

Irish Aquatics

*Swim. Fight. Win! Go Irish!*

**IA Weekly News**

***September 16, 2018***

Though we have been in the water for 2 weeks already, this week feels like a new beginning as we will be back home at Rolfs Aquatic Center for all South Bend practices! The facility looks great with all of the updates and I am excited to get back to work at ND!

**Registration**

Most swimmers who have been in the water are registered through the online registration system, but there are a few who are not yet registered. Please be sure to go through the registration for your swimmer(s) before sending them to practice! Here are a couple helpful reminders about the registration system:

* There are many options for the swimmer(s) group. For the Green, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Bremen Bronze, Bremen Silver, and Bremen Gold groups, there will be an option for paying the whole season at registration (In Full) or paying monthly (Monthly). The monthly option is broken into 6 payments, with the first month paid at registration and then monthly billing occurring in the months of October-February. For the High School option, which is for those swimmers who will swim for their high school team either in Michigan or Indiana, there are still the In Full and Monthly options, but the Monthly is broken down by state (MI and IN). The billing for IN swimmers will be at registration, October, and February. For MI swimmers, the monthly billing will occur at registration, January and February. Please be sure that you select the correct option for your swimmer(s).
* In previous years, the USA Swimming membership fee was automatically added to the registration, but since USA Swimming has introduced multiple levels of membership, we had to make that portion of the registration “optional,” even though all swimmers MUST be registered with USA Swimming. Please be sure that you select one of the 3 options available. There is a description on the registration page of each level and what it entails. I will be contacting those that are already registered but did not select a registration option this week to get that added to your account.
* The Fundraising and Processing Fees have not changed this year from last year. The fundraising fee for short course is $100 and the Processing fee is $10.

Emails were sent out on 9/16 to families whose swimmers have been in the water, but no registration has been received. If you have any questions about registration, please contact Coach Matt.

**Nelson’s Chicken Sale Fundraiser**

We will once again be holding a Nelson’s Chicken sale as a fundraiser for our program. We are expanding our sale this year to include a second site in Bremen! The sale will take place on Saturday, September 22, from 10:00-3:00 PM. The South Bend location will be at the Marathon gas station on the northwest corner of Edison and Grape Roads. The Bremen location will be at Woodie’s Supermarket at 116 N. Bowen Ave.

Presale tickets are due back to your child’s group coach this Monday, 9/17, with money for any sold tickets. If you still need more tickets, we can get those to you, but will need to get the money ASAP. Please contact Amanda Domalewski at Amanda.Domalewski@gmail.com if you need more!

If you have remaining unsold tickets, these must be returned as well. The cost of any unreturned unsold tickets will be assessed to the family’s account.

As an incentive to sell, we are again offering prizes for the top 3 selling families. The top selling family will receive an account credit of $100. The 2nd place seller will get an account credit of $50, and the 3rd place family will get an account credit of $25.

We need lots of help on September 22nd at the sale, both in Bremen and South Bend. There are 3 shifts for swimmers and families to sign up for: 10-12 PM, 11:30-1:30 PM, and 1:00-3:00 PM. We are asking that all swimmers in the Gold group sign up for a shift if possible. We also need our younger swimmers there as well, but many of the roles needed (verifying tickets, delivering the orders to vehicles, putting the food in the containers, etc.) are better suited for the older swimmers. Our younger swimmers will be in charge of the signs and letting the community know who we are! It is very important that we have a good presence of swimmers at all times of the fundraiser. People like to support youth organizations, but will be less inclined to do so if there are no team members participating.

The funds generated from the chicken sale will go directly back to programming for the swimmers. In the past, we have subsidized charter bus rentals for the dual meet in Munster and Open Water State, purchased training equipment such as fins, and dryland equipment such as resistance bands for use by all team members.

**Group Notes**

*SB Silver*

Coach Ben would like to remind the Silver group swimmer that they need to bring their fins, paddles, goggles, caps, snorkels, and water bottles to practice every day!

This week, the Silver group will meet in the spectator gallery at the beginning of practice on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for dryland. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for your dryland workout.

*SB Gold*

The Gold group will have dryland on Wednesday this week at the beginning of practice. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the dryland workout.

