

GREATER EVANSVILLE AQUATIC TEAM



Team Handbook

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Introduction

Greater Evansville Swimming, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

Welcome to the Greater Evansville Aquatic Team (GREAT). We are a USA Swimming and Indiana Swimming affiliated year-round competitive swim club. Along with being members of USA Swimming and Indiana Swimming, we are also a part of the Southern Indiana Swim Conference, which is made up of other affiliated swim clubs in the Southern Indiana region. We are located in Evansville, IN and have been dedicated to serving the greater Evansville area since 2003. We offer high quality professional coaching, training, and technique instruction for all ages and abilities. All of our coaches, as members of USA Swimming, have access to the most comprehensive resources for youth coaches of any sport in the United States. This provides assurance that the time children spend swimming with GREAT will be quality time. We provide every member an opportunity to improve and achieve success at his or her level of ability, from the novice to the national level. At the heart of our mission is developing our youth into young men and women ready to succeed in life, both professionally and personally. It is our belief that there is no better sport than swimming to teach valuable life lessons, and to help kids grow into exemplary adults and role models. We believe that the efforts of our swimmers, coaches, parents, and community help create a rewarding club and meaningful experience for everyone involved.

Becoming a competitive swimmer, and a competitive swim parent, can be demanding and overwhelming at first, but we've got you covered. This Team Handbook goes over all the information you need to know when becoming a member of GREAT. In addition to this handbook, you will find other team information on our website. There you can access all of this information, and much more. Once you get past the initial rush of information and get a grasp on what it's like to be a competitive swimmer or swim parent, we truly believe that you will find it to be the most rewarding experience relating to any youth athletics program. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.



About Us

Mission Statement:

Fostering success in the pool and in our community by providing a safe environment and positive atmosphere that allows our athletes to reach their full potential.

Vision Statement:

Establish a rewarding swimming program that aims to inspire our athletes to achieve and will encourage them to excel, in all aspects of their lives. Through swimming we hope to create a lasting impact that will empower our athletes to be outstanding athletes and role models.

Values:

When it's all said and done, always be able to say that you **TRIED**:

Supported your	T eam
Behaved with	R espect
Acted with	I ntegrity
Strived for	E xcellence
Had unwavering	D etermination

Team – At GREAT we are all about our TEAM. We have developed an outstanding culture that we believe is vital to our team success. We desire that all of our swimmers uphold the standards and expectations that we as coaches and administrators set for this team.

Respect – Respect is a trait that we value deeply at GREAT. We aspire for our kids to always treat others with respect, and to always have respect for themselves. We believe this to be vital to forming trust and relationships that will last a lifetime.

Integrity – Integrity is a quality that is very important to us at GREAT. We aspire for our kids to stay true to who they are. As well as display good morals and principles that will help guide them to success in the pool, and most importantly their lives.

Excellence – At GREAT we strive for excellence. Not only in the pool, but in all aspects of what we do. We expect our kids to do the same. In all aspects of their lives, the pool, and the community we expect our kids to strive to be excellent.

Determination – Determination and work ethic are two qualities we aim to instill on a daily basis at GREAT. We believe a strong work ethic and true determination can take you as far as your heart desires.

Practices

GREAT does not have a practice requirement. That being said, attendance should align with a swimmer's goals. Practice is the only way to improve, and a swimmer's attendance should reflect their level of commitment. Therefore, we offer multiple practices throughout the week to provide flexibility for families, and so that we are able to assist with the swimmer's development regardless of their commitment level.

Parents are not required to stay for practice, however if you do so we ask that you watch from the bleachers or chairs. Parents are not to be on the pool deck surrounding the pool while watching practice. We also ask that you do not try and communicate with the coaches or swimmers during practice time, unless it is an emergency. If you need to talk with a coach, please do so prior to practice, or approach the coach after practice has ended.

Swimmers should always arrive on time, and stay for the entire duration of practice. While we understand that things do come up that cause a swimmer to miss a part of practice, these disruptions become a distraction at practice and hinder the swimmer's ability to properly warm up or cool down. If something does come up, please make sure to reach out to the coach beforehand to make necessary arrangements.

