

Name: Erin Holler

Team/Club: Hauppauge Athletic Association

Certification that applicant meets the eligibility requirements and understands/agrees to follow the service requirements as a Metropolitan Junior Athlete Representative:

I am a sophomore at Smithtown High School East and a club swimmer for the Hauppauge Athletic Association.

A paragraph explaining your background and why you would like to be the Metropolitan Junior Athlete Representative:

There is an old Hauppauge Swimming t-shirt that says “Hauppauge Swimming. Be Part of Something Bigger Than Yourself.” I became part of something bigger than myself the day I joined the Hauppauge Swim Club. I want to be the Metropolitan Junior Athlete Representative because I think that by becoming a representative I will be part of something bigger than myself and bigger than my own swim club. Swimming has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. What started as swimming lessons has become an everyday obsession. My world revolves around swimming. Through swimming I have made many, many friends and pushed myself to achieve goals I otherwise would not have dreamed of. The sport of swimming has taught me dedication, patience, and perseverance. Most importantly I have learned teamwork and communication in what most view as an individual sport. One of the greatest decisions I ever made was to become a part of the Hauppauge Swim Club. As a representative I look forward to meeting new people who share a common interest and seeing another side of this sport that I love. I hope to get the chance to help impact all Metro swimmers in a positive way and share my passion for the sport with others. I believe that the most valuable asset that I have to offer is that I was never the “best” swimmer. Despite my love of the sport and hours that I have spent in pool related activities, I am a pretty average athlete. The one time that I came close to making Junior Olympics, I ended up getting hurt and not being able to swim.

Please identify what you can contribute to the position and something you would like to create or improve on in Metropolitan Swimming while serving your term.

I think that because I am not the best it makes me relate to the majority of the Metropolitan athletes. Even though I am not the best of the best, I am open to talking with and listening to swimmers of all abilities. Within my own little world of Hauppauge we have athletes ranging from pre-competitive to National qualifiers, and I have no problem talking to any of them in order to get their perspective. Within Metropolitan Swimming, I would hope to improve the team aspect of the sport. Often times at non-championship meets, the competitions are very individual.

I hope to work to make more team scored meets during the non-championship season. I have noticed through my experience as a varsity swimmer that we tend to swim better when we are swimming “for a team” and everyone is cheering for one another. I think that if we can make club swimming more team based earlier rather than later in the season, we will have more championship qualifiers. I think that team based swimming will eventually lead to a greater success of Metropolitan athletes.