

Hornet Swim Club Tryout Q&A!



At tryouts, what happens?

When it is his or her turn, your swimmer will be asked to get in the pool. Please be sure he or she has everything needed and are able to prepare themselves, like put on their own goggles. Younger swimmers will be asked to swim one or two lengths; older swimmers may do 4 lengths (one of each stroke) or more and demonstrate a flip turn. The coaches will be looking for your swimmer to meet or exceed the minimum criteria shown on our website.

When will my swimmer find out if he/she made the team? We will do our best to tell everyone right during tryouts if they made the team or not, especially those that have swum for HOSC in the past or those who were not able to meet the minimum criteria. Some swimmers may be put on the wait list, and if they make the team, they will receive a call in the next few days. In some cases, your swimmer may meet the minimum criteria but due to the appropriate group being full we may not be able to accept him or her.

What are next steps if my swimmer makes the team?

If your swimmer makes the team, you will receive an email at the email address you provided on your tryout information sheet with a link to our online registration system. Registration is entirely online. **You will need to pay in full when you register. If you do not register within 24 hours of receiving your registration email, we will assume you have reconsidered swimming in the Spring Session and we will give your spot to one of our waitlisted swimmers.** [FYI, your email address will be your online account name, and you will create a password. Remember this password, as it is how you will sign up for meets and register again in the future.]

In some instances we have had trouble reading the email address provided, or email providers have blocked the email we sent and we have no idea. **If your swimmer was accepted and you do not receive an email from us within 48 hours, email us at info@hornetswimclub.org.** If you do not contact us, we will assume you are no longer interested in the team.

How long is the session? Sessions run approximately 10-12 weeks, with some being 1-2 weeks more or less.

What are the groups and expectations to be on the team? Group descriptions and expectations can be found on the website.

What is the meet schedule? Our meet schedule is currently posted on our website. Meet participation varies by the swimmer's group placement. Additional information can be found on our Practice handout. Please note that all groups are required to attend our home meets and your swimmer will be signed up automatically to participate. In addition, you will need to volunteer at our home meets. Most meets require registration 5-7 weeks in advance.

What are the fees to participate? Fees are posted on our fee sheet, available at tryouts and information night. Please note that in addition to the Session fee, new swimmers will have to pay the 2017 USA Swimming registration fee, which is required annually of all swimmers.

What is the refund policy? Like many competitive clubs, we are only able to offer spots to a limited number of swimmers, and our budget is closely tied to our team numbers. The coaching instruction consistently builds upon skills and endurance gained the prior week(s) in practice. If a swimmer chooses to leave the team after the start of the season, the club is not able to give the newly open spot to a swimmer who had previously been turned down. Due to the nature of this, the club is unable to offer refunds to those withdrawing from the team after the session has begun.

- Withdrawals will be honored up to 1 week into the session. A refund or credit will be offered minus a \$50 fee.

- Withdrawals due to medical reasons will be approved, with an accompanying doctor's note, certifying the swimmer will miss a minimum of three weeks of the session. Medical refunds will be prorated based on what point in the session withdrawal takes place, less a \$25 administrative fee.
- If you have signed up for meets, meet fees will not be refunded. These fees have already been paid to the hosting team.

What else should I know about Hornet Swim Club?

There are a few other things about the team that we would like to highlight. As a reminder, we are a competitive swim team. We do not expect every athlete to be a champion, but we are very focused on making each swimmer the best that they can be. In order to achieve this goal, attendance at practices and meets is essential. There are lessons learned at meets that cannot be learned at practice, and vice versa. In addition, although our coaches are professionals, everything else is done all the other work is done by volunteers and we need every family to assist.

As a result, **Hornet Swim Club requires these things from its swimmers and their families.**

- 1) A positive attitude and appropriate conduct
- 2) Regular practice attendance as noted in the group description
- 3) Meet attendance as noted in the group description
- 4) Parent participation, particularly at home meets, and in other roles as needed to support the team

We understand there are circumstances when practice or a meet has to be missed. We have set attendance goals for each group appropriate for a competitive swimmer at that level and will be tracking attendance and meet participation. If a swimmer is consistently not able to meet the attendance criteria for practices and meets, then perhaps that swimmer's goals may not be a good match with the competitive mission of our team. We may, then, suggest alternate options to participation on the Hornet Swim Club.

What are next steps if my swimmer does not make the team?

First of all, we are very sorry we are not able to accept everyone. Pool constraints dictate that we limit the number of swimmers in the water. When a lane becomes too crowded, swimmers are not able to complete an effective workout and the coach's attention is pulled in too many directions.

If your swimmer does not make the team because he/she needs to continue to develop his/her strokes, here are some options:

Bear Paddle Swim School: Offers swim classes that are structured by age and ability to accommodate varying abilities within each age group. Student to teacher ratios are 3:1, 4:1 or 5:1.

The new swimmer standards are available on our website. This information may be helpful to share with your instructor.

If your swimmer does not make the team because we were full, he/she is on a waiting list. We will then call if a space opens up in the appropriate group in the first week of Spring session. If no space opens, please try to keep your swimmer in the water and developing in some form of lessons, and we hope to see you at tryouts for the Fall session.

Thank you for your interest in Hornet Swim Club!