



Swim Torrance Team Philosophy for Practice Group Placements

Swim Torrance's ENDS, our organizational goals, focus on providing lifelong enrichment from the sport of swimming, inspiring our athletes to train for elite levels, presenting collegiate swimming opportunities, and being a model for others in the swimming community. We strive for continuity and developmental progression through our team divisions.

Finding the appropriate group for each swimmer is the goal, and our top priority is to place every swimmer in a group that will allow them to develop and shine while continuing to progress at Swim Torrance. Each group has a floor, but not a ceiling. By that we mean each group has different standards for membership (the floor), but does not have limits on achievement (a ceiling). Each athlete's group is not a predictor of future success, nor an indicator of his/her worth to the team or to the coaches. First and last, we view swimmers as outstanding young people.

Some of the most important factors driving group placement are a swimmer's grade in school, commitment (practice attendance, meet participation, prioritization of the sport), maturity (physiological age and emotional development), training ability, and technique. Racing times are not a primary factor, although they can be taken into consideration because times translate to meet qualification and training needs. The coaches want swimmers to focus on the process of what they are doing every day in practice and be immersed in an group environment that will help them succeed in all areas of their swimming.

We understand that group moves are not a small change in the lives of parents. The change in schedule can potentially affect other activities, carpools, team dues, coaches and expectations. But just like going from middle school to high school, or from one level of math to the next, these moves are necessary steps along the path towards successful long-term swimming.

At Swim Torrance we believe teaching each swimmer to take ownership of the sport is critical to self-development and success. A major part of ownership is building a relationship with his/her coach through open communication and trust. Parents play a critical role in how their swimmer thinks and feels about this process, and we encourage parents to model open communication by setting up a meeting with their lead coach if there are questions or concerns about group changes.

The Coaching Staff appreciates all the time and energy our members spend making our program a great place for all families and athletes. We hope all swimmers finish the season on a positive note. Let's continue that energy into the coming season and keep building Swim Torrance into one of the best programs in the country.