**2017 TYS Registration Day Parent meeting**

TYS Parents and athletes-

Thanks to everyone who attended this year’s Registration Day event. Despite the change in dates, and a new format for team building, it seemed like everyone benefited from it in some way. For anyone who attended but was not able to stay for the parent meeting, and for anyone who was unable to attend, please see the recap of the day’s events below. Thanks again, GO STINGRAYS!

**TYS Team Shirt-** Each year every Stingray swimmer receives a team shirt, and team cap. This year’s shirt was special for two reasons. First, in an effort to have a sportier, more comfortable shirt, we went with a poly/cotton athletic blend. We think you’ll find this shirt to be superior to others we have done in the past. Second, on the back of this year’s shirt it reads, “We, not me. Catch the fever!” Did you know that a group of stingrays is called a “Fever”? We want every athlete to feel like they are a part of something great. By putting the needs of the team over their own individual needs, each athlete is contributing to the team as a whole…”We, not me.”

**MEET SCHEDULES**

By now, you should have seen the updated TYS Meet schedule for this Short Course Season. This year, in an attempt to cater to each group’s specific needs, we have created a meet calendar for each group. Those schedules can be found [**here**](https://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=fltnty&_stabid_=172656). \*Update: This year’s Y States meet will be held March 2nd-4th in Sarasota.

**TEAM ACTIVITY-CORE VALUES**

This year’s team activity was a shift from years past, with a heavy focus on creating team culture from the inside out. Rather than have coaches give the athletes what we think, we asked the athletes to come up with their list of team Core Values. The Core Values of any organization are what drives the team to move forward together. This is something we will be working on over the course of the season in small groups, facilitated by the coaching staff. Our goal is to have our core values clearly stated, with purpose and buy-in from the athletes before we get to Y States. The results of the first round of discussions has us with this list:

1. PRIDE
2. FAMILY
3. CHARACTER
4. COMMITMENT
5. TEAMWORK
6. COMPETITIVE

Several other words and ideas were discussed but this is where our athletes chose to start this process. We are looking forward to seeing how this list progresses over the next 4+ months.

**DRY-LAND**

As you are already aware, we have overhauled our dry-land program this year. We have coupled with Ritter Sports to offer a program specifically designed for our athletes based on several criteria including but not limited to age groups, meet schedules, physical assessments, and program goals. Our coaching staff has worked hard to improve our physical literacy outside of the pool and we are now taking it leaps forward with this new program. We are into our third full week of the plan and the response has been great! We are excited to see how this season progresses with this new plan.

**TYR Team Sponsorship**

We are ending our relationship with Speedo and moving forward with TYR. For those of you not familiar with TYR, they are a growing brand, specializing in working with teams like ours. We are finalizing our agreement with TYR as well as finding a new team outfitter. We will have information for you regarding how to order team suits through our team dealer soon. Please look for that as soon as it is available. In the meantime, please continue to wear the old team suit, or a plain black suit for all meets.

**PARENT MEETING RECAP**

We held two parent meetings, the first was a general update and Q&A regarding the information above. The second, was for parents of new Stingrays to show things like how to choose meets, how to sign up for meets, once you sign up for meets this is what you can expect, etc. If you were unable to attend and need more information on anything like this, please see your site coach or email [stingrays@tampaymca.org](mailto:stingrays@tampaymca.org). We want you to be as informed as possible, but at the end of the day we don’t know what you don’t know…If you need clarification, please ask!

-Coach Bruenning