**Rolfs Aquatic Center**

When you step into the updated Rolfs Aquatic Center this week, you will notice that it looks very different! The facility has been painted, received new lighting and sound, and has gotten new carpet in the spectator gallery. We must do our part to keep the facility looking in brand new condition.

* If you or a child with you in the spectator gallery make a mess, please clean it up! Over the past few seasons, I have noticed more and more small messes left in the spectator area, which add up to larger messes and make the area look quite dirty. Please help us with keeping the gallery clean for everyone!
* Swimmers need to be responsible for everything they bring to the facility, including equipment, water bottles, clothing, and garbage. Please do not leave anything laying around or expect the coaching staff or Rolfs staff to clean up after you!
* We should leave the facility in better condition than we find it every day!

**Parent Meetings**

We will be holding a parent meeting in South Bend for all IA families to attend (not just new families). There will be 2 options for the meeting to accommodate varying schedules: Thursday, September 20 and Monday, September 24. All South Bend families are required to attend one of these meetings. We will start the meeting at 6:15 PM in the glass classroom on the pool deck.

Bremen families are more than welcome to attend one of these meetings as well, but we will also schedule a time for a meeting in Bremen.

**Caps and T-shirts for New Members**

Coach Matt will be getting caps and t-shirts out to new members who have completed registration starting this week. Please see him before practice begins to get the apparel or ask your swimmer’s group coach after practice.

**Meets**

We have a variety of meets coming up in October. Here are a few notes on each meet:

*NCISC Sprint Meet*: This meet is in limbo right now as Riley HS is getting some timing system upgrades and we have not gotten confirmation that the pool will be available for the event. Once we confirm the meet will happen and we get the info, it will be posted for registration.

*IA Fall Pentathlon*: This is a new meet that we are hosting. Swimmers are encouraged to participate in the event. Families who have a swimmer competing will be asked to volunteer to time. This should be a fairly small meet and will be run in a single session. It is a fun format with the scoring depending on the swimmer’s time in each of the strokes of the same distance (25’s for 8 & Under, 50s or 100s for 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15 & Over) and the IM (100 for 8 & Under, 200 for all other age groups). Swimmers do not have to swim all 5 events, but will not be eligible for the scoring if they do not. Swimmers not ready to swim all 4 strokes but want to swim in the meet are more than welcome to swim the events they are legal in! Coaches will have final discretion on whether the swimmers compete in the 50s or 100s.

*FAST Monster Splash*: This is our annual early season trip to Fishers. This meet provides some good early season competition as well as some great team bonding time. The meet is great for all levels of swimmers who are looking to attend a travel meet. There are no time standards and the 10 & Under sessions are generally very short, so the meet is quite friendly for newer swimmers.

*PRO Superstar Invitational*: This meet is the same weekend as the FAST Monster Splash and is a good local option for competition for those not wishing to travel. The coaching staff would like to see as many team members competing in the FAST and PRO meets as possible.

**Google Calendar**

All team events including practices, meets, and fundraisers can be found on our team Google calendar. The calendar can be accessed in two ways from the team website. First, you can click on the 3rd action button from the home screen next to the picture labeled “Calendar.” Alternatively, you can click on “Practice Schedule” on the top navigation ribbon. If you are on a mobile device, you will need to click “Practice Schedule” twice. The Google calendar is the most up to date version of the schedule for all events associated with Irish Aquatics.

**Website Upgrade**

In the coming weeks, you will notice a change in our team website. Team Unify has launched a new platform for website design which will have a very different look and the whole site will be mobile friendly on all types of devices, not just a few areas of the website as the current site allows. We have just been given the access to the new platform and have not yet started the process of migrating everything to the new look, but when we do, you will definitely notice!

**Birth Certificate Requirement**

If your swimmer is new to the program and has not competed for another team within IN Swimming before, we will need a copy of his/her birth certificate or passport. This can be sent via email, text, or by a physical copy sent into practice to Coach Matt mdorsch@gmail.com, (248) 321-7845]. This is a requirement of IN Swimming for a 1-time verification of the swimmers date of birth. Any swimmer not supplying the document and competing in a meet will be assessed a $100 fine by IN Swimming though the club.

