**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS OF BULLDOGS AQUATIC CLUB**

All information that you need about the team can be found on our website which is updated regularly. In order to access **all information**, you must be signed in. You will be given sign in information once you register your swimmer. **www.bulldogaquaticclub.com**

**We have created a frequently asked questions page which can be accessed by clicking on the Team FAQs tab at the top of the home page on the website.** Questions and answers to these questions can be found by opening the document linked to the Team FAQs tab.

Information about team activities in the form of weekly “Doggie Updates” and information regarding entering upcoming swim meets is emailed to registered members, **make sure you provide your email when you register and remember to update your email information if it changes.** This same information is also available on the website. There is a Doggie Updates column and you can access meet entry information by clicking on the **Events** tab.

Our Board President frequently utilizes the **Remind App for communication**, especially for last minute practice changes. Please download the Remind App to your phone, and or create an e-mail account. This is the easiest way to communicate last minute updates/team reminders regarding practice locations, etc. You can easily download the Remind App to your phone (the app with the cloud). To join our club's class, text @bacswims to the number 81010. If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @bacswims to [(248) 778-3078](tel:(248)%20778-3078). We encourage you to join the group to easily stay up to date with the club. Alternatively, you can use this link: [**https://www.remind.com/join/bacswims**](https://www.remind.com/join/bacswims)

Registration – There are 3 sessions each year that swimmers can participate in. The sessions begin on the following dates: 1st Session = September 1st; 2nd Session = January 1st; 3rd Session = May 1st (can choose May-August or May-June for this session). You must register for every session that you plan to swim. **Registration for each session is done on our website.** Returning families typically get an email about two weeks before the beginning of each session advising that the session is open for registration. **New swimmers may not register until they have contacted the membership coordinator at membership@bulldogaquaticclub.com to schedule an evaluation where they will be evaluated and placed in a group by a coach.** Questions regarding membership can be directed to membership@bulldogaquaticclub.com. Questions about registration can be directed to assttreasurer@bulldogaquaticclub.com.

Dues and Fees – Every year swimmers must pay a USA swimming registration fee in order to swim on a team in Michigan. The team does not keep this fee but turns it over to Michigan Swimming (the organization in charge of US Swimming in Michigan). Swimmers must pay dues for each session that they swim. The dues vary by group placement and session due to the fact that the length of sessions differs. The fee and dues schedule can be found on the website under the **Our Team** tab. Questions regarding dues and fees can be directed to assttreasurer@bulldogaquaticclub.com.

Practice Group – Swimmers are placed in a practice group based upon their skill level. New swimmers will be evaluated by a coach for group placement. Swimmers will be assessed for movement into the next higher group by the coaches and will be advised if their group assignment changes. Swimmers will not be moved in the middle of a session. A description of the expectations for each group can be found on the website under the **Our Team** tab. Questions regarding group placement should be directed to your coach.

Practices - Swimmers are encouraged to attend all available practices for their group. Practices are structured to maximize your swimmer’s performance based upon 100% attendance. Since differing skills are focused on at practice on differing days, missing practice days will mean missing the training that was the focus of that day. Your swimmer’s performance and development are directly related to their attendance. The practice schedule is available on the website under the **Practice Calendar** link in the right column or under the **Calendar** tab.

Swim Meets – We are a competitive swim team and expect that all of our swimmers will participate in swim meets and will participate in the championship meets. Typically, there are at least 2 swim meets per month that swimmers can participate in. You can enter your swimmer in a meet by using the entry procedure on the website by clicking on the **Events** tab and selecting the meet you want to enter and the races you want your swimmer to swim. Questions about what races your swimmer should swim should be directed to your coach. Questions about how to use on-line meet entry should be directed to meetentry@bulldogaquaticclub.com. All meets have entry deadlines that are announced by email and on the website. You must submit your entry by the entry deadline. The fees that must be paid to the host team are collected from you by BAC and submitted directly to the host team.

Volunteer Requirement – We are a non-profit club that exists because of the volunteer efforts of our families. Every year our team member families volunteer to help make BAC a great team for all of our swimmers. One of our most important team events and a significant fundraiser for the team is the Winterfest swim meet. We also host other meets such as shorter dual meets. We require that all families who swim at any time during the year volunteer to help with three sessions at these meets (at least two of which must be at the Winterfest Meet January 10-12, 2020). Failure to comply with the volunteer requirement will result in a monetary assessment which will be automatically applied to your account. By volunteering, you will not only meet your requirement, but it is a great way to meet other families on the team and is a lot of fun. Information regarding the volunteer requirement can be found at the **Our Team** tab under the Forms and Policies link - Financial Responsibilities Policies and Procedures Volunteer/Meet Obligations. This requirement is also set forth in detail in the registration process and you agree to it upon registration.

Team Suits and Apparel – Each year the team designates a team suit that should be worn by swimmers at meets. We will have a team fitting when you can purchase the BAC team suit from Sun & Snow for a team discounted price. You may also purchase the suit directly at the Sun & Snow store in Plymouth. You must tell the clerk that you are part of the BAC team to get the discount. Team t-shirts, sweat suits and other items are also available through team order in the fall. Questions about team suits and apparel can be directed to gear@bulldogaquaticclub.com.

Family Folders – All swimmers should have a “family folder” at the pool. The folder will be marked with your swimmer’s name and is kept in a crate in the office or on the pool deck. Make sure your swimmer checks the family folder regularly. Ribbons from meets and other items are distributed to swimmers by use of the family folder.

Emergency Forms – All swimmers must submit up to date emergency forms. These forms should be updated at least once per year and delivered to the coach or placed in the emergency form folder in the BAC crate in the office/pool deck. These forms can be found at the Our Team tab under the Forms and Policies link. All new swimmers must turn in an emergency form when they come to a try it.

Concussion Forms – Every swimmer must submit a signed concussion form that will be maintained by the team for as long as the swimmer swims with BAC. This is a Michigan state law requirement. These forms only have to be submitted one time and can be found at the Our Team tab under the Forms and Policies link. All new swimmers must turn in a concussion form when they come to a try it.

Other Information - The website contains a great deal of other information about the team and about swimming. For example, under the Coach’s Corner tab, there is a great deal of information about training, preparing for meets, setting goals, and other helpful tips. You must be logged in to access the Coach’s Corner. There are also links to the Michigan Swimming data base where you can find your swimmers times and rank and other useful information. Take the time to look through the website; it should answer all of your questions. If, however, you still have a question about the team or would like to express a concern or make a comment, feel free to contact the President at president@bulldogaquaticclub.com.