Each of our training groups has a different practice schedule, with times and days per week varying from group to group. Each group also has specific goals that we are aiming to accomplish within them. To access all of this information regarding training groups, practice schedules and dues, follow this link:

<https://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=isgeat&stabid=53643>

Follow this link for practice expectations for our swimmers:

<https://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=isgeat&stabid=207672>

Swim Meets

Swim meets, while overwhelming and intimidating to some at first, are a fun and rewarding experience for the swimmers. It is extremely important for swimmers to participate in swim meets. They help give purpose and meaning to the countless hours of practice, and are the best way to track progress.

Due to Lloyd Pool not meeting necessary guidelines to host sanctioned meets, GREAT does not currently host any of their own meets. Therefore, we do not currently have any required meets. We typically offer one to two meets a month, while offering a good balance between local and travel meets, although it does not always work out that way. We recommend at least one meet a month. This will allow for consistent opportunities for tracking improvement.

The majority of meets that we will attend are Friday-Sunday with multiple sessions to help split up age groups. You are not required to attend all of your age groups' sessions in order to be able to participate. However, attending all sessions is encouraged by the coaches, and gives you the chance to swim a wide variety of events.

All of our new members are encouraged to observe a meet first, before signing up for one. While this is not required by any means, this gives both swimmers and parents a chance to sit back and take it all in, without the stress that can sometimes come along with participating. For a full review of swim meets visit the Swim Meet 101 page on our website, which you can access with the following link:

<https://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=isgeat&stabid=207473>

Follow this link for meet expectations for our swimmers:

<https://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=isgeat&stabid=207672>

Team Gear

GREAT is proud to be partnered with TYR and Elsmore Swim Shop to bring you all of your gear needs. As a sponsored team of TYR, we get some of the best gear around at a quality price, along with qualifier benefits for swimmers who qualify for Olympic Trials and Senior Nationals, Junior Nationals and Futures Championships, and Sectional Meets. We have set up a Team Store with Elsmore to provide TYR gear to all of our families. Items from our Team Store can be purchased year-round, and are shipped directly to you. All items should be purchased through our Team Store via the following link:

<https://elsmoreswim.com/teams/indiana/clubs/great-tiger-sharks.html?p=1>

Swim Caps:

Upon joining the club for the first time your swimmer(s) will receive one team swim cap. You can also purchase customized caps which include caps with your swimmers' name on them, as well as "Divisional Team" and "State Team" caps. Additional team and custom caps can be purchased by contacting a coach.

Team Suits:

Prior to competing in their first meet, each swimmer must purchase a team suit. We provide multiple suit options for our swimmers, with various prices and styles, to provide each swimmer the opportunity to find the right suit for them. Team suits can be found on our Team Store.

Team Apparel:

Team apparel can also be found on our Team Store. There is no required team apparel, however it is always great to see our swimmers representing the team on deck and our parents representing the team in the stands. Along with the items on our store we provide the opportunity to purchase custom Championship shirts at the end of each season.

Training Equipment:

Each training group has equipment that is used at practice on a daily basis. It is very important for every swimmer to have all equipment at every practice. All items listed for each training group are required and should be purchased through our Team Store. The equipment lists for each group can be found via the following link:

<https://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=isgeat&stabid=208221>

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is the lifeline of a successful swim club. In order for our team to operate effectively and efficiently it takes a team effort. The efforts from coaches, swimmers, parents and the community all working together equals success. The biggest way for parents to help their swim clubs is at team hosted meets. Due to Lloyd Pool not meeting necessary guidelines to host sanctioned meets, GREAT does not currently host any of their own meets. Therefore, we do not currently have a required number of volunteer hours for members. We do however host team events, and have co-hosted meets with other teams before. At any of these events parent involvement and volunteering are expected. Other ways you can support the club through parent involvement are:

Officiating:

USA Swimming, Indiana Swimming, and GREAT are always looking for more officials. Officials are a critical component to running a swim meet. Officials are responsible for various responsibilities over the course of a meet, depending upon what type of official you are. Officiating responsibilities include: Stroke & Turn Judge, Starter, and Referee.

