

FAQ'S FOR NEW FAMILIES

The Alligator website is your connection for information. You can check the practice calendars, your account balance, fundraising information, meet information. The web is also where you sign up to attend upcoming meets and team events.

The home page is where you will find all the tabs necessary to get you these areas. The home page is also used for last minute changes due pool issues, weather, etc.

Website: AlligatorAquatics.org

Q. How do I sign up for meets?

A. Log into your account on the website. On the home page there is a tab listed "Swim meets and Events" click on that tab. Each swim meet is listed as its own event. To get the information about the meet, double click on the name of the event, this will bring you to a page with the meet packet. The meet packet is what the host team sends out to each team that is attending. It gives you all the info you will need concerning the meet itself, the date, time, place, order of events, if there is a positive check in or not, etc. When signing up for a meet you will click the "attend this event" box. This will bring you to the athlete sign up. Listed will be your swimmer, it will say undeclared by your swimmers name. Click on your athletes name, which will bring you to the page to sign up for that event. In the drop down menu there are two questions listed, yes please sign up and no thanks. Once you choose the yes, a list of all the events that are offered at that meet will appear on the page, from there you can choose which events your swimmer would like to swim. In some cases your swimmer will be offered to swim in two different age categories, it will list, for example, 11/12 100 free and Open 100 free, the best area to sign up is will your own age range. Open means it is offered to anyone but most of the swimmers are 14 and over. Once you check the box your time will be highlighted in yellow. Under the column that says day will be a 1, 2, or 3. This lets you know which day that event will be swum. If you choose to only swim one day of the event please make sure you choose your events from the correct day. Once you have finished choosing make sure at the bottom of the page you click on "save changes" or it will not save. If you have more than one swimmer please make sure you do this for each athlete. There is also a box for notes this is for any info concerning your swimmers events that you would like the head coach to know. Please don't use this for questions. Before the events are set our head coach will

approve them. Once the meet is set a psych sheet will be posted in the same area with the meet packet. The psych sheet will list everyone's events and event numbers.

Q. How do I check my balance on what I owe?

A. To check your account and fundraising balance, locate the column on the left side that has different items listed. Under "my account" click on my invoice/payment, this will take you to a page that has 3 tabs listed, invoices, fundraising, and volunteer hours. To check your balance click on the invoices tab, then click on your account number in the middle of the page. Once you click on that an invoice will appear showing what you owe. Here you can also view your billing payment and history.

Meets

Q. What does Long Course and Short Course mean?

A. Long course is in reference to any meet swum in meters. Short course is in reference to meet swum in yards. In the United States we swim both meters and yards, traditionally we swim meters only in the Spring and Summer season and yards in the Fall and Winter season.

Q. If a swim meet is more than one day does my child have to swim both days?

A. You do not have to swim both days, but each event is only swum once in a meet. If there are events your athlete likes to swim they could be on separate days.

Q. How many events should we sign up for?

A. It will depend on the meet, for most meets you will be able to sign up for 3 events. Some meets will allow for 4 events. Relays will be determined by the head coach.

Q. How do I know what time my child is swimming at a meet?

A. You will be able to get information like that in the meet packet from the host team that we post on the web. You will be able to find out if he/she swims in the morning or afternoon, what time the meet starts in the morning. The afternoon session varies a little depending on how long the morning session lasts, but most of the time it starts at noon. The afternoon session will not start before noon. Please note that your child should be on deck 20 minutes before warm-ups start.

Q. How can I prepare my child for his/her first meet?

A. There are certain things you can do as a parent to help. One thing you can do is go over which events they will be swimming and the order. You can with a pen write on their hand the event and event numbers they will be swimming for that day. This way they can keep track of their events. Make sure they understand to stay with the team on deck, not to be running off somewhere in the building. We want to make sure they are safe, this way you can see them on deck and it is much easier for the Coaches to keep an eye on them. Of course, encouragement from you, let them know that when something goes wrong and they get disqualified, it's ok as long as they learn. While they are young is the time for these lessons to be learned not at Olympic Trials.

Q. What should my child bring to a meet?

A. Every child should have a suit, goggles and a cap (boys too)! Swim bag, 2 towels, if they are going to be there until the last event a game of some kind, cards etc. If the game is worth a lot of money, that would not be a good idea to bring. Snacks, carbs are always good, Gatorade, water. Please no chairs, not enough room on deck.

Q. Am I required as a parent to do anything at meets?

A. Most host teams ask that each team that attends helps time. The host team prior to the meet sends out lane assignments for timing. We maybe asked to cover 1 lane, 2 timers per lane for 1 or 2 sessions for the weekend. We will assign people to help time, but not for the whole time. You will only be required to time while your child is at the meet. By other teams timing helps the host team to use their parents in different areas during the meet. If you have not timed before it is very easy and enjoyable.

Q. Why do I have to volunteer my time and bring a concession item to the Alligator meet?

A. We host 3 meets a year, February, June, and in November. Each one lasts 2 days, with at least 400 swimmers plus families per day. This is a big undertaking and can not be done successfully without the help of the team. It is our biggest fundraisers during the year, so we ask for your help in two areas. We ask that you sign up for a job on the website, we have a variety of different job's listed. We will never ask you to sign up for a time when your child is not swimming. The second thing we ask is for a food donation for our concession. This helps with keeping the costs down for

the team, Alligators does purchase certain items that we sell. We host these meets to help keep fees down for every family. Remember our pool rental costs are high.