

Hello Age Group Families and Swimmers:

We are eager to begin another season at the Kansas City Blazers and I am excited to serve as the Head Coach for our Age Group program. I would like to take a moment to share our team vision and group objectives, as well as, additional information as it relates to the Age Group program.

Our primary goal is overall team success through individual achievement. The vision for Age Group is not only to prepare our swimmers to compete at their best, but to continue to develop the character traits, technical skills and personal self-esteem necessary for each swimmer to realize their individual potential and goals for swimming. We endeavor to instill in our athletes a sense of dedication and self-discipline by offering a challenging program that allows swimmers to step outside of their comfort zone for a better chance at success.

At the Age Group level, swimmers are encouraged to attend practice 2 - 4 times per week. In addition to participating in local swim meets as recommended by the Head Coach, Age Group swimmers are encouraged to participate in our Blazer Series Swim Meets (developmental intra-squad meets) intended to allow our swimmers to experience the excitement of competition, while building their confidence in a supportive and fun environment.

Every athlete has the potential to accomplish whatever they envision for themselves in swimming and in life. As coaches, we want every swimmer to be able to take the most from each practice, swim meet, and any other Blazers team related event. Please take a moment to review the Age Group Program Information, in full, with your swimmer(s) to ensure that he or she is aware of the policies and expectations of the group.

There are expectations for practice and meet attendance that are imperative to your swimmer's success. As Head Coach of Age Group, I am looking forward to working with all of our swimmers from all 3 sites. We have a wonderful group of families returning and I am excited for the many new families that have joined for this year. Please never hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns, as soon as they arise.

I will be coaching Wednesday practices at CT and Friday practices at SMN. I will be at BVN Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Coach Kailey Morash will continue to serve as our Lead Coach at our Shawnee Mission North location and Coach Dillon Roe will be our Lead Coach at our California Trail location. Coach Kelsey Gertsema will continue to assist the Age Group teams and also run the Pre Blazers at Indian Trail. We have added new assistant coaches to our roster: Max Pritchett, Natalie Washington, Glen Martin and Maria Arthur.

Blue Valley North High School (BVN) - *Through May*

Monday/Tuesday - Thursday/Friday: **AGI** = 6:00 - 7:00 PM, **AGII** = 7:00-8:00

Address: 12200 Lamar, Overland Park, KS

California Trail Middle School (CT) - *Through May*

Monday - Thursday: **AGI** = 6:00 - 7:00 PM, **AGII** = 7:00-8:00

Address: 13775 W. 133rd Street, Olathe, KS

Shawnee Mission North High School (SMN) - *Through May*

Tuesday - Friday: **AGI** = 6:30-7:30 PM, **AGII** = 7:30-8:30

Address: 7401 Johnson Drive, Overland Park, KS

On behalf of our staff, we look forward to working with our Age Group swimmers and families in the upcoming season.