**Billing, Auto Pay, and Meet Registration**

Our monthly billing will run on the first of every month. This is when recurring charges like dues are added to the account and auto pay transactions will be initiated (credit card payments will post at midnight on the first of the month and ACH payments will be initiated on the first and take a few days to clear). Any accounts not on auto pay will be required to pay the statement balance by the 2nd to last day of the month or a $10 late fee will be assessed. The late fee is applied at midnight on the last day of the month.

This season, there will be a restriction on all meet declarations. The system will not allow any account to register a swimmer for a meet if there is a balance owed older than 30 days. The easiest way to be sure that your account is up to date is to setup auto pay.

To set up autopay on your account, go to the website, log in, click on **My Account** on the left hand navigation bar, and click **Setup Auto Pay**. This will take you to a screen to add a credit card or bank account. Enter your information and be sure that the “Use for Fees Associated With Your Account” option is marked. Then click “Save Payment Setup” at the bottom of the page and you will be all set for auto pay to run on the first of each month. Any outstanding balance already invoiced before the autopay was set up will need to be paid with an On Demand payment to avoid any late fees.

**Upcoming Deadlines**

* Tuesday, September 25 – FAST Monster Splash (Meet Date: October 20-21, Fishers, IN)
* Monday, October 1 – IA Fall Pentathlon (Meet Date: October 14, Notre Dame, IN)
* Monday, October 1 – PRO Superstar Invitational (Meet Date: October 20-21, Mishawaka, IN)
* Thursday, October 4 – MLA TYR Fall Invite (Meet Date: Nov. 3-4, Holland, MI)

**Upcoming Events**

* September 22 – Nelson’s Chicken Sale Fundraiser, Mishawaka and Bremen
* October 6 – NCISC Fall Sprint Meet, Riley HS
* October 14 – IA Fall Pentathlon, Rolfs Aquatic Center
* October 20-21 – FAST Monster Splash, Fishers HS
* October 20-21 – PRO Superstar Invitational, Penn HS

**Practice Schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Monday****9/17** | **Tuesday****9/18** | **Wednesday****9/19** | **Thursday****9/20** | **Friday****9/21** | **Saturday****9/22** | **Sunday****9/23** |
| **Green** | 6:00-7:00 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-7:00 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-7:00 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-7:00 PM*@ Rolfs* | No Practice | Nelson’s Chicken Sale Fundraiser | No Practice |
| **SB Bronze** | 6:00-7:30 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-7:30 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-7:30 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-7:30 PM*@ Rolfs* | No Practice | No Practice |
| **SB Silver** | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Rolfs*Dryland | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Rolfs*Dryland | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Rolfs*Dryland | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Rolfs*Dryland | No Practice |
| **SB Gold** | 6:00-8:30 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-8:30 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-8:30 PM*@ Rolfs*Dryland | 6:00-8:30 PM*@ Rolfs* | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Rolfs* | No Practice |
| **Bremen Bronze** | 6:00-7:30 PM*@ Bremen HS* | 6:00-7:30 PM*@ Bremen HS* | 6:00-7:30 PM*@ Bremen HS* | 6:00-7:30 PM*@ Bremen HS* | No Practice | No Practice |
| **Bremen Silver/Gold** | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Bremen HS* | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Bremen HS* | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Bremen HS* | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Bremen HS* | 6:00-8:00 PM*@ Bremen HS* | No Practice |
| **Bremen High School** | 3:30-5:30 PM*@ Bremen HS* | 5:45-7:15 AM*@ Bremen HS* | 3:30-5:30 PM*@ Bremen HS* | 5:45-7:15 AM*@ Bremen HS* | 3:30-5:30 PM*@ Bremen HS* | No Practice |

\* The dryland practices at Beacon are offered for swimmers in the Silver and Gold/High School groups (except for the Bremen HS Prep group) at the Beacon Sport Performance Center, located inside the Beacon Health and Fitness Center – Mishawaka, located at 52031 Beacon Parkway in Granger. To be eligible for the dryland practices, the swimmer must turn 11 years old before the start of the Divisional Meet (March 1, 2019).