

## Putnam County YMCA Swim Team

---

### Swim Parent: FAQ's

#### General

**Cost of swim team:** To be a member of the Putnam County Swim team your child also needs to be a member of the Putnam County YMCA. Memberships can be purchased at the YMCA. Please inquire at the YMCA for pricing. Swim team costs vary depending on the number of children swimming from each family. The coach will have payment options listed at the beginning of each season on the team website.

**Swim team website:** We are now setup on TeamUnify website. You must be invited to be part of this website in order to gain access. If you have not received an invite email, please contact Coach Bre she will add you. You must click on the link in the website then create your password and account settings. At this website you will enter your swimmer to meets, sign up for job assignments for meets, pay any league fees due, see results of your child's swim and get updates about the team.

**Swim suits:** You do not need to purchase a team suit, although you are welcome to do so. A swim suit try-on is scheduled at the beginning of the swim season for any individuals wanting to purchase team or practice suits or team spirit wear.

**Cancellations:** If Ottawa Glandorf cancels school swim practice is automatically cancelled for that day. Other cancellations will be posted on the website as deemed necessary by the coaching staff.

**Mail boxes/Folders:** There are plastic totes at the end of the front desk at the YMCA for swim team "mail." All swimmers will have a folder inside the plastic tote. The folders are in alphabetic order. Please check your folder regularly for any information from the coach or awards.

**Practice times:** Practice times are listed on the website. Your child will be put into a group by the coach based on ability. The following are groups and practice times: Gold-Monday-Friday 4:30-6:00 Silver-MWF 4:30-6:00 TTh-4:30-5:30 Red-MWF-5:00-6:00 TTh 4:30-5:30 Black-TTh 6:00-6:45 F-5:15-6:00. Please note, especially for younger swimmers, they are not expected to practice 5 days a week.

**Watching practice:** Feel free to watch practice either from the bleachers in the pool area or (if you prefer not to sweat) from outside the windows at the north end of the pool.

## **Meets**

There are many swim meets scheduled throughout the year. No meets are mandatory, however, in order to compete at the Championship meet a swimmer must participate in at least 3 meets during the season. All meets are listed on the team website. In order to sign up for a meet you must apply online. If there is a problem getting signed up please let the coach know as soon as possible. If for any reason a swimmer needs to cancel a meet, please do so online or let the coach know at least one week in advance. The coaching staff understands that occasionally important/serious events occur that make it necessary to not attend a meet at the last minute. Please let the coach know as soon as you are aware you will be unable to attend.

What do I need to bring to a meet? The following items are recommendations by other swim parents but are completely optional: Swim suit/extra suit, at least 2 towels, goggles/extra goggles, permanent marker, flip flops, snacks, folding chairs, blanket, activities (cards, books, ipods, games) Sometimes equipment fails so having extra is not always a bad idea. Permanent markers are used by the swimmers to write their event number, lane assignment and event on their arm or leg. This helps the swimmer be responsible for making it to his/her event on time. Some, but not all, YMCA's provide a concession stand. It is recommended that you bring snacks your child may like. Typically at a meet there is a room where swimmers and spectators can gather between events. Folding chairs, blankets and activities are helpful especially during long meets.

How long is a meet? Meet times vary depending on the type of meet. Most YMCA dual or tri meets (meets with 2 or three teams) last 4-5 hours or less. Invitationals are typically an all day event and cost extra money to compete. Championships (Champs) runs over a 2 day period.

Where do I sit during a meet? Most but not all YMCAs offer a side room where parents can setup up chairs and blankets. Typically teams congregate together in these areas. You can then enter the pool area whenever you want to see someone swim.

### **Before the meet:**

Swimmers will be told what time their warm up is prior to each meet. It is recommended that you arrive at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before scheduled warm up time in order to get set up and ready for the day. Warm ups are very important for the swimmer to get their body ready for the exertion of the coming races. During warm-ups the swimmers will swim laps to get used to the pool and surrounding area.

**Heat sheets:** Heat sheets are a schedule of events for the swim meet. It lists in event number order the order for the day. It also lists each swimmer competing in that event. Heat sheets are typically, but not always, sold at the meet. It is helpful to purchase one so that you can follow along with where your child will be in the lineup.

**Lane assignments:** Sheets will be posted at the beginning of the meet with each swimmer listed in alphabetical order. This list will have the swimmers events for the day and their lane assignment. This is the information that they typically write on their arms or legs.

**Bullpen:** Unless otherwise indicated all swimmers 10 & under will report to the "bullpen" before their event. The bullpen is an area where young swimmers are lined up by event to ensure that they make it to the starting blocks on time. Young swimmers need to be aware when their event is being called to the bullpen. This usually happens well in advance of their scheduled event. Older swimmers are expected to report straight to the starting blocks in their correct lane a couple of events prior to their own event. The race will not be stopped to wait on a late swimmer.

After each event it is advised that each swimmer talk to the coach immediately. This way they can learn what they did right or wrong while it is still fresh in the coaches mind.

Directions to away meets are listed on the website

## **Volunteers Needed:**

Home meets are basically run by the swim parents. We are always in need of help/volunteers to make our meets go smoothly. The following is a list of jobs available. There is a place on the website where you can volunteer to help at each meet. We understand that as a first time swim parent your number one responsibility is ensuring your child is where they need to be. If any adult from the family can assist with other tasks it is greatly appreciated.

Our team parent responsible for the workers schedule is Joan Giesken, she can be reached with any questions at 419-615-3443 or email [jgiesken16@gmail.com](mailto:jgiesken16@gmail.com). If you have any questions or need to discuss your work assignment please contact her. Although the coaches can answer your questions they have enough to do just handling the swimmers!

**Concessions:** We offer concessions at each home meet. The concession operators are responsible for helping set up the concession stand, taking orders and money, and helping with clean up after the meet. Typically the concession is divided into time slots so you will not be expected to be there the entire meet. All parents are very good at filling in so you can watch your child swim their event.

**Timer/Head Timer:** At every home meet we have 12 timers per shift and 1 head timer. The timers responsibility is to time the swimmer in their assigned lane. Although we do have a timing/scoring system, the stop watch times are used as backup for the system. Approximately ½ hour prior to each meet a timers meeting is held to go over what the timers need to know to perform their job. The Head timer is responsible for starting 2 stop watches in case a timer forgets or is unable to properly start their stopwatch. Again, timers work in shifts so you will not be expected to work the entire meet.

**Runner:** The runners job is to collect the sheets that the timers fill out and get them to the computer operators.

**Computer/Scoring system operators:** We currently have a computerized scoring system that keeps track of swimmers times in each event. If you are interested in learning how to run the computer system please sign up on the website and you will gladly be trained.

**Officials:** In order to have a meet we also must have officials. Please note that all officials are volunteers and are typically parents of swimmers. They have to go through training and testing to be eligible to be an official. If you are interested in officials training, please see the website or talk to the coach.

If you should have any questions at all please seek out a veteran parent. We are always willing to help in any way.