



WELCOME TO THE WAVE!

We're so glad you've decided to join the Wave! This document is intended to help you learn how to navigate through our website, help you know who to ask when questions arise and teach you about what it means to be a part of the Wave family.

How is the Wave different from other teams?

Fox Valley Wave Swim Team, a member of USA Swimming, is a competitive swim club which focuses on developing each child's full potential in and out of the water. While the Wave Swim Team is a competitive swim club, the team's philosophy is to dedicate a considerable amount of time and energy to building youth development, character, and leadership in and out of the pool to help swimmers achieve their highest personal goals in life. Emphasis for youth age 13 and under is to enjoy the sport of swimming while working to improve swim skills. Swimmers over age 13 receive more emphasis on stroke development and focus on helping each individual swimmer achieve their maximum potential as competitive swimmers.

When a young person becomes a member of the Fox Valley Wave Swim Team, he/she learns the values of sportsmanship and teamwork. Swimming with Fox Valley Wave provides physical, emotional and intellectual skills which will last a lifetime. Our mission is to establish a culture of excellence, which provides each swimmer the opportunity to achieve their highest personal goals in swimming and life.

Expectations of being on the Wave:

1. Swim Practice

Bronze swimmers are asked to attend a minimum of 2 practices a week, Silver swimmers are asked to attend a minimum of 3 and Gold a minimum of 4 practices per week.

2. Volunteering and participation

-We host two swim meets (MayFly in May and Splashfest in February). All swimmers are expected to swim at home meets, and home meets are a great opportunity to have lots of support around you from all other Wave families! All families are required to volunteer whether their swimmer participates, either by helping during the meet or by bringing supplies for the meet.

-We also have an annual Swimathon event in the summer where swimmers get pledges for swimming laps (similar to Jump Rope for Heart). All swimmers are expected to participate. Even if families cannot attend the Swimathon, time is added to practice to help swimmers make their pledge times. All 3 of these events are very important to the Wave's operating budget. They are the biggest source of team revenue besides member fees.

How does competitive swimming “work”?

1. Swim seasons.

-The Wave’s swim year has two swim seasons which mirror the Wisconsin USA Swimming schedule. The winter, or "short course", season runs from mid-September to mid-March. The meets are held in a 25-yard pool (similar to what you see at Neenah or Appleton North). The summer, or "long course", season runs from early April to mid-August. Summer meets are generally held in 50 meter pools (Olympic size, like Appleton’s Erb pool). You may wonder why there are two different types of seasons swam in yards and meters. High school and collegiate competition in the U.S. takes place in yards, so club swimming focuses on yards in the fall/winter. Global swim competitions such as the Olympics take place in meters (remember that countries other than the U.S. are on the metric system) so spring/summer seasons follow the global standard.

2. Local meets vs. Milwaukee area meets

-Typically, most meets within an hour radius of the Fox Valley are “developmental” meets, meaning any swimmer can swim, regardless of ability. These meets are a great way for your swimmer to try out swim meets, and in the fall/winter swim season, a chance for your swimmer to make state qualifying times.

-Meets in the Milwaukee area are usually larger meets and might be harder to navigate for a family new to the sport of swimming.

-As your child progresses in the sport of swimming, there are other “qualification” meets, which only allow swimmers with a specific time to swim at the meet.

You will receive an email telling you about deadlines for signing up for meets. You must click “attend/decline” to sign up for a meet.

What’s the cost? How do I pay for things?

1. The **fees** for being a part of the Wave are listed on our website under “Practice Teams” and then “Fee Schedule.” The Fall-Winter fees are slightly higher than the Spring-Summer fees because swimmers have a longer season.
2. Swimmers and their families are billed monthly for any swim meets or apparel purchased through the Wave. You will receive an invoice and will be directed to pay using our website. All payments must be made by credit or debit card.

How can I defray the cost of swimming?

1. Utilize our corporate sponsors: Speedo, Elsmore Swimming and Amazon smile to purchase equipment.
2. Purchase Scrip cards from the Wave. 50% of all of your proceeds go toward your Wave fees and 50% go to our team. Scrip cards can be used to purchase nearly everything, from hotels to groceries. Talk to Susan Harper (susan.harper@thrivent.com) for more information.
3. The Wave is currently accepting corporate donations. Some local employers offer monetary donations when their employees volunteer a certain number of hours. Other local employers might be interested in sponsoring the Wave or its swim meets. Please contact any Board member for more information about sponsorships and corporate donations.

Who should I contact with questions, suggestions or to volunteer?

Under the coaches tab, you will find not only the coach bios, but email addresses. All board members are also listed, with email addresses. Finally, our team administrator is Ruthe Zimmerman, and she can help you get in touch with whomever might address your concerns. Her email is mrszimy@gmail.com