



McFarland Spartan Sharks

2022 Spring & Summer

Important Information & Frequently Asked Questions

MSS is pleased to offer a safe, high-quality Spring and Summer swim session at the Angie O'Donnell Aquatic Center (AOAC) at McFarland High School and for our summer Senior 1 group – the Goodman Pool. We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from our MSS families and our partnership with the AOAC, the McFarland School District and the Madison Parks/Goodman Pool. The McFarland Spartan Sharks' Coaches and Board of Directors look forward to our Summer Meet in June 2022 along with participation in other local and regional swim meets.

This document is designed to provide transparency to our MSS business operations as well as programming during our club's 2022 Spring and Summer Sessions. **We apologize for the length, but we strongly encourage families read this document in its entirety prior to registering your swimmer.**

Registration, Swim Evaluations, Payment Processes and Fees

Q: When does online registration open and how are *current and returning swim families* defined?

A: Online registration will open for *current and returning MSS families* on **Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 7 a.m.** and will close on **Tuesday, March 15, 2021 at 8 p.m.** Current and returning families are defined as those families who had swimmer who swam with **MSS between March 2021 – February 2022** Current and returning families may also register new swimmers in this first wave of registration as long as your **new swimmer has had a swim evaluation or specific group placement recommendation from one of our coaches.** (See information regarding Swim Evaluations below.)

If spots remain in swim groups, MSS will reopen the registration portal for *families new to MSS* on **Thursday, March 17, 2021 at 7 a.m.** and will close registration on **Saturday March 19 at 8 p.m.** (See information regarding Swim Evaluations below.)

Q: How do swim evaluations work and who should participate in a swim evaluation with MSS?

A: MSS recommends swim evaluations for swimmers who are new to the swim team experience and for swimmers who have not swam with a swim team for a period of time. MSS conducts swim evaluations to make certain that all swimmers have a good experience in the pool and are ready for the swim team experience. ***All swimmers who are new MSS (including swimmers considering transferring from other swim teams and siblings of current MSS swimmers) should consult with Coach Neil Weiss about the need for a swim evaluation.*** Evaluations are free, fun, take about 15 minutes to complete and are held at the Angie O'Donnell Aquatic Center at the McFarland High School. **Coach Neil will be available for**

swim evaluations February 7-10. **Please email Coach Neil at neilweiss@spartansharks.com to sign up for a swim evaluation.**

Q: Is MSS anticipating room for new families this session? How do MSS waitlists work?

A: The Spring and Summer swim groups will be the same sizes as we had in our 2021-2022 Fall and Winter sessions. We are not decreasing group sizes and encourage families interested in having their child swim with MSS this Spring and/or Summer to contact Coach Neil Weiss at neilweiss@spartansharks.com to discuss potential swim placement and set up a swim evaluation if needed. If swim groups are full, families have the option of registering to a waitlist at no charge.

Q: What is included with the MSS Registration? Do swimmers need to bring their own equipment?

A: Registration includes a MSS swim cap and a MSS T-shirt! (Please note your swimmer's shirt size in the online registration process.) *All swimmers will need to have goggles, a mask and ziploc bag for their mask at each practice.* Swimmers can purchase a team suit from our online store by the start of the session. Senior 13/14 and Senior 1 swimmers should talk with their coach about purchasing other equipment to bring to practice.

Q: I understand that MSS Board members are able to sign up their swimmers ahead of the scheduled registration time. Is this true, and if so, can you please explain the rationale behind this practice?

A: Yes, MSS Board members are able to register their swimmers ahead of the opening of registration. MSS bylaws require that Board members are a family member of a current MSS swimmer in order to be on the Board. The early registration ensures that Board members meet this bylaw requirement. It is also the means by which our club tests our registration system as we do not have a test site available for this purpose. MSS will not allow anyone outside the Board to register prior to the scheduled opening of registration.

Q: I see that registration is online and payment is requested via credit card. How will credit card billing work? Is there any way I can pay by check instead?

A: MSS is not able process personal checks or receive cash at this time. Our registration system, TeamUnify, allows for credit card payment, and the system will ask for permission to bill your credit card, not just for this payment but for upcoming fees as well. Session fees and monthly payments are detailed on the payment information listed under the Registration tab on the website. The USA Seasonal Swimming fee will also be collected during the online registration for swimmers who did not swim during the 2021-2022 Fall/Winter season. Any meet splash fees (fees for meet participation) for participating swimmers will also be charged to the credit card on file.

Q: How do refunds work?

A: MSS will grant a refund for the current payment if a swimmer is injured, or has a health-related reason that prevents them from completing the session. We are unable to refund USA Swimming fees.

Q: It looks like I can only register for Spring and Summer if my swimmer sticks with a 3 or 5 day option for the Extreme and/or Travelers Groups. Is this correct? What if my swimmer needs to move up to different group between the Spring and Summer session?

A: Unfortunately the set up of the online registration and swim demands that we keep the joint Spring/Summer Option to a single group (either 3 day or 5 day). If your swimmer needs to move up in summer we will request you register for the preferred Spring swim group and email

mssreg@gmail.com and explain the plan for the summer. We will manually correct the swim group assignment and fees for summer.

Q: I understand that MSS is offering a multi-swimmer discount during this registration. Is this true and if so, what sort of discount can I expect?

A: Yes, MSS is pleased to offer a multi-swimmer discount for our member families for the spring and summer session and hopes to continue this practice moving forward. The swim fee discounts are applied as follows:

- 7.5% for 2 swimmers
- 10% for 3 swimmers
- 12.5% for 4 swimmers

Swim Groups

Q: Are there specific practice days for the Travelers and Extreme 3-Day groups?

