

SWIM TEAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of Time Trials?

Time Trials enable coaches to place your child properly in relation to other swimmers in his/her age group. Being placed properly will allow your child to compete against swimmers of comparable ability/speed.

With so many children swimming, how often will my son or daughter get a chance to swim in a meet?

Most children in the 6 and under group swim in two events in every meet. Older children usually swim in two to five events. How is this possible? Each event may be run more than once. Each time an event is run is call a heat, and is designated A, B, C, etc. So HE 9 –10 girls may have swimmers in three lanes for three heats for, say 50 – free. That means that nine swimmers get to participate in that event.

How will I know what heats my child is in?

The day before or day of a meet, the coach will post the lineups by the girls' locker room. The event heat and lane number will be listed for your swimmer's events.

Will a meet be cancelled?

Meets are delayed or cancelled based on weather and this will be decided by the head coaches or park representative of each team prior to the start of the meet. Every attempt will be made to make up any meet which is cancelled.

When should we arrive at a meet?

Swimmers should arrive 45 minutes to 1 hour before the start of the meet to set up, positive check in and participate in warm ups. It is important to be on time so relays can be confirmed. Also, write event numbers and stroke on younger swimmers' hands in ballpoint pen or marker.

What is positive check in?

We ask each swimmer to highlight their name on the check in sheets (a copy of the line-ups) so that the coaches know which swimmers are at the meet and who is not. At a home meet, these sheets will be hung on the west side of the tennis court fence in the team area. At an away meet we will find a central point by our team area.

What to bring to a meet?

Most swimmers like to have a blanket or sleeping bag to sit on in between events. Bring at least two towels and warm, dry clothing – this is especially necessary at night and early in the morning early in the season. Bring baby powder to put in swim caps to make putting them on easier. Pack some entertainment: playing cards, books, gameboy, etc. Pack snacks or take advantage of concessions.

How long will the meet last?

Evening meets end around 9:00 – 9:30 P.M. and Saturday meets by 12:00 – 12:30 P.M. You have the option of leaving after your swimmer completes his/her individual events when they are not scheduled for the free relay at the end of the meet. If you are working as a volunteer, please stay until your job is complete. It is fun, too, to stay until the end to cheer on the team.

Swimming Events

At home meets our swimmers are usually in the odd numbered lanes; at away meets our swimmers are usually in the even numbered lanes. When you look at the line up (which is posted by the day before or day of a meet) it will indicate events your swimmer is in with the lane number and heat. "A" heats score points for the team; all other heats are non-scoring. Ribbons are awarded for each heat of each event.

Team Area

A team area is designated for each team at each swim meet. At home, our team area is the area between the west side of the tennis courts and the sidewalk. Swimmers are encouraged to remain in the designated team area between events unless they are going to concessions or the washroom. Food is to be eaten in the concession area.

Do I need to be with my child?

New swimmers' parents should stay with them and walk them through their races at the beginning – you can't count on the coaches to help them do this, since coaches will be busy with the events that are occurring at that moment. Until the swimmer is familiar and is old enough to pay attention to the event numbers, the parent needs to help. In addition, Clerk of Course volunteers will be in the team area and behind the blocks helping swimmers know when their events are and lining them up.