

## TIGER SHARKS SUMMER SWIM

### General:

- **Cost of swim team:** For Summer Swim with Tiger Sharks you do NOT need to be a member of the YMCA. Summer swim team is organized and run by volunteer parents. The team will have a team suit you can purchase but are not required. The team suit is typically more than you would spend on a suit bought at the store but are great quality and can last multiple seasons depending on your child. Fees for summer swim are listed on the registration forms.
- **Swim team website:** [www.putnamcoswimteams.com](http://www.putnamcoswimteams.com) Our team uses TeamUnify website for all scheduling and news shared throughout the season. You may view all items on the site before you are a registered swimmer but to sign up to swim and volunteer at meets you will need to be registered and receive a log in. If you do not receive an initial email after signing up, please contact us for help. This site is very important to check regularly. Summer swim is a quick season and due to outdoor weather practices may have to be altered at the last minute. On this site you will sign up for all meets both for your swimmer and for you to volunteer to help at the home meets.
- **Cancellations:** Summer swim can be altered at the last minute due to weather or pool temperatures. We will have a text alert system. Please see registration form or website for alert sign up.
- **Practice times:** Practice times are listed on the website. Summer swim practice times are set up by age group. The coach may contact you to have your swimmer come at a different time than their age group depending on their ability. Please be sure to ask the coach if you have questions or concerns.

Swimmers are not required to attend all scheduled practices but the more practices the better your swimmer will become. If you do not attend practice regularly the coach may need to limit the number of events your swimmer participates in a meet. If you have concerns on the amount of time your child can attend practice please talk with the coach.

- **Watching practice:** Feel Free to watch practice from the seats around the pool.

### Meets:

If you swim winter swim you will find Summer swim a short season. There are several meets your swimmer can sign up to compete in. We ask that all swimmers on swim team swim at least one meet. No meets are mandatory, however, in order to compete at the Summer Swim Champs meet a swimmer must participate in at least 2 meets during the summer 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 (if in the time allowed) or contact the coach immediately. 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. Many times your swimmer is scheduled to swim in a relay event. If you

do not let the coach know far enough in advance or do not show up for the meet you are jeopardizing other swimmers to not be able to swim in the event.

- **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, blankets. 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, Summer venues provide a concession stand. It is recommended that you bring snacks your child may like.
- **How long is a meet?** Meet times vary depending on number of swimmers. Summer swim meets are typically 2-3 hours. Summer Swim Championships are held over a 2 day period and depending on your child's age group and schedule events they may swim one or both days.
- **Summer Swim Champs:** We hope most all of our swimmers will participate in the weekend. FOR SWIMMERS TO QUALIFY TO SWIM AT CHAMPIONSHIPS, HE/SHE MUST SWIM IN TWO DUAL MEETS. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. Summer champs have a limit of entries in each age group for boys and girls. If a group has a large number of swimmers the coach may have to make decisions as to who is able to swim in the events. Please talk with the coach if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child swimming in Champs.
- **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 meet. 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. Swimmers are expected to be ready to be in the pool at the time of warm-ups.
- **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. It is best for new swimmers to have parents aware of helping them understand when they need to line up. 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. The coach is able to give the student feedback on their event to improve for next time.

### **Volunteers Needed:**

When you sign up on the website for the meets your child will swim please also sign up for a job for the meet. Home meets are basically run by the swim parents. We are always in need of help/volunteers to make our meets go smoothly. Any parent that can help set up ahead or stay to put away equipment is greatly appreciated. It is important that one parent volunteers for a job for each meet. Summer is a short season, with only 3 home meets. With all parents helping the meet will run smoothly. We understand that if you are new to swim you may feel you are not able to volunteer because your number one responsibility is ensuring your child is where they need to be. Most swimmers catch on quickly to the flow of the meet and are able to get where they need to be. If any adult from the family can assist with other tasks it is greatly appreciated.

Because summer meets are typically less than 3 hours, we have one shift of workers for the swim meets. We will have sign up areas for floaters for the second half of the meet. Please leave these spots for those who can not make it to the pool by 4:45pm to start the meet. If you sign up for a position and **CAN NOT** work the whole meet, please indicate that in the note area when you sign up and a replacement will be provided half way through the meet.

If you do not sign up for a job at a meet you may be assigned to one. We need everyone's help for running a successful meet.

Our team parents responsible for the workers schedule are Joyce Utrup (419-230-1750 or [utrupj@hotmail.com](mailto:utrupj@hotmail.com)) and Caren Beckett (419-969-4827 or [carenbeckett@gmail.com](mailto:carenbeckett@gmail.com)). If you have any questions or need to discuss your work assignment please contact them.

Although the coaches can answer your questions they have enough to do just handling the swimmers!

### **Below is a list of the jobs needed filled for each meet**

- **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. Summer swim has a very basic concession stand and there is not much set up or clean up to handle. 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 6 timers 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 dolphin timers are used as backup for the

system. Approximately 15 minutes 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 the "watches". Quick training is provided to be sure everyone understands how to run the equipment.

- **Runner:** The runner's 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 let us know as there is training involved before the season begins.
- **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 let us know, there is a training planned soon at the YMCA.