

Reasons to expand the Swimming and Diving State Meet to 32 swimmers (from the original 24 swimmers) per event:

1. **Participation** – Schools throughout the state would know that there is a greater opportunity to make it to the state meet and thus potentially increase the number of swimmers competing statewide. At the same time this would allow for additional schools/teams to be involved in the state meet. The number of athletes who could participate would increase by 33%, thus increasing the motivation of the athletes to perform in order to make it to the state meet. There is also a chance that younger swimmers may be included in the meet. Their inclusion, and the chance to move forward, may keep them involved in the sport for years to come.
2. **Fairness** – For the past ten years, there have been 5 events or more, that have one or more automatic qualifiers achieving a time in the Regional that is slower than the 24<sup>th</sup> fastest time from all of the regionals. An example, two years ago the two swimmers who competed in a swim-off for the first alternate position each had achieved times that would have been top 16, but they were not entered in the meet because of the 24 person limit, which includes 10 automatic qualifiers. These two swimmers had tied for 23<sup>rd</sup> place, but were bumped for automatic qualifiers. With 32 entrants you are *guaranteed* to have the 24 fastest times in the state in attendance.
3. **Balance** – Occasionally there are events that have 8-10-12 swimmers from a couple of regions and few from the other regions. By continuing to limit each region to 12 possible entrants per event, the additional heat of 8 swimmers will be made up of swimmers from the underrepresented regions. In addition, some pools are considered faster than others, so a region with a slower pool would then have an opportunity to qualify additional swimmers so as to compete side-by-side at the state meet.
4. **Time** – An additional heat would not add any time to the swimming qualifications as the meet is currently run very slowly to allow recovery time for the swimmers. At the same time, it will allow more rest, which adds to the quality of the swims. The extra heat would actually provide for more action/excitement at the meet and eliminate the delays between the events that we currently encounter.
5. **Income** – The added swimmers would bring with them additional spectators on Thursday and Friday adding to the income the meet now generates.

In order to make this happen, we would need to have diving prelims on Thursday, starting at 5:00 p.m. and finishing by 9:30PM. This would involve 64 divers (32 male and 32 female). These 64 divers would be cut to 32 (16 males and 16 females) that would compete during finals on Saturday.

Swimming prelims would take place, as usual, on Friday. Swimming and diving finals would take place, as usual, on Saturday.