Dear Damascus Recreation Association Families, April 21, 2014

The DST Executive Committee members would like to welcome back all returning parents and swimmers from last year and also offer a special invitation to new parents who have children from ages 5 to 18 to join the 2014 Damascus Swim Team. We are all looking forward to a great season of competitive swim meets and fun events. We will be competing in the “G” Division of the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL). In addition to the A and B swim teams, we will again offer the Porpoise pre-team for children ages 5 to 8, who can demonstrate certain basic swimming skills.

# Coaching

We are pleased to announce our coaching staff this year will be led by Head Coach Buzz Maddox. Coach Maddox brings a great depth of coaching experience and skill to our team. She has coached both the Dolphins and the DHS Hornets in the recent past, and is looking forward to an exciting summer season. Our assistant coaching staff will include both paid and volunteer coaches.

**Eligibility**

Each swim team family must be a member in good standing of the Damascus Recreation Association. In addition, completed on-line registration and checks are required in order for your child(ren) to be eligible to participate in any practices and/or compete in any meets.

**Team Management & Registration**

## This year we will be using “Team Unify”, a web based, all in one solution, for swim team management. This product includes a new website as well as many other team management modules. The new website is still accessed via the damascusdolphins.org site. We will be using it for on-line registration as well as many other team management and information distribution processes. Families may register at their leisure before the general meeting. All of the traditional “forms” have been integrated into the registration process. The checks, registration and volunteer obligation, will be collected at the general meeting or need to be mailed ahead of this date, as no money will be collected on-line. On-line registration is currently open. In order to avoid late fees, all fees must be paid at or before the meeting on May 6, 2014. Members who cannot make the May 6th meeting must mail their checks postmarked by May 6th to the DST at: DST c/o Clay Sebring, 10013 Sweepstakes Rd, Damascus, MD  20872.

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| **2014 Fees** | **Porpoise** | **Dolphin** |
| **Registration Fee / Late Reg. Fee (after May 6th)** | $70 / 90 | $75 / 95 |
| **Volunteer Obligation Deposit (Dated Aug 15th)** | $200 | $200 |
| ***All checks made payable to DST*** |

**General Membership Meeting:**

***To be held on Tuesday, May 6th, at Clearspring Elementary School, in the All Purpose Room.***

The purpose of the meeting is to provide swim team families with all of the information needed to have an enjoyable and successful 2014 swim season. Apparel by DST, and swim suit sales by Aardvark, will begin at 6:15PM (and reconvene after the formal part of the meeting) and the meeting will begin at 7:00PM. This year we have a new team suit - TYR Phoenix Splice Black/Blue with the Dolphin Logo. It is available w/logo at the meeting, or at the Aardvark store. (Girls $59; Boys Jammer $39; Boys Racer $33, ALL plus tax). It is also available w/out the team logo at swimoutlet.com.In addition, swimmer registration will take place for those who were unable to complete it on-line. Volunteer obligation and snack bar sign-up will be explained. These sign-ups will take place on-line at a designated date after the meeting.

### Volunteer Obligations

As the veteran swim families know, it takes approximately 45 volunteers to run a successful home meet. To this end, parents must work volunteer obligations, the number will be presented at the General Meeting. Each swim team and porpoise family must run the snack bar for one afternoon during the summer. With your cooperation, meets will run smoothly and be fun and safe for everyone. If the required number of swim meet and/or snack bar duties is not completed for a swimmer/family by the end of the swim season; the $200 deposit will be forfeited in lieu of the volunteer obligation.

# Practice Times and Dates

Evening Practices During School: May 27 to June 13 Monday - Friday

 13-18: 3:30 - 4:45PM

 9-12: 4:45 - 5:45PM

 8 & Under: 5:45 - 6:30PM

Morning Practices June 16 to Season End: Monday - Friday

13-18: 7:45 - 9:00 AM

 9-12: 9:00 - 10:00 AM

 8 & Under: 10:00 - 10:45 AM

 Porpoise 10:45- 11:15 AM

Evening Practices Starting June 17th

 Time and Dates are To Be Determined (TBD)

# Other Important Dates

* Time Trials ------- Saturday, June 7th – Time to be posted on the website
* First A Meet ------ Saturday, June 14th vs. Chevy Chase (away) First B Meet, Wednesday, June18th, vs. Hallowell(home)
* Awards Banquet--------Sunday, July 20th.
* All Star Relays---------Saturday, July 26th, All Star Individuals----------Sunday July 27th.

*Thanks and see you soon, David Schwarzenberg, DST President.*