



# Marquette County Killer Whales Swim Team



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Do I have to be a good swimmer to join the team?

If your child can swim one length of the YMCA pool using the front crawl with rotary (side) breathing and one length of backstroke they may join the team.

### Do I have to tryout?

No. All athletes who meet the above minimum requirement may join the team. We assign children to practice groups based on their ability and age. Check with a coach (contact info at end of this document) to see where is the best fit for your child.



### When is the season?

Fall/winter season begins in September and runs through March. Those athletes who qualify for either the YMCA State Championship or Y National Meet continue on through those events. We also have a summer season from mid-June through July.

### What if I'm involved in other sports?

We have many athletes on our team who participate in other activities. Our program offers many different practice times and options. We are flexible. However, remember that your child's level of participation will also affect their improvement as a swimmer. Our teaching process is to build each week on the previous week's lessons and concepts. Athletes who attend consistently gain the benefit of this teaching style.

### How often do children compete?

There are opportunities to compete most weekends late October through March. We host two events in Houghton and two in Marquette that we strongly encourage our athletes to attend as a way to measure their improvement, support their teammates and because these are social team events. We also host two Novice meets that are designed to help new and young swimmers learn about the competitive environment in a more comfortable setting.

### **Is there a lot of travel involved?**

Our away swim meets are in Houghton, Escanaba, Iron Mountain, Menominee and some locations in Wisconsin such as Appleton, Green Bay and Oshkosh. All are optional. However all the Upper Peninsula teams need to support each other for swimming to remain viable and to keep our travel distances reasonable. As much as the other U.P. teams support us by attending our home meets, we should reciprocate and attend their events, otherwise we may lose their support.

### **Where are practices held?**

Practices are held at the YMCA Pool, Marquette Area Public Schools Pool and the Northern Michigan University Pool. Athletes are assigned to groups based on age and ability.

### **Can I join anytime?**

You may join at any time. However, athletes must be a YMCA member for at least 30 days prior to competition and 90 days prior to either State or National competition. YMCA membership is included in the enrollment cost and ensures league membership for our team and insurance coverage required for pool rent.

### **Do I have to be a YMCA member?**

Yes, YMCA membership is required for the reasons stated above. However, membership fees for swim team members are rolled directly back into Killer Whales operations and are used to pay pool rent and coaching costs.

### **Do I have to wear a team suit?**

We encourage athletes to compete in a solid black racing suit and team swim cap, but it is not mandatory.

### **What other equipment does my child need?**

Each athlete needs goggles.

### **What is the cost to join the team?**

See our current brochure, posted on the website for current rates.

### **What are the parent/volunteer requirements?**

We exist because of our parent volunteers. Every family must provide an adult member to work on one of our committees and also an adult volunteer to work at home swim meets.

### **What if I have more questions?**

E-mail head coach Matthew Williams at [mwilliams@ymcamqt.org](mailto:mwilliams@ymcamqt.org)