

Good morning, welcome, and thank you to everyone that was able to make it here today! We are very excited for our season with a record number of swimmers! As of Monday, all swimmers must have all forms and payment settled with the board. Please reach out to Aneta to resolve any financial obligations and we will be contacting families that are missing any forms. We are working on creating accounts for everyone on our TeamUnify website (oxfordotters.com). If we have any extra time today you can see Coach Brian about creating your account. Once your account is created you can download the app in the Apple and Google Play stores called [OnDeck](#). When you have access to the website you then need to review your account and swimmer information. It is critical that swimmers' information is accurate as well as your contact information! This is a vital tool that we will use throughout the season for communication, meet sign-ups, and individual results. Double check that you have both a primary and secondary email address as well as cell phone numbers and carriers. This will ensure that you will get any last minute updates via text, email, and an app notification on your phone. We will have more information about declaring for meets on the website or app.

Otters Coaches: Krista-Leigh Donovan, Brian Kenny, Molly Turchuk,
Spencer Pratt, Shannon Searles, Tyler Overton

Board Members: Aneta Welkes-Spader, Leigh Webb, Jen Lewis

Important events:

- Black & Red Meet- you must declare your swimmer(s) on the website!
 - Saturday, October 23rd- 8 & Unders and 13 & Over 10:30-1:00
Declare by Monday, October 18th
 - Saturday, October 30th- 9/10 yr old and 11/12 yr old 10:30-1:00
Declare by Monday, October 25th
 - We will need both veteran and new parent volunteers!
- First meet- Saturday, November 13 @ New Milford (time and place tbd)
- Officials Clinic- No set date at this time; looking for anyone that is interested
- Team suit fitting- No set date at this time

Daily practice:

Swimmers must enter through the side door and stay within the pool area. Under no circumstance should any swimmer be loitering in the stairwells or roaming the halls. When swimmers are here they are the responsibility of the coaches.

- *Masks **must** be worn to enter and exit the pool deck. If a swimmer does not have their mask they will not be allowed in. This is currently a state mandate that masks must be worn within schools.
- Every swimmer needs to have goggles and a water bottle at every practice. Higher levels might need 2!
- Swimmers with longer hair must have caps, the team will provide caps for meets.
- We will have a team suit fitting (date tbd) and team suits/caps are not to be worn to practice.
- ANY SWIMMER that requires an inhaler or any type of emergency medication **MUST** have it on deck every day in case of emergency. We have a box on deck designated for inhalers, epi-pen, glucose, etc...
- If swimmers are waiting on deck they must not disrupt or distract swimmers in the pool. We encourage them to stretch while they wait.
- Bathroom/locker room behavior will be at its best. Any issues will be reported to a coach immediately. Please remind your swimmers what constitutes acceptable locker room behavior.
- If there is a school closing or early dismissal due to weather for Oxford Public Schools we will NOT have practice.

Regular Season Meets:

- Whether it's a home or away meet, volunteers make it happen! We need timers and officials for every meet. At home meets we will need concession stand donations and some parents to also run the concessions. We are specifically looking for volunteers to help run the computer and scoreboard! The Board will be coordinating the volunteer hours and concessions. There is a 10hr minimum for each family. They will have more information as we get closer to the meets. We need and appreciate your help!
- Swimmers must compete in 3 meets to be eligible for Trials/Championships at the end of the season.
- Entry deadlines will be posted on the website and are FIRM. It takes many hours to plan a meet.
- No chairs on deck during meets. No parents on deck; unless you are a volunteer for that meet.
- Try to arrive 15 min early. Any scratches need to be reported ASAP. If you are running late, contact one of the coaches so your swimmer is not scratched from the meet.
- Swimmers need: team suit, goggles, team cap (provided), 2 towels, water bottle, and a healthy snack.
- NO electronics during a meet (including cell phones, iPad, iPod, video games, wireless headphones, etc). It has been the reason for swimmers not paying attention and missing their events. We have also had devices/items being lost or broken in the past.
- Acceptable alternative entertainment includes: books, puzzle/coloring book, cards, or homework. If you are unsure, please reach out to the coaches although we would prefer that swimmers cheer each other on
- SPORTSMANSHIP! We would like our swimmers to shake hands and congratulate the opponents no matter where you/they finish. Edit: air bumps and "good race" in times of COVID

Spectators at Meets:

- Each pool/team will have different spectator guidelines. They will be posted/emailed prior to each meet, as early as possible.
- If OHS allows us to have spectators, or any other pool/team, it is highly likely that you can not stay in the viewing area the entire meet due to COVID guidelines. Volunteering on deck is a great way to watch all of your swimmers' races!

USA Swimming:

Our USA program holds practices Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:30. We are open to all swimmers that would like to register but we typically recommend it for those swimmers that are committed to improvement. It is a smaller program that provides the opportunity to get more practice as well as more focused attention from coaches. We will also have a few additional meets throughout the short course season; swimming against many other competitive teams! The meets are typically all weekend but you can choose which days you'd like to attend. USA swimmers will still participate in everything that Yankee League includes and you are welcome to join at any time! Contact Coach Brian for more information.

Our team is also affiliated with SwimOutlet.com and we will receive 8% back on every purchase! Feel free to pass the link onto anyone you know that might need any kind of swim equipment. They literally have everything.... <https://bit.ly/OxfordOttersSwimOutlet>

We have a great feeling about this team and this season. Let's bring everything we got when it comes to the trials and championships!!!

-Oxford Otters Coaches