

October, 2009

Dear Makos Parents,

We would like to make everyone aware of the American Swim Coaches Association (ASCA) patch program which the Makos Booster organization funds for our swimmers. These patches are a good way to publicly acknowledge all the hard work our swimmers put in each season. The swimmers get patches as the season progresses instead of at the end of the season, which continually motivates towards success. Plus, swimmers can display their accomplishments as soon as they occur!

Here is how the patch program works. Swimmers receive patches for achieving a higher time standard. The time standards are based on the 2009-2012 National Age Group Motivational Times which can be found on the Makos website under the "News and Results" tab at the top of the page. For example, your swimmer's 100 Free time improves from an "A"-level time to an "AA"-level time. It is important to remember that the patches are only available by stroke, not event, so if your child gets a BB patch for the 50 Free, they won't get another patch when they make a BB time in the 100 Free. There is only one patch that says "BB Freestyle". Likewise, if your child gets a B patch for Freestyle as a 10 year old, and then ages up to 11-12, they won't get another B Freestyle patch when they make a B Freestyle time as an 11 year old. The idea is to reward swimmers for achieving new time standards, so when that swimmer makes a BB time (or whatever their next highest goal is in their current age group), they will get a new patch.

Beginning this short course season, it will be the parent/swimmer's responsibility to request time standard patches if they wish to participate in this program. To do so, go to the Makos website for the patch request information and email your request to the patch coordinator listed there.

The Makos Booster organization also provides age group emblem patches to the swimmers. These are the big round circle patches. We provide the first age group patch when the swimmer receives their first time standard patch. As it is too difficult to keep up with each swimmer's birthday, it is the responsibility of the parent/swimmer to request the new age group emblem patch once a swimmer ages up to the next age bracket. The age brackets are 10 & Under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16 and 17-18.

Any additional patches must be purchased by the parent/swimmer. If a swimmer wishes to have additional patches or needs to replace a patch, a request must be made to the patch coordinator. Payment will be made directly to the booster club for the additional patches.

Thank you for your support of the Makos Booster organization as we work to provide the "extras" for our team members to make swimming a fun and positive experience. Without you, none of this could happen.

Sincerely,

Makos Boosters