

## **TERRE HAUTE TORPEDOES**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **1. My child has not swam before, what equipment do I need? What does my child need to bring to practice?**

Swimmers in the Orange, Blue and Bronze group will need a swimsuit, goggles, swim cap, fins, and a kickboard. Some kickboards are available on the deck. You may prefer for your child to have their own. Please label your child's kickboard with his or her name. He or she may wish to have a bottle of water.

#### **2. Where can I buy the equipment?**

Our team vendor is Swimming Life ([www.theswimminglife.com](http://www.theswimminglife.com)). Monthly, The Swimming Life will be at practice for families to purchase equipment, swim suits and any other swim needs. Members of the club will get an email about the day and time so families can make arrangements if they wish to purchase equipment from Swimming Life. Our club does receive a portion of those sales. Other local vendors are Pacesetter Sports and Academy Sports. Online vendors are available too such as SwimOutlet.com.

#### **3. How do I care for swimsuits?**

Swimsuits are an investment and can last if taken care of properly. For practice suits try to find suits that are 100% polyester. You will pay a couple more dollars but they will last 5 to 10 times longer than suits made of 80 Nylon. Swimsuits only need to be rinsed in cold water and hung to dry. Washing them in the machine will weaken the fabric and shorten the life of the suit. Our locker rooms have a special spinner if your child wishes to spin out water before packing the suit to come home but using the drying machines in the locker rooms will weaken the fabric and shorten the life of the suit.

#### **4. What are tech suits and should I purchase one for my swimmer?**

In swimming there are special suits typically referred to as tech suits. These are precise suit that are specially made to repel water. Suits can run from anywhere from \$75-550. These suits will ONLY last for about 4-8 sessions of swimming before they start to decompose. Typically you will only want to use these suits for major championships and not regular meets. THT does not recommend tech suits for 11 and under but if a parent would like to purchase a tech suit for a younger swimmer THT will not stop a parent from doing so.

#### **5. How do I know who is my child's coach? What are requirements to coach/can I help coach?**

USA Swimming has strict rules and regulations for who can be on a swim deck

coaching. All THT coaches are paid and go through about 10 to 20 hours of training to be on the swim deck. Training includes CPR/First Aid, Safety requirements for Coaches, Athlete Protection Training and multiple background checks. Unlike other sports in which parents can volunteer to coach, with swimming standards for coaches it is very hard to have parents coach on a volunteer level.

#### **6. How long does practice last? What days does my child practice?**

The length of practices depends on the level. Orange group practices for 45 minutes, for example. Bronze group practices for one hour. Our website offers an updated list of practice days and times under “Group Calendars”.

#### **7. Does my child need to be at every practice?**

No, especially in the Orange and Blue groups. Practices are offered multiple times per week to assist your swimmer in his or her development. If your child needs to miss practice, you are not expected to notify the coach.

#### **8. Does my child have to swim in every swim meet? Does my child have to swim everyday of a weekend swim meet?**

No and No. Swim meets are a blast but can be intimidating to a new swimmer. Therefore your coach would be great to talk to about swim meets and what to expect (We also have a section under THT Documents addressing what to expect at a swim meet). Typically Away meets are more for our older swimmers in the Bronze, Silver, Gold and Senior Groups. So for our Orange and Blue parents most are recommended for just our home meets. Friday nights of a swim meet are often distance events and most younger swimmer would not swim on Friday nights and therefore would only have to be there on Saturday or Sunday. Swimming is a flexible sport, if you cannot make a full weekend meet you can sign up just for one, two or three days of the meet. It's up to you.

#### **9. What if my child is sick?**

You as a parent or guardian know your child's health better than the coaching staff. If your child is sick and is at risk to get other kids sick, please keep the child home as you would if you send your child to school or daycare.

#### **10. How might I be in touch with my child's coach?**

Often the best time to talk to a coach is in the 15 minutes after practice, our coaches try to meet with parents and answer whatever questions you might have. Periodically we will have parent meetings or instructional meetings that are meant to inform swim families. If this does not work, often the best way to get a hold of our coaches is through email which will be provided to you. You can also contact your board

representative. Please consult our website for a list of coaches and board members.

### **11. What if I have a question or concern regarding a coach?**

If there is a concern about a coach, please bring the issue up to the head coach. It will be addressed by the head coach and should the issue persist (assuming it is a valid coach issue) it will be resolved by the head coach and the board. If the issue is with the head coach and you don't feel comfortable with discussing the issue directly you can contact your group representative/board member. Please always remember to keep temperaments in check. The coach wants your child(ren) to succeed just as much as you do. A difference in coaching philosophy or technique is not a valid coaching issue. However, please ask questions of your coach for you to have a better understanding and open communication. What starts as an open dialogue can become a violation of the Code of Conduct which could result in your athletes' removal from the club. Lastly, any Safe Sport violations must be reported to the board, and can be directly reported using the national hotline reporting methods.

