

Please allow me to welcome to Clovis Swim Club's 2021 Fall Registration! We are looking forward to year in which we can say "YOUTH SPORTS ARE BACK!" I'm very hopeful that we can build on last summer and keep this train rolling. First things first, let's talk about what's new and what's changed:

### **New Head Coach!**

I, Mark Bennett, was confirmed as Head Coach for Clovis Swim Club and Programming Manager for CUSD Aquatics at the July CUSD Board Meeting. I had served as the Head Age Group Coach and Recreation Supervisor for Aquatics for the past 8 years and bring twenty-two years of experience and humble amount of knowledge to the position.

Coach McGough left the program on very good terms and has taken a position with Texas Ford Aquatics in Frisco, TX, near Dallas. He will still long serve as a consult and a voice of direction for our Aquatics programs here in Clovis.

The Head Age Group Coach position has not yet been filled. We are in the final stages of this process and hope to be able to name a new Head Age Group Coach by September 1, 2021.

### **Dues Structure has Changed.**

Let me first explain the "why." As many of you are aware the minimum wage is rising in CA, as well as general inflation and cost of living. As such, our programs are likewise impacted. As a result, we do need to periodically raise our dues to continue to attract great coaching candidates as well as retain the great ones we have. As the demand goes up, so must the supply.

The dues raise was approved by the Superintendent's office and is supported by the CUSD Board of Directors. They recognize that if we are truly to provide a first-class program, we do need the resources to do so in our self-funded environment.

Novice Track dues: We raised the level of base dues by \$5 per month, but removed the required Volunteer fees. The removal of the volunteer fees is meant to reflect the past facts that the grand majority of our Novice parents were not volunteering for swim meets, and were not taking advantage of the incentive to earn up to \$330 of annual dues back by volunteering. The hope is that the parents of our Novice swimmers will be inspired to stay with the sport by removing the additional cost; however, also be inspired to volunteer for swim meet needs out of the goodness of their hearts. Bottom line: the dues will be \$90, per month, instead of the \$115 (with the additional volunteer fee).

Competitive Prep Track dues: We raised the level of the base dues by \$20 per month, but again, removed the required Volunteer fees for much of the same reasons that exist for the Novice program. Many of our Prep swimmers were not attending meets and that ones that are (were) should be brought in to our Developmental, Advanced, and Senior tracks, at the appropriate level. While the \$20 per month raise seems steep in comparison to other tracks, the goal was to balance the cost per practice and per practice hour and this is how we arrived at the dues amount. Bottom line: the dues will be \$120, per month, instead of the \$130 (with the additional volunteer fee).

Developmental Track dues: These were raised by \$10 per month, as a matter of general need.

Advanced Track dues: These were also raised by \$10 per month, as a matter of general need.

Senior Track dues: This is where we see a greater departure from our previous system.

- Senior Bronze (formerly called Senior Prep): This group is going to be offered so much more. Those who are inspired to compete and train at the Senior level, but can't yet provide the practice commitment, will be given the opportunity to practice more and attend better competition. However, with that, there is a cost. This is considered a new group, and so the dues structure is completely new. We chose to place the cost for this group at the same level as the Advanced Track, as the two are similar in expectation for practices and competition.
- Senior Silver (formerly called Senior Group): This group is going to be paying something closer to what the value of the other Senior groups are paying per practice and per hour, which actually results in a decrease of \$5 per

month. While the students in the Senior Silver group are only required to attend five (5) practices per week, they are allowed to attend all of the other practice times that are offered at the Senior level.

- Senior Gold (formerly called Elite): These dues were raised by \$10 per month, as a matter of general need. If anyone would like me to break down how these prices are competitive with other teams of comparable size and competency or in terms of the price point per practice, I'd be happy to share my research.

### **The Novice Group Structure has Changed:**

One of the issues that I became aware of, in my time as Head Age Group Coach, was the fact that we were not offering more Novice practices in more school areas. We are going to try that this Fall. In doing so, we will also be removing the labels of the groups within the Novice Track to allow for a more fluid teaching and learning environment, as we have with the Summer League groups, where we are teaching all four strokes to all swimmers each season.

The criteria to move into the Novice Track will remain the same: two lengths of the 25y pool swum as freestyle (crawl stroke) done with side breathing. The criteria to move to the Developmental Track (Red group) will remain the same: legal swimming in all 4 strokes and ability to swim a 100y individual medley with legal turns and finish, as well as swimming 6x 50y repeats with an interval of 1:20 for each.

### **The Senior Group Structure has Changed:**

As was shared before, the Senior Group structure is changed. Let me share the reasons how and why.

