

Parent Viewing Area

We understand that many parents will sit and wait for their children to complete their practice due to driving distances, work or other family obligations. YWSF asks that you do not interact with your swimmer or swimmer's coach during the workouts.

The coaching staff does a great deal for your children. Coaches create the environment in which your swimmers grow as athletes and individuals. The Silver Fins athlete is a product of the YCMA, Team and coach's values and beliefs. Human nature, however, is such that we as parents sometimes lose the ability to remain detached and objective in matters concerning our children. The following guidelines will help all of our Silver Fins parents keep the athletes development in perspective.

1. Every individual learns differently.
2. It takes attention, effort and time to master the skills of proper stroke technique. These new skill sets are the building blocks for later improvement.
3. Plateaus will occur in every swimmer's career. A plateau signifies the swimmer has mastered lower order skills, but they are not as of yet automatic to leave behind and focus one's attention to newer, higher-order skills.
4. 10 & Under swimmers are the most inconsistent in skill acquirement and retention. This can be frustrating for everyone involved. We must be patient and permit these youngsters to develop a love for the sport. Please reference our swimmer development plan.
5. It is the coach's job to offer constructive criticism of a swimmer's performance daily. It is a parent's job to supply the unconditional love, recognition and encouragement necessary to help the young athlete feel good about them selves.

YWSF supports parent presence and wants to have complete transparency on the pool deck. This is a service we offer and want it to be the best experience possible for your family. The coaching staff does ask that you do not interact with your swimmer or the swimmer's coach during the workout (if you need to speak with the coach, do it before or after workout). The swimmer needs to develop a bond of trust and confidence with the coaches. This is difficult if parent's access to their athletes during practice is too close.

With that in mind, we are asking ALL of our parents to sit ONLY on the west side of the pool in the bleachers where the banners are. The east side of the pool is the coaches "office". The west side of the pool is our "parent viewing area". Please sit on that side of the pool deck in the stands. This will give the YWSF coaching staff the space needed to interact with your swimmer without having to compete for their attention. Parents are expected to remain in the designated area throughout the practice session.

If you have questions about your child's training please contact your group coach or if you have team policy questions direct them to the head coach. Please refrain from criticizing the coach in front of the swimmers as this undermines the coach's authority and breaks the swimmer-coach support necessary for maximum success. It is for this reason that we ask parents not to actively participate in coaching their child.

At any time you have any questions or concerns at all please feel free to contact the Head Coach. The YMCA, coaching staff and Head Coach wish for our organization to be united and strong, free of the related problems that may arise from the lack of communication.