### **12. What if I have a question or concern regarding another swimmer or another parent?**

Please address the issue with the head coach. The issue could also involve the board, if deemed necessary by the head coach. A Safe Sport violation may have occurred as well making reporting a necessary step.

### **13. What does my fee cover?**

Your fees cover insurance, background checks, team shirt, team cap, pool rental fees, coaches salaries and travel, awards, and team gatherings.

### **14. What is Short Course Season?**

Short Course season is the season when competitions are 25 yards in length. The season is typically September through April.

### **15. What is Long Course Season?**

Long Course season is the summer season typically April-August. The meets are 50 meter's in distance, this is the distance swam in the Olympics.

### **16. How will I know if practices are ever canceled?**

Email communications will be send to club members will information regarding practice changes/cancelations. When Vigo County School Corporation is closed or dismisses early, we can anticipate that the Aquatic Center will be closed. Families will be informed once changes/cancelations are determined. Families can also signup for

text alerts. Please see our website for these instructions.

**17. How will I know about my child's progression? How does a child move up to the next level?**

This is an individual sport and each child competes to improve his or her time. Swimmers love to see their time drops! Parents are encouraged to arrange a time to meet with a coach. After practice may be a great time to meet with coaches. Before practice can be more challenging as they prepare for practice.

**18. How many sessions are required of my family to work at THT home meets?**

Two-Four sessions are usually required,. The number of required sessions is listed on each meets' event page.

**19. What is a session?**

A session is a segment of the meet that contains a portion of the meets events. Though there are exceptions, sessions are **typically** not more than 4 hours long. Job signup slots are generally slightly longer. Depending on the type of meet, there may be as few as one or two sessions a day or as many as three (morning, afternoon, and evening). If 2 family members work the same session, you receive credit for working 2 sessions.

**20. Can I choose my work session?**

Yes! Most parents choose to work the same session their child is swimming. The variety of jobs available is the same each session with minimal exceptions. Just sign up for your session and position you wish to work when the job signup is posted (usually 2 weeks before the meet). The sessions you or your family member works you will not be charged admission. If you ARE NOT working that session or working a session later in the day you will be expected to pay for admission for the sessions you are not working.

**21. How many home meets are there?**

THT typically hosts 2 invitationals in the winter and 1 invitational in the summer. This can vary year to year and does not include any championship meets that THT might win bids to host. Example of other meets might include divisional championships or Master's State Meet.

**22. Am I expected to work in meets that my swimmer is not participating in?**

YES. Working at home meets is a part of the financial requirements of being on the Torpedoes. While other sports might have fundraisers you have to participate in, our

swim meets are our fundraisers. Everyone is expected to ensure that all positions are filled for each meet.

### **23. Why do families with multiple swimmers work the same number of sessions as those with only one?**

Since work sessions are met mostly by parents, it is most fair to have an equal number per account. The number of sessions required in each time period is determined by dividing the total number of jobs slots for that time period by the total number of active accounts for that same time period.

### **24. What happens if our family can't work at a meet?**

If a family can't work their session, they may arrange to have someone else work in their place. Check out the "For Hire" list located on the "[Job Signup Info](#)" section of our website. The [Job Signup Coordinator](#) might be able to assist with seeking out individuals to work in your stead but **the responsibility to fulfill your requirement is ultimately yours.**

### **25. Who can work?**

Anyone meeting the age requirements for specific jobs may work a session. Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, Brothers and Sisters, or even the babysitter...as long as they are capable of doing the job!

### **26. Who do I contact?**

If you have questions or special needs, please contact the [Job Signup Coordinator](#).

### **27. If I need more information about working at the meets?**

Please see these policies and descriptions on our website:

[THT Job Signup Policy](#)

[THT Job Signup Descriptions](#)

### **28. My child has decided not to swim for the remainder of the season? Can I get a refund?**

In the event that your child decides to discontinue swimming, a request for a refund of coaching fees (USA Swimming registration fees, THT registration fees, and meet fees are non-refundable) may be submitted to the THT Treasurer in writing who will then present the request to the Board of Directors. The request will be voted on at the next board meeting. Fee reduction cannot exceed the season total for coaching fees. Reimbursement eligibility begins with receipt of the refund request by the THT

Treasurer and is NOT retroactive. No refund will be given for any part of a month (for example, a refund request received in October will only be eligible for consideration of refunding dues from November forward). The THT Treasurer can be emailed at [treasurer@terrehautetorpedoes.com](mailto:treasurer@terrehautetorpedoes.com).

**29. Should my child attend an away meet?**

Meets are a great way for swimmers to see their progression. Please consult your child's coach regarding whether or not your child should register for any away meets. Typically, swimmers in the Orange group are not expected to attend away meets. Swimmers in the Blue and Bronze groups may enjoy competing at an away meet.