- We are going to elevate the level of expectation of our High School year round competitive athletes. Moving our Senior Prep swimmers into the Senior Bronze group is the best way we can do that, right now.
- We are going to prioritize the commitment level of the swimmers who seek to be in higher training group, over the current level of competency (times):
  - Current HS Seniors who are within 2% of the Sectional Time Standards (former Elite qualifying standards) will be invited to the Senior Gold Group, as long as they are meeting the practice and meet attendance standards.
  - Current HS Juniors who are within 1% of the Sectional Time Standards (former Elite qualifying standards) will be invited to the Senior Gold Group, as long as they are meeting the practice and meet attendance standards.
- We are allowing more options for practices in the fall, because we know that not every time will work for every swimmer and we cannot expect swimmers to only make early morning or evening practices.
  - The Senior Gold group will require a minimum of 7 swim practices per week and a minimum of 4 drylands in person.
    - Priority should be placed on swimming in the AM practices.
    - Swimmers will be asked to share their practice commitments with Coach Mark at the start of the week.
    - Directive Study PE (invite only) will be based around the AM DRYLAND practices and the swim practices can be accomplished in the AM or the PM.
    - The requirements will be 6 swim and 3 dryland, until we add the Saturday practices on September 11.
  - The Senior Silver group will require a minimum of 5 swim practices per week and a minimum of 4 drylands in person.
    - Priority should be placed on swimming in the AM practices.
    - Swimmers will be asked to share their practice commitments with Coach Jordan and Coach Jillian at the start of the week.
    - The requirements will be 6 swim and 3 dryland, until we add the Saturday practices on September 11.

### **Our Coaching Staff has Changed:**

Senior Gold Staff:

- Mark Bennett – 8 years with Clovis Swim Club, at least 20 years of coaching
- Daveen Macsata – 8 years with Clovis Swim Club, at least 10 years of coaching
- Gary Ota – 2 years with Clovis Swim Club, over 30 years of coaching
- HS Directors of sport will also be working with our groups:

Senior Silver Staff:

- Jordan Capper – 5 years with Clovis Swim Club, also assistant coach with CNHS, and CWHS alum
- Jillian Hatch – 1 year with Clovis Swim Club, also assistant coach with CWHS, and CHS alum
- Chandler Tenney – 2 years with Clovis Swim Club, also assistant coach with CWHS, and CWHS alum

Senior Bronze: Tanner Davis – 4 years coaching with Clovis Swim Club, CEHS alum

Advanced Gold: To be determined (Omar Dwidar and Chandler Tenney will fill in the gaps until our new coach is named and ready to start).

Advanced Silver: Blake Adams – 6 years with Clovis Swim Club, also Head Coach with Kastner Intermediate, and CNHS alum

Advanced Bronze: Ben Evans – brand new to Clovis Swim Club, Assistant Coach at Fresno Pacific U, and a native of Dover, England

East Advanced: Debra Wells – 5 years with Clovis Swim Club, also Head Coach with Reyburn Intermediate

Westside Blue: Alyssa Libang – 1 year with Clovis Swim Club, also a student athlete member of the Fresno State Women's Swim Team, and will also be working with the Clovis North Novice Group

Westside White: Olga Tovstogan – brand new to Clovis Swim Club, also Grad Assistant Coach with Fresno Pacific University, and native of Ukraine

Westside Red: Katie Amendt – 4 years with Clovis Swim Club, also served in a variety of roles as a Senior and Advanced group assistant, will also be working with the Clovis North Novice Group, and BHS Alum

East Developmental: Brooklyn Wong – 1 year with Clovis Swim Club, will also be working with the East Novice group

Westside Developmental Prep: Gina Hergenroeder – 1 year with Clovis Swim Club, will also be working with the Buchanan Area Novice group

Westside Advanced Prep: Jaylee Fullenkamp – 1 year with Clovis Swim Club, also a student athlete member of the Fresno State Women's Swim Team, and will also be working with the Buchanan Area Novice Group, and CEHS Alum

Eastside Prep: Ruth Nelson – 1 year with Clovis Swim Club, also will be working with the East Novice Group, and CHS Alum

Clovis West Novice Group Staff:

- Torie Donis - 3 years with Clovis Swim Club, and CNHS alum
- Nadia Dwidar - 4 years (cumulative) with Clovis Swim Club, and CWHS alum

Clovis North Novice Group Staff:

- Katie Amendt
- Alyssa Libang
- Cienna Mayfield - 1 year with Clovis Swim Club, and CWHS alum

Buchanan Novice Group Staff:

- Gina Hergenroeder
- Jaylee Fullenkamp
- Kori Phothavong – brand new to Clovis Swim Club, also a current Senior at BHS

Clovis East Novice Group Staff:

- Brooklyn Wong
- Ruth Nelson

I will begin to update the website with biographical info for each coach, as soon as we have some time to do so. If you have questions about the staff members in the meantime, let me know.

These are all the changes for now.

I am confident that we are moving in a good direction.

Please stay tuned for our New Parent Meetings and details for our “Back to Swim Night” coming up within the next month.

Thanks for being part of our family and part of the BEST aquatics program in the Valley!

Sincerely,

Coach Mark