

JOINING AQUASTAR COMPETITIVE SWIM TEAM

TRYING OUT FOR THE TEAM – WHEN? WHERE?

We hold tryouts year-round in heated pools. Prospective swimmers age 14 and under considering joining AQUASTAR may try out any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at either Clear Lake High School, or at Clear Brook High School. If you do not know where the high school pools are located, there are maps and aerial views on our website (See "Groups/Pools" menu item at the top of the web page).

If trying out at Clear Lake, please arrive at the pool at 4:45 PM, as practices begin at 5 PM. If trying out at Clear Brook, please arrive at 5:45 PM, as practices begin at 6 PM. (We hold tryouts before the regular practices start, so those trying out can swim for our coaches before the rest of the kids arrive.)

Swimmers age 15 and up should try out at our Oakbrook West outdoor heated pool, located at 14902 Penn Hills (at Pineloch Drive), across the street from Ward Elementary School. This pool is essentially on Pineloch between El Camino Real and Space Center Blvd. Swimmers should arrive at 5:15 PM to try out before the 5:30 PM practice begins at Oakbrook.

Swimmers should bring a swim cap (if you have long hair) and goggles to the tryout. Girls should wear one-piece swimsuits, and boys should wear jammers (knee-length) or briefs. No "board" type swimsuits are allowed.

Just pick a practice of your choice, at which you would like to try out. You do not even need to let us know ahead of time. Just make sure you arrive at the times indicated. Tryouts cannot take place once the regular practice gets underway.

The coaches will watch the swim in the 25-yard pools, and determine into which of our training groups the swimmer would be assigned. Swimmers must be able to swim (freestyle) unassisted without stopping, across the entire length of the pool, to be considered for our beginner "Red" group. They will be asked to swim all four strokes legally, if they are able to, to be considered for our intermediate "White" group.

REQUIRED FORMS AND PAYMENT

If you plan to join, there are two registration forms required. The link to these forms is on the right-hand side of our www.swimaqua.org web site home page. Please print out and complete both the USA Swimming form and our AQUASTAR form, and bring them both with you to the tryout. You would also need to bring a check to pay for the annual calendar year registration fee (\$120/year) and the first month's training fee (e.g., \$75 if Red group). You can write one check to cover the total costs. Be sure and include your email address where indicated on the forms.

MONTHLY TRAINING FEES

We have no contracts. Training fees are paid month-to-month, and remain the same no matter how frequently or infrequently a swimmer attends a practice. You set the schedule which works best for your family, as to the days of the week you attend practice. You may attend practice at any pool where your training group is scheduled. You do not have to attend practices the same day every week; for example, you may attend on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of this week, or Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday of next week. Whatever works best for you each week.

If there is a month in which you do not want to practice at all, due to other sports or family obligations, etc., please let us know in advance, and if you do not attend practices at all in a month, you will owe nothing for that month. We call this "going inactive."

The practice schedule is always posted on our website, and we will also email you updated practice schedules about twice a month, once you are registered with our team.

SWIM MEETS

There is about one swim meet a month which any one swimmer may attend. There are more meets you will see on the meet schedule, but they are split by age group, so no one swimmer could possibly attend every meet we attend. While we do not host any meets ourselves (so the volunteer requirement from parents is very low for our team!), we attend meets all around Houston throughout the year.

We highly encourage our swimmers to attend meets. In fact, the only way to get promoted out of a training group to the next higher group, is to attend a swim meet, and achieve qualifying USA Swimming times at meets. Swimmers pay the team for their individual meet entry fees at each meet. Swimmers are usually limited to three or four events per day at a swim meet. Meets are usually held on a weekend, including both Saturday and Sunday. But it is not necessary to attend both days. The team pays for relay entry fees.