

STINGRAYS SWIMMING

“Training for Life”

Explanation of Duties for Stingrays Hosted Meets

(As a reminder, at the bottom is the excerpt from the commitment letter in your registration packet.)

Thank you Stingray parents for your commitment to our athletes and the Stingrays swimming program. Our program works because of you and your willingness to help. Hosting a meet allows us to compete locally, decreases our travel expenses and gives us all a chance to participate. We need every family to be involved as volunteers at each swim meet. If your child is swimming and you have not been specifically excused from volunteering for the meet, you will be subject to a \$50 fine. We never like to resort to that, but in fairness to other parents, we will if needed. We have never turned away a worker who wanted to do more than the required amount, so don't be shy. Also, if you have older children in need of service hours, we are a 501(c) program and happily provide volunteer opportunities for them.

If you sign up to work a session, **plan to sign in at warm-ups and expect to work the entire session** (it is always a pleasant surprise to split the session because of an abundance of volunteers). All volunteer positions provide parents the opportunity to watch their children swim. Below are the various positions available during the meets:

Officials: If you are interested in learning more about the technical side of swimming or already have expertise, consider becoming an official. Please see our INFO tab regarding becoming a USA Swimming Official. This is a vitally important job!

Timers: Check in at the volunteer desk at the beginning of the warm up session. Timers are required to be at the timers' meeting approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the meet. The meet official will brief timers on the specific duties during the race. Timers are expected to work the entire session. A relief timer will be assigned to take care of physiological breaks. Water will be provided periodically by the hospitality volunteers. Timers are critical to an efficiently run meet. Promptness is vital and it helps to have minimal distractions (babies, schedule conflicts, etc.)

Runners: Runners are responsible for taking the event sheets from the timers at the end of each event (not each heat like in summer league). The sheets are brought to the scorer's computer room for review and then brought to the computer room. Sign-in at warm-ups and plan to check-in ready to work 15 minutes prior to the first race. This position is very mobile and is a good fit for parents of young swimmers or those with small children that need to be watched. It is critical, however, that the sheets get picked up in a very timely manner.

Computer Room Runner: The computer room runner is responsible for posting results from the events as soon as they are officially released from the computer room. The computer room runner also runs the results from preliminary heats to the announcer's table for processing with the clerk of course. Sign-in at warm-ups and check-in ready to work 15 minutes prior to the first race. This is a good job for parents with young swimmers.

Heat Sheet Sales: This job requires the worker to be ready to work at the beginning of warm-ups (sooner, if possible). The bulk of the sales take place in the first hour (during warm-ups and at the beginning of the meet) and the last hour of the morning session (as the afternoon session starts showing up for warm-ups). During the main part of the session this volunteer may help with spirit wear sales or concessions. Please only sign-up for this if you can commit to being available at the beginning of warm-up. This is a good job for parents with swimmers who are a little older but still need mom/dad to drive them to the meets.

Concessions: This job requires workers to be on-site and working at the beginning of warm-ups. The concession stand is usually the busiest during the transition times. Warm, friendly personalities are always helpful as you project Stingray hospitality to all of our guests. Concession workers work the entire session (as stated above) and are always given the opportunity to see their children swim. This is a good job if the noise/chlorine of the pool area is a problem for you. It also gives your younger swimmers a quiet place to find mom or dad.

Hospitality (“feeding the animals”): The hospitality volunteers need to be available at the beginning of warm-ups and are responsible for feeding and watering the coaches, volunteer officials and watering all of our timers. This job requires volunteers to help with set-up and take-down of meals/snacks for the coaches/officials in the hospitality area. This is another job in which warm and friendly personalities are desired, as you are an ambassador to all of the visiting coaches. You are **not** responsible to prepare or provide food (if you are interested in that, contact our Hospitality Coordinator).

Stingrays Leadership Positions: We have several jobs that either require special training (computer room operator, clerk of course, official, volunteer coordinator, meet manager) or allow you to fulfill your obligation, before or after the meet (hospitality/concessions coordinators, set-up/breakdown, ice runner). If you are interested in learning more about these jobs see the contact information on the website under the “Schedules/Info” tab.

Stingrays in the Seats: For all Stingray parents, we are fortunate to be on a team that promotes a “training for life” mentality. We wear our “Parenting for Life” shirts with pride at all of our meets and act as hosts to all of our guests and swimmers. If you see people in need (deer in the headlights look on their face), help them find their way and let them see for themselves the virtues of “Respect, Honesty, Discipline, Dedication and Loyalty”. Cheer hard and strong for all of the kids and “raise the roof” for the Stingrays!

Many hands make light work and lots of fun! GO RAYS!

MEET PARTICIPATION COMMITMENT

Family Participation Policy

Any family not working at a meet that their child is swimming will be subject to a **\$50 fine**. Adjudication of the fine as well as additional remedies will be handled by the Board of Directors of Stingrays Swimming, Inc. The ruling of the BOD will be final.

Rookie Blue and Above:

If your child is swimming in 2-3 sessions (days) of a Stingrays hosted meet, you will be required to work 2 sessions of that meet. If your child is swimming in only one (1) session you will only be required to work one (1) session. **In prelim/final meets, all parents of Stingrays swimmers who make finals will be asked to work during finals in addition to the above requirements.**

Rookie Red and White:

Three (3) sessions for the entire season (short course and long course). These are usually completed during the Rookie intra-squad meets.

Family Participation Options

You may choose different ways to fulfill your meet obligation. Both parents may work one (1) session (will count as 2), or parents may work a session in which their child is or is not swimming. There are also other jobs behind the scene (cooking for hospitality, shopping for concessions, moving supplies/trailer, concession runs, etc.) for those who are looking for something “outside the box”. Inquire with any of the meet managers if you are interested in any of these options.