

2020-2021 WNCY PIRANHAS PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

Welcome to the team! Below we have compiled some information based on frequently asked questions to help you. **This parent guide is for parents of new and returning swimmers.** If you have a question that is not answered in the information below or do not understand something please feel free to email Kirk Hampleman (WNCY Piranhas Director) khampleman@ymcawnc.org or Kelly Bouchard (WNCY Piranhas Assistant Director) kbouchard@ymcawnc.org.

Team Emails

Once you have completed your child's online registration we will enter your email into the Team Unify system and you will begin to receive team emails. Once this happens you will be given instructions on how to set up your team unify account. Please do this; it is how you will later sign up for swim meets.

WNCY Piranhas Website

Most of the information that you will need can be found on the WNCY Piranhas Team Unify website by clicking the link below:

<https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?team=ncypwnc>

- For a practice schedule just click on the tab that says '**Schedule**.' Click on the pdf link that you want to view that schedule. We will also let you know when there will be a schedule change via email. For the most part we will try to keep the schedule the same, but it is subject to change on a seasonal basis due to pool availabilities.
- Listed under the '**Events**' tab you will find upcoming team events and swim meets. If you click on the event you can see who the event is for, where it will be located as well as the dates of the event. We will update these as more information is provided to us. There is also a registration

date listed, you need to sign up for the event by that date. When it is available we will attach a pdf with additional meet information. Warm-up times for meets will be sent out via email the week of the event when we receive them from the host team. This is usually on the Wednesday or Thursday prior to the meet. Warm-up times often change so pay attention to the warm-up time listed in this email rather than the one in the pdf information just in case it has changed.

Swim Seasons

WNCY Piranhas are a year round team. Registration for swim team is only done once a year and monthly drafts run from September to July (there is a half draft in April to account for the 2 week break). This is broken into two seasons, Short Course and Long Course. We break following YMCA Nationals each season. Breaks will be posted ahead of time under events on the website to help you plan ahead.

Short Course season is from September-April and we swim all of our meets in short course yards (25 yard pools). During this time we also practice in 25 yard pools. Following the short course season there will be a break for 2 weeks in April.

Long Course season is from April-August and we swim all of our meets in long course meters (50 meter pools). During this time we practice in both 50 meter pools and 25 yard pools. Following the long course season there will be a 1 month break in August.

Swim Meets

Swim meets are not required for Black Group, Orange Group and Senior Development swimmers, but we recommend that all swimmers attend them. They show the swimmers that their hard work pays off and it also gives the swimmers a better chance to socialize with their teammates. We find that swimmers who attend meets stick with the sport for longer.

Our team is registered as a USA Swimming and YMCA team. This means that our swimmers swim in both YMCA and USA Swimming meets. Keep in mind that all swimmers who qualify and wish to swim in YMCA Championship Meets will need to have participated in 3 YMCA only swim meets during the season. We will specify in the event description which meets these are.

All training groups will have at least one **focus meet** towards the end of each season that they will work towards and rest for. Some of these meets have “qualifying standards” or “time standards” which are times that the swimmer must meet to be entered in the meet. They can be found on the website under the ‘time standards’ tab. These meets are important to the swimmers and the team. They work so hard and it is important to give them goals. Our training each season is designed around this principle. Please note these dates ahead of time and mark them in your calendar. They will be posted under events on the website. They are usually in March and July.

- **Registration for Swim Meets**

When you are on Team Unify and you register for a meet, you need to leave a “note” for the coaches letting us know which days to sign your child up for the meet and any other information we should know.

To do this, follow the steps below:

1. Go to our team website
2. Click on the "Events" tab
3. Select the meet you are wishing to attend
4. Click on the "Edit Commitment" tab at the top right of the page (highlighted in pink)
5. In the drop down box, click "Yes, please sign (name) up for this event".
6. Directly below the drop down box is a text box for you to leave a note. This is where you inform us how many days you will be attending the meet.

Even if the event file has been uploaded, please do not select your child's events. Coaches choose events, parents do not. Due to the volume of emails concerning events we are no longer able to keep up and must ask that you do not contact us about this subject. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

- **Payment for Swim Meets**

Payment for swim meets is different from registration; it is a two part process. You can pay for a swim meet at the front desk of any YMCA of WNC center by either check or cash. All you must do is tell one of the front desk workers that you would like to "register my child for a swim team program."

From there you must know:

1. The name of the meet
2. How many days you are looking to pay for (how many days you will be attending the meet) from there the front desk can take you payment and print you a receipt.

Team Attire

All swim team members will receive a black and white Piranhas team shirt in the fall of each year and team cap at their first meet. Our team suit is a plain black suit. You can purchase an Arena black suit from our swim and tri shop, or just a plain black suit of your choice.

You can purchase swim suits, arena gear and equipment at our swim and tri shop by taking the following steps:

1. Go to our Team Unify website
2. hold your mouse icon over the "parent info" tab
3. scroll down to the "WNCY apparel" tab
4. click on the swim and tri link
http://www.swimandtri.com/Scripts/TeamView_WNCYPirhanas.aspx

Practice

Practice is time for swimmers and coaches to concentrate on the improvement of the swimmer. It is important that parents allow this development to occur without interruption. **Therefore we ask that parents not be present on deck or talk to their children during practice.** It is distracting for swimmers and coaches alike. We respect parents' interest in their children's activities and invite them to observe practice from outside the pool area or in a designated area. Parents are always welcome to ask questions of coaches BEFORE or AFTER practice. Please do not interrupt the coaches while they are coaching.

We respect family time together, including vacation time. Parents should be aware, however, that **extended time away from practice and competition in the middle of a season will affect a swimmer's performance.** The affect becomes greater the older and more competitive a swimmer becomes. One option to help offset this training interruption is to find a team in the area that you will be visiting and

arrange for your child to practice with them during your stay. Another is to find another YMCA or other facility in the area and ask your swimmer's coach to write your swimmer a practice or sets to do while you are away. To discuss time away from practice and the affects it will have, please contact the swim team director or assistant director.

If your child is practicing at the Buncombe County Pool or any other off site location (a location that is not the YMCA) you are required to pick up your children on time within 15 minutes of the end of practice.

Piranha-thon

The Piranha-thon is an annual fundraiser that we have to raise money for the team. The money goes towards financial aid for swimmers on the team in all branches of the YMCA of WNC. All swimmers are expected to participate. It is important to us and our team's mission that all children are given the opportunity to participate in the sport of swimming.

Parent Volunteering

The most successful swim teams have the most parent participation. It is important that we set a positive example for our young swimmers. Unlike other larger teams, we only host 2 meets a year (1 in October and 1 in May). The October Opener is a smaller meet where parent timers and other small jobs will need to be filled by parent volunteers. Our Hula meet in May is a much more extensive undertaking. We will need a Hula parent board to help us run the meet as well as volunteer hours from parents of all swimmers. There will be a job signup for this meet and every family will be expected to help out for 2 sessions of the meet. You can make a payment in lieu of volunteering, but we would prefer your volunteer hours. This is a very fun meet and we appreciate all of the help we can get.

Covid-19

It is important to us that we do everything possible to keep the swimmers, coaches and families of the aforementioned safe during the pandemic. We have set up various protocols to ensure that this happens. These protocols are important and are not optional. These protocols will be sent out via email prior to the start of the season. Please read them in their entirety to ensure the safety of all participants.