A: Travelers and Extreme 3-Day registrants may select the 3 days of the week they wish to attend practice.

Q: How do I know if my swimmer is supposed to move up to the next swim group during the 2022 Spring or Summer Session?

A: Please check in with your swimmer's coach if you have any questions about swim group placement for your swimmer. Coaches will do their best to communicate with both swimmers and parents about any recommended swim group changes prior to registration.

Q: How can I find out who is coaching each swim group in the Spring and/or Summer Session?

A: Any questions about swim group coaches can be directed to Head Coach Nick Weiss at nickwweiss@gmail.com or Head Age Group Coach Neil Weiss at neilweiss@spartansharks.com.

Practices

Q: Will MSS swimmers be able to use the locker rooms to change or will they be using the changing stalls?

A: At this time the AOAC is allowing limited numbers of swimmers for very short periods of time (generally 10 minutes or less). The changing stalls are available to MSS swimmers as well. MSS and the AOAC are requesting that locker room usage be minimized as much as possible. Swimmers who are able to arrive "swim ready" and depart the pool without using the locker room will be encouraged to do so.

Q: Will parents be able to watch practice?

A: At this time MSS is unable to allow spectators on deck during practices. Our coaches will reach out to families if and when spectators can attend practices.

Q: Is MSS able to offer bus transportation from McFarland Conrad Elvehjem and Waubesa Intermediate School during the Spring Session?

A: Yes, MSS is again partnering with Nelson bus company to offer bus service during the Spring Session. Bus fees are listed under the Registration tab. **Bus sign up links and instructions will be emailed to families by March 21, 2022 (just after registration closes).**

Competition

Q: Does MSS anticipate any competitive swimming or intersquad meets this spring and summer? What swim meet commitment is required for MSS swimmers?

A: Meets are strongly encouraged but not required for MSS swimmers. MSS is finalizing the the Spring/Summer Meet schedule, and it will be posted on the website in the next few weeks. **Mark your calendar! MSS will be hosting our summer home meet on June 25th and 26th.** All MSS families are asked to assist with our home meet (more info below).

Family Service Hour Obligation

Q: What is MSS's Family Service Hour Obligation?

A: MSS is a not-for-profit swim club that relies on volunteers in order to execute our mission and offer a high-quality swim program for all of our swimmers. Although we need and appreciate volunteers in variety of roles, we require a volunteer commitment for our home swim meets as follows:

- Each MSS family is required to work 8 hours during the meet. Job shifts may be either 2- or 4-hours in length. You can combine shifts, if available, to meet the total 8-hour obligation.
- Each 4-hour shift worked in a premium job role will be counted as 8 hours (and you are automatically entered for a raffle prize). ***Premium job roles are: Timer, Head Timer, Colorado Operator, and Hytek Operator. (Training required for Colorado Operator.)***
Fun Fact: In appreciation for **each** shift worked beyond the family 8-hour requirement, you will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win raffle prizes!

Families that absolutely cannot assist with a volunteer shift during the meet can request to volunteer for another task to assist in preparing for the meet. Please reach out to our Jason Kraemer, MSS's Volunteer Coordinator, at Jason.kraemer2021@gmail.com as soon as possible if you know your family will have challenges meeting the volunteer shift commitment at the MSS Home Meet.

Q: Is there a penalty for not meeting the family service hour commitment per family at the home swim meet? Can my family make a donation to MSS in lieu of volunteering?

A: MSS greatly appreciates any and all donations to our club, but we are unable to take donations in lieu of a volunteer/family service hour commitment as we need people to attend to necessary meet tasks in order to ensure a safe and fun experience for all participating swimmers. Your service hour obligation can, however, be fulfilled by another swim family, family member such as grandparent, or friend. Please communicate to the Volunteer Coordinator if you have others filling your job shifts on your behalf. If you are unable to volunteer at a home meet, please reach out to the volunteer coordinator as soon as possible to seek another option to fulfill your service hour obligation. If your 8 hours per family requirement is not fulfilled, your family will not be considered in good standing with the club. This means that during the next MSS registration, your family will NOT be able to participate in priority registration as a current or returning MSS family. Your registration will be accepted along with new families if spots are available within the swim group.

Safe Swim and the Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy *(Updated Item: 7.31.21)*

- Q: What is “Safe Swim”? Will there be any other requirements of my swimmer or family throughout the swim season that have not been addressed elsewhere in this document?**
- A:** Yes. MSS is a *Safe Sport Designated Club* and as such there is **Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)** training that will be mandatory for **all parents of athletes**, as well as all **Minor Athletes ages 12-17**. Please keep an eye out for an email coming soon, from our Safe Sport Coordinator, with details about how to complete this mandatory and brief 30–40-minute training, **before Thursday, 9/30/2021**.

Meeting the Coaches and Other MSS Activities

- Q: Will there be any opportunity to meet the coaches before the first practice?**
- A:** If you are uncertain about who is coaching your swimmer’s swim group and/or you or your swimmer has any questions about the first day of practice we encourage you to reach out to Coach Neil Weiss at neilweiss@spartansharks.com and Coach Nick Weiss at nickwweiss@gmail.com.
- Q: Does MSS offer any other team building or social opportunities for swimmers or parents besides swim meet participation?**
- A:** Yes, prior to the pandemic MSS swimmers gathered for pizza and watched the McFarland HS swim teams, held an annual Halloween party and hosted a fun laser tag fundraiser for our member families. At this time, the board welcomes thoughts and feedback from our membership about safe activities that they would enjoy. **Fun fact: MSS will be celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2022!** Our Club is working to find all sorts of creative ways to safely celebrate this great milestone. Stay tuned!