

New Swim Parent Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How often should my swimmer attend practice?

- A. We recommend at least twice a week for the Jr. Jags or White Group, with more as they advance. By the time a swimmer is in the Gold or Senior group, it is common to have daily attendance. The more a swimmer practices, the better they will become, but we encourage you to communicate with your child's coach about any family scheduling questions you may have.

Q. Do I need to remain at the pool for my child's practices?

- A. You do not need to stay at the pool during your child's practice time. You are welcome to observe practice from the upstairs spectator seating area, but we ask that you do not interact with your swimmer during practices. Swimmers need to be out of the locker room within 15 minutes of the end of practice and should be picked up right away.

Q. How many meets should my swimmer attend?

- A. Although there is no meet attendance requirement, racing is what we work and practice for. Most swimmers will tell you they are the best part of swim club. If your swimmer is hesitant, try the home meet, or a meet close by. Other than our home meets, Howard Suamico and Green Bay Swim Club, at Lineville Intermediate School and Southwest High School, are close meets that are good opportunities for new swimmers to compete. As you improve, you might regularly go to Brown Deer (Milwaukee area) or travel a bit further. We hope you consider attending at least once a month.

Q. How do I pay for meets?

- A. Each month you will get an invoice electronically. Log into the ASC home page and go to the left and click on "My Account". Charges are pulled electronically on the 1st of every month. Credit card or ACH information must be on file throughout the season. If you have questions regarding your account, you can email the treasurer at treasurer@asc-wi.com.

Q. What events should my swimmer swim?

- A. Event choices will depend on what is offered on the day or days you plan to attend the meet. Please specify what days/sessions you'd like to swim in the comment section when you sign your child up for the meet, and then the coaches will select the specific events they believe are appropriate race experiences for your child on those days. If your child has event requests be sure to note them in the comments section, and feel

free to email Coach Dave or Katie or simply ask if you have questions. Typically kids will want to stay with their best strokes and what they are comfortable with, but Dave and Katie will know what each swimmer is ready for and will encourage them to try new events as they are ready.

Q. What if my child gets disqualified in an event?

- A. Then your swimmer is normal. Even though a DQ can be disappointing or frustrating, it happens and is an important part of their learning. The coaches will be given a slip that explains what the swimmer did incorrectly. This will help the coaches and swimmer understand what needs to be worked on.

Q. Where can I buy the right swim suits and apparel?

- A. If you login to the ASC website home page, go to the Elsmore team store icon. There you can find ASC apparel, suits and other swim needs. Another option is www.swimoutlet.com. If you have a question about sizes or what equipment to get, just ask an experienced parent or coach.

Q. What is IM order?

- A. Butterfly
Backstroke
Breaststroke
Free style

Q. What is IM order in a relay?

- A. Backstroke
Breaststroke
Butterfly
Free style

Q. Will my swimmer swim in a relay?

- A. Typically coaches will put swimmers in relays if there are enough swimmers of the right age, and if swimmers are ready for more events. The coaches decide what the swimmer will swim, what order, and the teams. You may request to have your swim NOT swim in a relay in the comments section of your child's meet entry. However, relays are a fun team event. Additionally, championship level relays may include relay only swimmers and coaches will ask those who would be appropriate for a championship experience.

Q. Why do I need to write on my swimmer with a Sharpie? I have spent their whole childhood telling them not to write on themselves with permanent marker.

- A. You will need to write the events, heats, and lanes that your swimmer will be swimming in for a swim meet. This ensures that your swimmer will be in the right spot at the right time to compete. The information is found on all heat sheets that come out a day or two before a meet. Examples are also in the ASC Parent Handbook on the website or there's always YouTube! :)

Q. What should I volunteer to do for the meet?

- A. Anything--all help is good help and we have many needs to make our home meets successful. Do not be afraid to try being an announcer, working at the computer table, concessions, set up, clean up, or timing. Additionally if your child seems to really like the sport, you might consider becoming an official. All of these jobs are easier than you think..

Q. What does it mean if a meet has qualifying times?

- A. Swimmers have to swim a certain time or faster to be eligible to enter. Local meets do not have qualifying times. As swimmers progress, they may be eligible for these meets that are often held in Milwaukee or Madison. It is exciting to qualify for these meets!

Q. What if I have more questions?

- A. Please ask! Swim parents are some of the kindest people I know. Don't be reluctant to e-mail, or strike up a conversation with others. Some other great resources can be found at www.wisconsinswimming.org or www.usaswimming.org