

Gabrielle Werner
Senior Athlete Representative Report

When I started my position as an athlete representative for NJ swimming, was goal to increase athlete participation, and to create social media sites that will create excitement for the NJ swimming Athletes. Currently our twitter page has 216 followers, and is growing. I will continue to try to increase the amount of followers.

This past weekend I was in Norfolk, Virginia for the Eastern Zone convention. During our athlete meeting, we discussed a variety of topics. Such as what we are doing in our national committees, and issues within our LSCs.

In general, there are many USA Swimming athletes who are unaware of what safe sport is, and I think it would be important for us to educate our athletes, to insure that our sport is safe. In order for athletes to become more aware about safe sport, we could send out an athlete newsletter online, and use our twitter to educate NJ swimmers. I am interested in talking to my fellow athlete representatives to put this all together.

During our athlete meeting, an athlete representative named Paul Stockett from Mid-Atlantic shared his safe sport incentive program to the other athletes who were present. The details of this program are as follows. If a team has 25% of its 15 and older athletes complete the training that teams receives \$50, if 50% of the 15 and older athletes complete the training they will receive \$100, and if a team has 75% of its 15 and over athletes complete the training, that teams receives \$150. For the first year trying to complete this, he was very successful. Approximately 26.63% of the eligible athletes completed program. Paul is looking to develop this program, and put it online and connect the data to a database. I found this program to be very interesting, and informative. I understand the work this program will require, but it would be incredible if we could have this program within NJ swimming.