To become an official, one must become certified by Indiana Swimming. The certification process involves becoming a non-athlete member of USA Swimming, attending a clinic, online training, and completing a 6-session apprenticeship over several meets. In an effort to incentivize GREAT members becoming officials, we pay all costs towards certification. Another incentive to becoming an official is free meet entry to any meet in which you are officiating, and meals are almost always provided by the host team. If you are interested in becoming an official please reach out to one of our coaches or board members.

Board or Committee Member:

GREAT is a Parent Governed Club run by a Board of Directors, the majority of whom are parents of swimmers on our team. Our board members are responsible for many parts of our operations including but not limited to: membership, billing, bookkeeping, fundraising, marketing, apparel, hospitality, and event coordination. If you feel as though you could be of value to the club please reach out to one of our coaches or board members.

Sponsorship:

GREAT is always looking to add partners for our club through sponsorships. These partnerships are important to strengthening relationships within the community, and to building a better community overall. We currently have three different levels of sponsorship, catered to fit any business big or small. If your business, or a business you know, is interested in becoming a GREAT sponsor please reach out to one of our coaches or board members.

Fundraising

GREAT currently has two bi-annual fundraisers that all members are required to participate in. Lack of participation in either fundraiser will result in a fine. The total of the fine will be dependent upon the minimum set at each fundraiser.

1. **Swim-A-Thon** – Our Swim-A-Thon is a great one-day event where our swimmers seek donations from family, neighbors, etc. and swim as many laps as they can within a two-hour time frame. Along with the swimming, GREAT turns this into a very fun and enjoyable event for our swimmers and families. Our bi-annual swim-a-thon fundraiser is typically held during odd-year, short course seasons.
2. **Cheeseball Fundraiser** – Our Cheeseball Fundraiser gives everyone an opportunity to get their Thanksgiving cheeseball and support our club at the same time. Swimmers are encouraged to sell to family, neighbors, etc. Our bi-annual cheeseball fundraiser is typically held during even-year, short course seasons.

Another way that you can help raise funds for the club is via AmazonSmile. Members are encouraged to shop through AmazonSmile when purchasing through Amazon. AmazonSmile is a simple way to support charitable organizations, at no cost to you. With each purchase made through smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Make sure to set Greater Evansville Swimming, Inc. as your organization when purchasing.

Dues/Fees

Group Dues can be found on our website by accessing the training groups page. Dues can be paid monthly or at the beginning of each season. Dues can be paid by either credit card or ACH, you have the option to choose upon registering. Both have the same processing fee, but credit card transactions will process immediately, while ACH transactions will take 7-10 days to process. There is also a Registration Fee at the start of each season that is to be paid at the completion of registration.

Along with Group Dues and Registration Fees, are Meet Fees. Meet Fees include athlete surcharges and event fees. GREAT covers all relay event fees, but does not cover individual event fees or athlete surcharges. Meet fees are charged from the host teams of meets that we attend, and while we do collect payment for them, the meet fees go to the host team. GREAT does include \$5 per session charges, \$10 for meets over 30 miles away, into meet fees. These fees do go to the team and help to cover the costs of coaches attending meets, and are in place to discourage swimmers from being no-shows at meets.

Multi-swimmer families receive a discount towards group dues. The discounts are: 5% for 2 swimmers, 8% for 3 swimmers, 12% for 4 swimmers and 15% for 5 swimmers. The discount is calculated by taking the total dues for all kids, and then applying the discount. Along with offering multi-swimmer discounts we also offer scholarships for low-income families. The criteria for the free/reduced lunch program are used to determine who qualifies. If you qualify for this program and wish to apply for a scholarship, please reach out to our Board of Directors.

Becoming a member of GREAT also means becoming a member of USA Swimming. You have two membership levels you can choose from when becoming a member of USA Swimming:

- **Premium (\$81)** – This membership level unlocks all of the benefits of a USA Swimming membership. Additional Local Swimming Committee and club fees may apply.
- **Flex (\$20)** – This is an entry-level membership option for kids who are new to competitive swimming and would like to test it out first, or for those swimmers who cannot make a full-time commitment. The main difference between Flex and Premium is that you are limited to two meets per year with a Flex membership, and are not allowed to compete in championship meets.
- **Outreach (\$5)** – In order to qualify for Outreach, you must be enrolled in your schools free/reduced lunch program. If you do qualify, please provide us with proof of enrollment in the program.

