



El Dorado FAQ: Year round swimming

Q: What's the difference between Summer League and USA Swimming?

Summer league (SAAA) is a local recreation sport league for swimming. SAAA is competed in 25 yard pools and runs from April-July each year. USA Swimming is a year round program. In the summer the season is "long course" and competed in 50 m pools. In the fall and winter months it is short course and competed in 25 yd pools. EDAC participates in both the summer SAAA league and in the year round USA swimming.

EDAC summer registration fees cover participation in SAAA. The only extra fees are for the invitationals. Race times earned in SAAA are recognized in Tucson only and are NOT recognized by USA Swimming.

There is an extra annual registration fee for participation in USA swimming and each meet has fees. Times earned in USA sanctioned meets are official times to qualify the swimmers toward state, sectional and national meets. USA meets are scheduled thru out the year and participation requires USA registration which is NOT included in the EDAC registration fee.

EDAC swimmers can choose to participate in SAAA only for the summer or in the long course USA season and the SAAA league.

Q: Is my child good enough to compete at the USA level?

ANYONE is good enough to swim at the "USA level". The entire organization is set up to help teach and develop swimmers of any age to their fullest potential. Time Standards (of many different types) help provide appropriate meet competition for the "level" of your child.

Q: Are we required to swim a certain amount of swim meets?

No. Meet participation is encouraged but not required. However, to compete in the SAAA champs a swimmer must compete in 3 meets during the summer season. To compete at the state level with USA swimming a swimmer must achieve qualifying times.

We believe that the swimmer/athlete will eventually become motivated to compete by what they have learned and practiced in workouts that they will ultimately WANT to participate in meets to measure their success.

Q: What are the benefits of swimming year round?

Your swimmer will retain and build on what they have learned and practiced over the summer as well as enjoy continued camaraderie and team spirit. She/he will learn important time management and goal-setting skills, balancing the demands of school and swimming, while finding important stress relief in a healthy activity.

Q: What do I need to do to keep my child swimming thru the winter?

We are a year -round program. The pool is heated during the coldest months. AZ weather makes swimming in the Fall an extremely enjoyable experience. Practices are provided after school in the late afternoon/early evenings depending on the swimmer's age. We swim through the Fall, Winter and Spring. Registration info is posted on the web and returning swimmers can commit by way of the events page on the web (fees to be invoiced)

Q: Is year round swimming going to be too much for my youngster along with school?

The youngest swimmers (ages 5-8) need only swim two or three times per week. Meets are set up as 1-day events, 1 each month, lasting less than 3 hours each.

Q: What about school sports and other conflicts with swimming?

The coaches at EDAC encourage our athletes (especially 12 and under) to participate in other activities and sports along with their swimming. Swimmers are not expected to sacrifice their participation and enjoyment of other sports. We believe the development of your child as a whole person is important to their success in the pool. Please do advise your coach of any other sports or activities you are involved with so that they can know how often to expect you at practice and/or meets.

Q: It's so cold during the winter to swim, how does my swimmer stay warm?

Arizona provides a GREAT swimming environment during August, September and October. Sometime during late October-early November the POOL HEATERS are turned on and swimmers break out their "Parka's" and Winter Boots for after practice. The pool water stays at least 80 degrees all year round!!