breast for 10 year old girls.

Maryanne Keever (SAC)

I would like to nominate Maryanne from Scottsdale for age group coach of the year. Simply put, she continues to give young kids the skills and the mind-set necessary to be their best. She has morals and cares about all the swimmers she coaches now and those she has coached in the past. I consider her a great friend and colleague.

Sarah Byers (VSC)

Sarah Byers is the Head Coach and owner of Vitras Swim Club. Sarah took over the team two years ago and she has grown it both in the quantity of swimmers and the quality of their swimming. She has transformed it into a high quality swim team with emphasis on stroke technique, work ethic, and sportsmanship. Sarah offers individualized coaching and is not satisfied until they are swimming with perfect technique. She has the motto of “Hard Work Works” and makes her expectations clear so that all swimmers may reach their highest potential. She believes that every swimmer has the potential to be great if they work hard and push themselves. This approach has resulted in a team focused on good sportsmanship and positive attitudes. Swimmers support each other during practice and in meets, cheering them for their accomplishments and lifting each other up even when disappointments occur.

Angelo Martins (NEP)

Angelo Martins has been coaching age group swimmers in Arizona for nearly 20 years. In that time he has developed some of the top swimmers to come out of Arizona. Angelo emphasizes proper technique and long term swimming goals with all of his athletes. His swimmers have gone on to become State, Far Western, Zone, and Sectional Champions. This season he has coached an athlete to three 10&Under Arizona State Records and numerous USA Swimming top 10 rankings. Angelo puts his heart and soul into getting young athletes excited about competitive swimming and the results are impressive.

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