

Contract Groups Info Sheet
www.berzerkerswimming.com



Group Name	Practices offered week (approx)	Monthly Dues
Advanced Age Group (AAG)	6	\$70
Elite Age Group (EAG)	6	\$75
Senior	7	\$80
Elite	7	\$85

PRACTICE SCHEDULE: The practice schedule for the Contract groups fluctuates depending on the time of year. To view the most up-to-date practice schedule, please visit the Calendars tab on our team website. Be sure to select your swimmer's practice group from the drop-down to view the appropriate practice calendar.

PRACTICE GEAR: Some gear is available to borrow, but we don't have equipment and sizes for everyone. We encourage every swimmer to bring their own equipment to each practice. If you would like to order TYR gear or suits, please make your orders through the Starting Block Team Store link on the **Apparel tab** of our team website. Advanced Age Group, Elite Age Group, and Senior needs: Water Bottle, Fins, Snorkel, Cap, Goggles, & Team Suit Elite needs: All of the above plus Drag Sox, Tempo Trainer, Pocket Drag Suit, & Mesh Bag

USA SWIMMING REGISTRATION: Contract group swimmers are required to be registered with USA Swimming. The information needed for this registration will be gathered from you when you register for the season. The fee for a USA Swimming membership is normally \$79 per year (reduced to just \$7 if your swimmer qualifies for free/reduced lunches at school, or your family qualifies for food stamps; proof of qualification must be sent to our bookkeeper at ASAP). This fee will be billed to your account upon registration each September.

DUES COMMITMENT: As a Contract Group swimmer/parent, you are agreeing to a 12-month financial commitment (September through August) at the price stated at the beginning of the season. Dues are billed on the first of each month, are due upon billing, and should be paid no later than 15 days after the date your account is billed. If your account becomes more than 60 days past due, swimmers will not be allowed to participate in team events until your account balance is made current. If your account becomes more than 90 days past due, swimmers will not be allowed in the water until the balance is made current. The easiest way to keep your account current is to set up your credit card for automatic withdrawals. This can be done upon registration or at a later date.

MID-SEASON MOVE-UPS: Often, coaches determine mid-season that a swimmer is ready to advance to a Contract group. We do not require swimmers to wait until next season to move up; they are often invited to move up mid-season. When your swimmer moves mid-season, your contract will start on the first date of the month immediately following the decision to move up and the contract will be pro-rated based on the number of months left in the season. For example, if our coaches invite your swimmer to join one of our contract groups in mid-January, your financial commitment for the year would run from February through August of that year. Any contracts entered into after that first pro-rated season would be for the full 12-month contract from September through August.

MEET ATTENDANCE: Regular meet attendance is expected in the contract groups. Your coaches will make an effort to designate which meets on the schedule are the most appropriate for each group. We can also help with travel by helping to arrange carpools and setting older athletes up to room together and save your family some of the expense of weekend meets. Any swimmer who chooses “team travel” rather than travelling with parents will be expected to sign a “code of conduct” form. To be able to arrange team travel, parents and athletes are expected to communicate well in advance of the meet. Team travel requests should go to Coach Klosterman by email at shawn.klosterman@gmail.com.

CARPOOLING: In the past some swimmers have been unable to arrange a ride to practice or meets. Parents are encouraged to organize carpools with other swim families so all of the swimmers who want to swim can. Organizing a carpool to local meets can be very fun for the kids and makes it easier for parents who have a lot of responsibilities on the weekends.

COACHING SURCHARGE FOR MEETS: There is a \$10 coaching surcharge added to each swimmer’s account after attending a meet. This surcharge takes care of getting our coaches to meets, getting them a hotel if needed, and compensating them for their time. This surcharge is increased to \$20 per swimmer for team travel meets and championship meets. The increased coaching surcharge on these types of meets is required since the team will often send multiple coaches with extended hotel stay because of the size and duration of the meet.

TEAM COMMUNICATIONS: Our goal is to update the website frequently, as well as send out team news/announcements as soon as information becomes available. The “News” tab, “Events/Meets” tab, and “Calendars” tab should be very helpful resources for you this season. Please also expect to receive weekly announcements in your email from either Coach Klosterman and/or Coach Stephanie.

FUNDRAISING: Swimmers in our Contract groups are required to participate in our home meet fundraisers. There will be a “Heat Sheet Ad Fundraiser” for each of our home meets (October, January, and summer). This fundraiser is required of all families registered with a Contract swimmer. A few weeks before each home meet, your swimmer will receive a fundraising packet. We ask that you reach out to local businesses to seek sponsorships or ad placement in our heat sheet for the meet. The minimum amount that must be raised **per family per home meet** is **\$50** for our home short-course meets (October and January) and **\$100** for our home long-course meet (Summer). If you would rather not participate in the fundraiser, you can elect to have the fundraising requirement billed directly to your online account. Additionally, if YOU would like to place an ad in the heat sheet to wish your swimmer good luck, you may do that as well. More details on the fundraiser will be provided in the fundraising packets.

Our Contract Swimmers are the role models for the Berzerkers. Contract Swimmers are expected to work hard, behave appropriately, and be ready to start practice on time.