

WATER RAT SWIM TEAM

FALL 2022 REGISTRATION PACKET

About the Water Rats

The Westport Weston Family YMCA Water Rat Swim Team is a year-round, nationally recognized competitive swim program organized and operated within the Westport Weston Family YMCA. The Water Rat Swim Team is a registered USA Swimming Team sanctioned by Connecticut Swimming, Inc. and competes in USA Swimming competitive swimming as well as YMCA swimming at the local, regional, state, zone and national level.

Consistent with the Family YMCA's mission to develop and nurture the potential of every child, promote healthy living and foster a sense of social responsibility, our team members acquire excellent swimming skills, make new friends and learn how to set goals while developing self-discipline and self-confidence.

Registration

In order for their children to be members of the Water Rat Swim Team, parents of newly admitted and returning swimmers must do the following:

- Members of the Water Rat Swim Team must be individual or family members of the Westport Weston Family YMCA.
- Members of the Water Rat Swim Team need to use the Family YMCA's online registration system (Daxko) to enroll their children for their Water Rat Practice group. To register with the Y please connect with Denise Stevens at dstevens@westportymca.org.
- After registering with the Family YMCA, parents will then register their children on Team Unify, the team's online management system. The system will require families to provide certain information, including, but not limited to, medical information and emergency contacts. Payment of the PET-WRAT fee and USA Swimming fees by credit card are made on Team Unify as well. Go to wrat.org and then click Fall Registration under the pictures to register on Team Unify.

2022-2023 Seasons

Short Course
See wrat.org for details

Long Course
see wrat.org for details

Fall Practice
Schedule
September 2022 – March 2023

Spring Practice
Schedule
April 2023 – June 2023

Tentative Summer Practice Schedule
June 26 – August 2023



Practice Pools

Strittmatter Family Aquatic Center
Westport Weston Family YMCA
14 Allen Raymond Lane
Westport, CT 06880

Hunt Club Pool
Fairfield County Hunt Club
174 Long Lots Road
Westport, CT 06880

Mahackeno Pool
Westport Weston Family YMCA
14 Allen Raymond Lane
Westport, CT 06880

Water Rat Swim Team 2022 – 2023 Fees

There are four fees that a family must pay to have a child participate on the Water Rat Swim Team. They are as follows:

1. The Y Membership fee
2. The Y Swim Team Program Fee
3. USA Swimming Escrow Dues to cover meet entry fees
4. PET-WRAT fee

The Y Membership and Program fees need to be paid first, and then families will be directed to pay the PET-WRAT and USA Swimming fees. A more detailed description of each fee is provided below.

Y Membership Fee

The Y membership fee varies depending on whether a family gets their swimmer an individual membership or a family membership. Information on the Y membership rates can be found by clicking this link <https://westporty.org/membership/rates-and-payments/>. Please pay your Y memberships at the Membership desk or by contacting Denise Stevens at dstevens@westporty.org or 203-226-8981 ext. 112.

Water Rat Y Program Fees Paid On Daxko Via Denise Stevens During Registration

The table below shows the annual Y swim team program fees, which may be paid in full or on a six (6) month installment plan. **These fees are to be paid directly to the Westport Weston Family YMCA by check, credit card, or bank draft once you have registered with Denise Stevens at dstevens@westporty.org.** To secure a **returning swimmer's** place on the team, registration on Daxko via Denise must be completed by August 22nd. **New swimmers** must register on Daxko via Denise and pay before their first practice.

Practice Group	Annual Y Program Fee	1 st Monthly Payment	Months 2-6 Payment
Red	\$1690	\$350	\$268
Blue	\$1850	\$350	\$300
Discovery III	\$1745	\$400	\$269
Discovery II	\$1,940	\$400	\$308
Discovery I	\$2,125	\$400	\$345
Challenger II	\$2,544	\$450	\$401
Challenger I	\$2,565	\$450	\$423
Senior III	\$2,565	\$450	\$423
Senior II	\$2,890	\$500	\$478
Senior I	\$3000	\$500	\$500

PET-WRAT AND USA Swimming Fees
Paid Online on the Team Unify Registration System

After registering on Daxko, families will be directed to register on the team’s swim team online registration system to pay their initial USA Swimming dues and what is called a PET-WRAT fee, a volunteer incentive tax and booster club dues. Those fees are as follows:

PET-WRAT Fees for 2022 – 2023
Paid by credit card as directed on Team Unify

1 swimmer on the team	\$125
2 or more swimmers on the team	\$150

The PET-WRAT fee has two purposes. First, it allows the Parents’ Club to support the team by hosting swim meets, buy team equipment, subsidize socials and the annual team banquet, and award financial assistance to swimmers who cannot afford to pay the full cost of being a Water Rat. The annual fees are set every year in June or July when the Parents’ Club Board votes on the club’s budget.

In addition to paying PET-WRAT fees, all Water Rat families are required to help manage the Water Rat Swim Team by performing volunteer jobs, which help them earn PET-WRAT points. The number of Water Rat swimmers in a family, and their ages, determine the number of PET-WRAT volunteer points a family must earn. If parents earn more volunteer points than required, they will earn back part or all of their PET-WRAT fees. Rebates are paid during the summer after the end of the long course season. If families do not meet their minimum volunteer commitment, they will be subject to a non-compliance fee of \$50.00 for each minimum volunteer point not earned, with the maximum penalty being \$500. Notification of noncompliance fee due will be sent via email to families in August after the long course season.

PET-WRAT POINTS

Number and Type of Swimmers	Number of Points
8/under Swimmer	15
Age Group Swimmer	25
Senior Swimmer	25
2 or more swimmers including an 8/under	30
2 or more AG and/or Senior Swimmers	35

Parents can register to volunteer using their Team Unify account, which keeps track of their PET- WRAT points.

PET-WRAT fees, PET-WRAT points and the importance of volunteering are explained in the club’s Volunteer Policy, which all parents must acknowledge when they register their swimmer. The intent of this policy is not to raise money but to emphasize how important it is that we work together to provide well-run meets for our children. The team cannot run a meet without adequate parent support. This policy is intended to provide flexibility for families throughout the meet season to fulfill the minimum volunteer commitment. Many of our parents volunteer in excess of 100 hours during the year. Families not doing their fair share jeopardize the smooth management and operation of team events and subject the club to increased membership fees.

**USA Swimming Escrow Account Initial Payment
Paid by credit card as directed on Team Unify**

All swimmers	\$150
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The USA Swimming fee is used to pay meet fees. When your child swims at a meet, they are charged a specific dollar amount for each event they swim, typically \$8-\$15. Previously the fee was also used to pay for swimmers USA Swimming Athlete Registration. Starting in the fall of 2022, the team will no longer be able to register swimmers with USA Swimming. Rather parents will have to do so themselves. Instructions on how parents can register their swimmers with USA Swimming will be sent out in September.

The team uses an escrow system so that the USA Swimming fee is put in an escrow account and money is deducted from the account as your child swims meets.

Once the initial \$150 has been depleted, families will need to replenish the account periodically throughout the year. If the account is at 0 or in arrears, parents will not be able to register their child for meets so it is necessary for families to keep tabs of their accounts and be sure they are replenished. **Since we use an escrow system, having a negative balance is good. Having a zero or positive balance means you need to add money to the account.**