

TIMING CHAIR ASSIGNMENTS

For most of you, this should serve as a reminder. For new parents, this is to let you know.

THE REQUIREMENT

When SEAL attends a swim meet, we as well as other teams, have the responsibility for one or more timing chairs throughout the meet. This assignment is part of our team's requirement to attend the meet. To do this, the responsibility is passed on to the families of our participating swimmers. Some attempt will be made to coordinate your actual time to fill with your swimmer's meet schedule, but **regardless of the circumstances, all families participating in the meet are required to "fill" a timing assignment. Once you are given your assignment, it is your responsibility. How it is filled is up to you.**

It is our goal to arrange assignments so that each family only has to do one assignment per day. Assignments are given for each family and not necessarily for each swimmer. If a family has two swimmers registered in the meet, in the same session, generally they still will only get one assignment. They may be asked to do two assignments if needed. However, families participating in both sessions will most likely need to "fill" a chair in both sessions.

HOW SEAL IS ASSIGNED TO CHAIRS

We, like other teams, are assigned timing chairs based on the number of swimmers we have registered for the meet. The host team is responsible for assigning teams their chairs. Days before the meet starts, the host team is given the number of swimmers registered for the meet from each team. They then divide up the chairs accordingly. Teams with many swimmers will have more chairs than teams with fewer swimmers. Most of the time, the host team will look at the registered swimmers in each session when making the assignments. **Once the host team assigns us our requirement of chairs, it is our responsibility to fill those chairs for the entire meet.**

A problem here is when families register for the meet but do not actually show up to participate. By doing this, you are increasing the likelihood of more timing chairs for our team without contributing to the families to do so. Please

take this into account when registering your swimmer and deciding not to attend.

DECIDING NOT TO TIME IS A PROBLEM

In all honesty, there is rarely a problem in passing on the responsibility from the team to the families. With this team especially, most of you understand what is required and do what is needed. Occasionally, families fail to understand the importance of their participation in helping the team out, which means the responsibility, is passed onto the other families already fulfilling their requirement. This understandably causes tension among the families. This can be avoided simply by realizing that you need to do your part.

When registering your swimmer, realize what your responsibility is, and take care of it.

As mentioned earlier, we do not have a problem with this on SEAL. There have been some isolated cases but I hope this will help inform and remedy these in the future.

Currently the team does not have a policy to deal with families who do not fulfill their requirement because it has never been a problem. I do not expect anything to change. Let's try and remember what our goals are for the swimmers participating in the meets and what they have been doing to have a successful meet. Once we do that, taking on our responsibility for timing seems so easy and insignificant. It is the least we can do. So let's just understand what we need to do and do it.

Thank you,

SEAL Beach Swim Team Board