**Dual Meets – General Information**

Swim meets begin with a 30 minute warm-up time followed by the competition portion of the meet. A meet consists of 80 events and usually lasts between 2 ½ and 3 hours.

Dual meets have 5 individual events and 2 relay events. Each of the events is broken down into age groups: age 8 and under, age 9-10, age 11-12, age 13-14, and age 15-18. The age groups are also divided by gender. A home meet consists of the following events starting with the girls’ 8 and under age group:

Events 1-10: Long Freestyle

 11-20: Medley Relay

 21-30: Short Freestyle

 31-40: Backstroke

 41-50 Individual Medley

 51-60 Breaststroke

 61-70 Butterfly

 71-80 Freestyle Relay

Individual stroke events are 25 m for age 8 and under, and 50 m for age 9 and up (with the exception of the Long Freestyle which is 50m and 100m respectively). Relay and medley events are 100 m for age 8 and under, and 200 m for ages 9 and up. Dual meets at other pools will often have a pool measured in yards instead of meters. At a few meets, age 9-10 swimmers will only swim 25m (individual) and 100m (medley and relay) events.

Each swimmer may swim in three individual events and two relay events. Because of the number of swimmers on the team, most swimmers will be entered in anywhere from 1 – 5 events depending on the number of lanes the pool has, the number of swimmers in the age group, and their attendance at practice. If a swimmer is asked to “swim up” with an older age group, they must do so the entire meet.

At home meets, extra heats of an event may be held so that more of Morton’s swimmers may participate. For example, the 25 meter freestyle may be run three different times. The first two times it is run are called exhibition heats, are run exactly like the last heat which is considered a “competitive” heat, but they are run only to give our kids more chances to swim. The only awards given for exhibition heats are personal best ribbons. Exhibition heats do not count toward the scoring of the meet.

The coaches assign all swim meet participants to their events. Swimmers can find the events they will be swimming at a meet on the website during the day of a meet. Be sure to check the posted event listing once arriving at the pool as changes are usually necessary.

The “bullpen” is the location where swimmers are lined up in preparation for events. Event numbers will be posted so that swimmers know when they should proceed to the bullpen to wait for their next event. Some away meets do not use a bull pen. In that case, swimmers will need to report directly to their lane several events before the one they are swimming.

Scoring: team points for individual events are earned as follows:

Individual events:

Place: 1s t – 7 points 2nd – 5 points 3rd – 4 points

 4th – 3 points 5th – 2 points 6th – 1 point

 Relay events:

 Place: 1st – 8 points 2nd – 4 points (a swim team can only win one place)

Swimmers age 12 and under will receive ribbons for 1st – 8th place for competitive heats (non-exhibition heats). Additional awards will be given for self-improvement. Ribbons may be picked up from the mailboxes. Swimmers 13 and up will celebrate with a treat following practice sometime during the week.

Swimmers must indicate which meets they are attending through the Otters website at the beginning of the summer. Once commitments are made, the coaches need to be made aware of any changes that are made.

The second week of swim team will include a mock swim meet, called Time Trials, in which swimmers will be timed in several events. The coaches will use these times to help with placing swimmers in events during upcoming meets.

Directions to away meets and information about the pool are available on the Otters website.

Meet results are posted on the team website. Find the meet for which you wish to see results under the events tab, click on the meet name, and look for meet results under Forms/Documents.