

Fort Leavenworth Lancers

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have to be a fast swimmer to make the team?

No. The Lancers are open to anyone with an interest in swimming who can meet the minimum requirements. Although some swimmers will go on to swim in college, many others will simply have a lot of fun, get great exercise and compete against other swimmers at the same level as themselves. Unlike some sports there are no "benchwarmers" in swimming.

Do you have to be military to join the Lancers?

No. You will have to obtain a guest pass for entry to post for the tryout. After tryouts and registering for the team you can complete the Fort Leavenworth Access Form in order to receive an ID card that will grant you access to post with the Lancers as your sponsor.

What are the minimum requirements to make the team?

The swimmer should be able to swim one length of the pool freestyle (with rotary or side-breathing) and backstroke.

What if I can't decide whether my swimmer belongs on the team?

Many times this is a question of desire rather than ability. We love to have new swimmers join and we promise to develop them in a positive, nurturing environment. Please don't hesitate to contact our head coach or one of the board members to help answer any questions. We invite your swimmer to tryout and join us for a couple practices before you make a final decision.

What equipment does my child need?

Practice suits and goggles. You will be given an opportunity to purchase a team suit for competition as well as a swim cap. Please see then handbook for additional items needed for the higher level swimmers.

How long is the "team" season?

The Lancers swim year-round. Typically, our season begins in August and runs through July. We try to coincide our calendar with the Command and General Staff College Calendar.

When are meets and how long do they last?

The Lancers attend numerous meets throughout the year. Most meets run Friday night through Sunday. If you can't attend all days, we encourage you to attend at least one of the days of the meet.

Where are meets held?

Meets are held all over the state of Kansas as well as Missouri. Typical locations in Kansas include Kansas City, Topeka, Lawrence, and Wichita to name a few. Conference and National meets are held through the United States.

How often are meets held?

Most swimmers can expect to be offered the opportunity to swim in several meets during the fall, winter and spring.

How much does it cost to enter a meet?

The typical cost per event is \$4.50. On average it will cost \$25-\$50 to swim in a meet. When you sign up to attend a meet on our website you are committed to paying for the events your swimmer is entered in. On the first of the month, with your dues statement, we'll also charge for any meet fees.

How do I register my swimmer for a meet?

We post meets on our website as soon as possible. Before a meet, you will receive notification on our website that a meet is coming up. You have to either decline or accept the invitation to the meet. No registrations will be taken after the deadline. Please make it a habit to check the website once a week for news, events and to check your family history and billing.

Are meets required?

All Lancers have the options of rejecting a meet. But most swimmers enjoy measuring their progress by swimming in meets once they get over the initial anxiety. Competition is a great way to show off what you have learned but to also learn from other swimmers from different teams. It is also a great social time for the swimmers and parents - a time to celebrate all of their hard work and to bond as a team.

What is the difference between a pre-seeded meet and a deck seeded meet?

In a pre-seeded meet all of the swimmers will swim their events in a lane and heat determined by their entry time as submitted prior to the meet. If a swimmer doesn't show up for his/her event then the lane they assigned to will be empty. That is allowable. In a deck seeded meet the heats and lanes are not determined until about 45 minutes before the event. This allows swimmers to enter and scratch from events on the day of the meet. The main purpose of this is to prevent having empty lanes in a heat, that slows the meet down.

What is meant by "Short Course" and "Long Course"?

The terms refer to the length of the pool. Short Course is a 25 yard pool and Long Course is a 50 meter pool. However, the names are also used for the two seasons in USA Swimming. September to March is the Short Course season when meets are held in 25 yard pools. April to August is the Long Course season, as meets usually are held in 50 meter pools.

What if we need to take a break for another sport like football or soccer?

We understand that youth have many different interests. We encourage them to be involved in other opportunities; however, we ask that you respect the team by giving us 15 day notice if you are planning to take a break or leave the team.

Written notice, either a letter or an email, must be given to both the treasurer and head coach. We appreciate email, but please make sure that you receive a response from us to ensure that we have received your notice. Please see the team handbook for additional information on this question.