USA Swimming Memberships are yearly, and are renewed in the Fall, prior to Short Course Season.

To access all the benefits of USA Memberships, follow this link:

<https://www.usaswimming.org/find-a-team>

Withdrawals, Refunds & Reinstatement

Withdrawal & Refund:

In the event that your child decides that they would no longer like to continue swimming, a request for a refund may be sent to the Board of Directors. Refunds can be made only for group dues. Apparel, USA Swimming fees, and other team fees are all non-refundable. Upon receiving a request for a refund, a vote will take place amongst the Board of Directors. All cases will be treated on an individual basis, as not all situations are alike. Eligibility for reimbursement begins with the receipt of the refund request, and is not retroactive. All other fees associated with the member's account will be deducted before a refund is given, and a \$5 administrative fee will be deducted from the refund.

Reinstatement:

If a swimmer has withdrawn from a season and would like to be reinstated at a later date during the current season, they are allowed to do so, however they are only allowed to do so once during a given season. The reinstatement fee will be equal to half of the swimmers' monthly group dues. That will be in addition to the monthly due charged, for the month when the swimmer returns. For example, if the monthly group due is \$50, it will cost \$75 to be reinstated. \$50 being the monthly due, and \$25 being the reinstatement fee. Swimmers who suffer a significant injury that causes them to miss a significant amount of time are not subject to this fee upon returning. The purpose of this fee is to discourage families from taking time off in the middle of the season. This creates training issues for the swimmers, and bookkeeping issues for club administrators.

Any member who withdraws from GREAT to join a local, competing USA Swim Club will face a reinstatement fee of double the registration fee for the season they rejoin in. For example, if the registration fee for the current season is \$50, the reinstatement fee will be \$100. This fee is in addition to group dues and the registration fee upon rejoining. Members who move out of town, and then move back, are not subject to this fee. The purpose of this fee is to discourage families from jumping from club to club, and to encourage our members to stay committed to the overall success of GREAT.

Communication

Our primary method of communication is via email. Upon registering and creating an account through our website, all emails associated with the account will automatically be added to our email list. We also use these other methods to communicate to our members:

Text Alerts:

Via Remind

To sign up text "@greatsw" to 81010

These text alerts allow the coaches to quickly update anyone signed up about any of the latest news or updates regarding the team. It is great for last minute changes, or messages with time sensitive material.

Weekly Updates:

<https://www.teamunify.com/News.jsp? tabid =22623&team=isgeat>

Weekly updates will include any schedule changes for the week, training notes or challenges, and various other potential updates that may arise. These will be posted at the beginning of each week, and will detail the entire week. These can be accessed via the News tab on our website, which you can access using the link above.

Quarterly Newsletters:

<https://www.teamunify.com/News.jsp? tabid =22623&team=isgeat>

Quarterly newsletters will go over upcoming events, event recaps, and provide details pertaining to various topics relating to the club, or the specific quarter. These will be posted at the beginning of each quarter, and will recap highlights from the previous quarter and detail the entire upcoming quarter. These can be accessed via the News tab on our website, which you can access using the link above.

Resources

Below are resources that you will find to be helpful:

USA Swimming Website:

www.usaswimming.org

Indiana Swimming Website:

www.inswimming.org

OnDeck:

This is a free app available on iOS or Android. This is a very useful tool for accessing your team account through TeamUnify. From this app you can access your account, see our news feed, view best times, and much more.

MeetMobile:

This is an app available on iOS or Android. It has a very low subscription cost that can be paid by month or year. This app will post live meet and race results, and is the best way to see results at a meet.

USA Swimming Deck Pass Plus:

This is a free app available on iOS or Android. This is a very useful tool for accessing your USA Swimming account. From this app you can access your account, see IMR/IMX scores, view best times, and much more.

For various other resources, follow this link:

<https://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=isgeat& stabid =207496>

For frequently asked questions, follow this link:

<https://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=isgeat& stabid =207726>



Contact Us

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P.O. Box 23172
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Website:

www.greatswim.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GREATSwimEvansville>

Email:

greatswimevansville@gmail.com

To contact an individual Board Member or Coach, follow this link:

<https://www.teamunify.com/Contact.jsp?team=isgeat>