

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY AQUATICS PROGRAM SURVEY

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PURPOSE

Many college and university physical education and athletic administrators would like some indication as to how their aquatic program compares with programs in other colleges and universities across the nation. In order to attract and keep good personnel, the department chairman wants to know if his salaries are comparable with those in other universities, if his program and facilities compare with those of other universities, and if his total aquatic program is keeping up with the rising enrollment of the school.

There are also those administrators who are planning or building a new pool within the next few years. They want to know what size pool is adequate for their needs, how much they should allot for salaries, and what should be included in the total program. This survey may help to provide these answers.

METHOD OF STUDY

Information from colleges and universities throughout the United States concerning their physical education program, swimming requirements for graduation, competitive swimming program, extra curricular program, facilities and equipment, finances, instructors and their salaries, class scheduling and participation, and community cooperation was obtained by forwarding one hundred and five questionnaires to one hundred and five colleges and universities selected randomly from the THE BLUE BOOK OF COLLEGE ATHLETICS FOR 1968-1969. To ensure a random sample, every tenth school was selected to receive a questionnaire, provided they had swimming listed under the intramurals and/or varsity competition's category so as not to send a questionnaire where there was no swimming facility.

The questionnaire prepared with the assistance of two physical educators at Kansas State University qualified in the area of aquatics and the placement of questions in survey form, consisted of short "yes or no" and "check-the-box" type answers. This allowed for a minimal amount of time to complete the form resulting in a greater percentage of returns for a more nearly complete and accurate evaluation. For the convenience of the school Physical Education Department Chairman, a letter of explanation and a return, self-addressed stamped envelope was distributed with each questionnaire. A follow-up letter and questionnaire was sent out to those colleges which had not returned their copy of the questionnaire within the first month of the first mailing. This resulted in another 20% return.

To facilitate ease and accuracy in recording the questionnaire answers, the results were tabulated and fed in the computer to derive at percentages and numbers of each type of answer. This aided in the final analysis and interpretation of the findings.

The questionnaire, along with the letter of description and follow-up may be found in the appendix.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Of the one hundred and five questionnaires distributed, ninety of them were returned for tabulation for an 86% return. Those schools returning questionnaires are included in the appendix.

In order to breakdown the large number of school enrollments, each school was categorized into a group of 3,000 students. The accumulation of the ninety colleges and universities resulted in the development of fourteen groups. Table I gives the breakdown of these groupings.