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QUESTIONS ABOUT FLEET SWIMMING

Q. Which program should my child be in? How much does it cost to be a member?

A. These types of questions can be answered by calling our office at 281-376-2372.

Q. When is a good time in the year to start swimming?

A. Anytime! The seasons begin in late August and Mid-March so those would be the BEST times to begin. But you are always welcome.

Q. Where did the club name come from?

A. Cypress-Fairbanks (often shortened to Cy-Fair) is the name of the local school district which covers 186 square miles northwest of Houston. Since there is no central village or town to serve as a focal point, area residents refer to the entire region as the Cy-Fair area. The school district name itself was coined in 1939 when the rural communities of Cypress and Fairbanks consolidated their educational programs. The district now has over 115,000 students and 11 high schools.

Q. Is the club associated with the school district?

A. No. Although the club is not formally connected to the school district we have always had a close relationship. The district has allowed the club to use its pools for training and to host meets.

Q. I heard you have to live in the Cy-Fair School District to join CFSC. Is that true?

A. No. Not since we built our own pool which opened in June 1999. Swimmers who live outside the district will be welcome to swim at our new pool where most of the club's programs will be offered and also at our satellite pools.

Q. Can I join a club like CFSC if I'm already swimming for my high school and/or neighborhood summer league team?

A. Absolutely. The high school and summer league seasons are too short for those that love to swim. Our upper level programs always have high school swimmers who train with CFSC as well as their school during the year. We even have a program, Senior Gold, specifically for the High School swimmer who wants additional training time to increase their chances of high school success. Also, the majority of high school swimmers that advance to regional and state meets and the summer league swimmers who go to the top Invitationals are "year-round" swimmers. Coaches are well aware that many swimmers are swimming for both teams. They will work together to make your season as successful as possible. Swimmers from the Bronze to Age Group Black groups frequently do both Summer League and CFSC at the same time during the summer.

Q. Do you have to be a fast swimmer to make the team?

A. No. CFSC is open to anyone with an interest in swimming. There is an “in the water” evaluation done by a CFSC coach to determine proper placement for your swimmer. Although some swimmers will go on to swim in college and at national meets, many others will simply have a lot of fun, get great exercise and compete against other swimmers at the same level as themselves. Unlike some sports there are no “bench warmers” in swimming. Meets are held throughout the year for swimmers at all levels.

Questions about Meets

Q. Where are meets held?

A. Most meets are in the Houston area. Occasionally, the club travels to an out of town meet in Texas or even other states. The best way to get an idea of exactly where meets are held during a typical season is to look over the schedules on the Meets page.

Q. When are the meets held and how long do they last?

A. They are usually scheduled for Friday night (6:30-8pm), Saturday and Sunday (9am-1pm). These times are approximate. Sometimes the meets are only Saturday and Sunday. The events scheduled for Friday night are usually longer distances for older kids. (500 Free, 400 IM, etc.) Although the start times are pretty consistent the finish times vary widely depending on the number of swimmers entered.

Q. Can I use my best summer league times when I enter a meet?

A. No, you can only use times from a sanctioned USA meet. You are allowed to enter a meet without an entry time if you’ve never swum the event at a USA meet. It’s referred to as entering with a “no time” (NT).

Q. How much does it cost to enter a meet?

A. Typical costs for a Gulf hosted meet is about \$5.50 per individual event and \$9.00 for relay events (\$2.25 per swimmer) if you enter ahead of time. If you wait until the day of the meet and “enter on deck” you will be charged double. Fees are typically higher for championship meets (TAGS, Nationals, etc.) Also, prices for heat sheets are usually about \$5. (\$10 for championships and Invitationals)

Q. Where do my seed times come from that are in the heat sheet?

A. The team keeps a database of all times swam by each swimmer. When the events you’ve chosen for a meet are entered into the computer it selects your best time for that stroke and distance to use as your seed time. Currently, the software does not pick out split times as your best time (except for relay leads) so if your best time in an event is a split from a longer event, please note that on your entry slip. Also, if you’ve joined CFSC but have USA times from another team, you can note them on your entry form and they can be manually entered. (You will be responsible for proof of that time if required by the meet host).

Q. What is meant by “Short Course” and “Long Course”?

A. These terms generally refer to the length of a pool. Short Course is a 25 yard (or meter) pool and Long Course is a 50 meter pool. However, the names are also used for the two seasons in USA Swimming. September to March is the Short Course season when meets are held in 25 yard pools. April to August is the Long Course season as meets are held in 50 meter pools. Most 50 meter pools such as CFSC’s can be configured as either long course or short course by running lane ropes length-wise or width-wise or by inserting a bulkhead in the middle of the pool.

Q. What is TAGS?

A. TAGS is the acronym for Texas Age Group Swimming but the term is usually used to refer to the TAGS meet or its qualifying times (“TAGS times”). The Texas Swimming Association organizes two end-of-season TAGS Championship meets each year, one for short course in early March and the other for long course in late July. These meets are the top championships for swimmers in the state that have not yet achieved a Jr. National qualifying time. Time standards are published annually for the TAGS meets. Swimmers must achieve the qualifying times for each event during the season in order to enter that event at TAGS. The location of each meet varies. Short Course TAGS meets have recently been held in Midland, Dallas and at Texas A&M. Long Course TAGS meets are usually held at the University of Texas in Austin.

Q. What is an “unattached” swimmer?

A. No, it doesn’t just mean that they’re single. According to Gulf Swimming rules, if a swimmer switches from one USA Swimming club to another, he or she must enter meets as unattached for a period of 120 days since they last competed for (not practiced with) their old club. That means that they cannot score points for their new club or swim on relay teams. You’ll usually see unattached Cy-Fair swimmers listed in heat sheets as swimming for UCFSC. The main purpose of this rule is to prevent swimmers from switching clubs just before an important meet so they can add to the new team’s point total.