



McFarland Spartan Sharks

2021 Spring Session

Important Information and Frequently Asked Questions

MSS is pleased to offer a safe, high-quality Spring swim session at the Angie O'Donnell Aquatic Center (AOAC) at McFarland High School. Doing so amidst the pandemic requires strong partnerships with the AOAC and our MSS families, and we are incredibly grateful for your support along with the support of AOAC Director Stu Schaefer and the McFarland School District.

*McFarland Spartan Sharks' Coaches and Board of Directors are committed to providing the best swim experience we can given the necessary safety precautions we all must take at this time. This document is designed to provide transparency to needed changes in our Club's business operations as well as programming. **We apologize for the length, but we strongly encourage families to read this document in its entirety prior to registering your swimmer.***

Registration, Payment Processes and Fees

Q: When is online registration open?

A: Online registration will open for returning and waitlisted swimmers from the MSS 2020-2021 Fall/Winter Session on **Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 7 a.m.** and will close on **Wednesday, February 10, 2021. If any spots remain** MSS will re-open the registration portal on **Sunday February 14, 2021.** **Returning MSS families will again have priority registration on the February 14 portal opening. This will also be the time families can register siblings who did not swim or were not waitlisted in the the Fall/Winter Session.**

Q: I have a swimmer currently participating in MSS's 2020-2021 Fall/Winter Session and want to sign up our younger child for MINIS on February 14th (if spots remain). Can I just sign up my little one?

A: Please reach out to **Coach Neil or Coach Sara *before* signing up siblings for the Spring Session.** MSS wants to make certain that all swimmers have a good experience in the pool and are ready for the swim team experience (especially with the increased rules and restrictions at this time).

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

A: MSS has had to limit swim group sizes in this spring session owing to current public health orders. We are able accommodate current 2021 swimmers and those on the waitlist from the 2020-21 Fall/Winter Registration. It is possible we will have a few slots remaining if not all current and waitlisted swimmers

return for this Spring session. MSS cannot say for certain, but is unlikely that our club will be able to take on new swim families in the Spring Session. At this time we anticipate any remaining spots will be filled by siblings of current swimmers or returning MSS families who did not register for the 2020-2021 Fall Session.

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 by-laws 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 by-law requirement. It is also the means by which our club tests 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 owing to the restrictions of the pandemic. Team Unify's system 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. MSS will split swim session fees for the Spring into three payments – February (at Registration), and then the 1st of March and 1st of April. Any outstanding fees (a USA Swim Fee for those who did not swim in Fall/Winter) will be processed with the February payment. If MSS is able to participate in any swim meets Splash fees 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 month's payment if a swimmer is injured and unable to complete the session. We are unable to refund USA Swim fees.

Swim Groups

Q: I see that Travelers is slated for M/W/F only. Is there any flexibility on these days?

A: Unfortunately, no. Ordinarily, MSS coaches encourage flexible days for 3-day swimmers, but for this session we cannot have swimmers switching days owing to available pool time, the need for social distancing, and the need to help AOAC monitor attendance at the pool.

Q: I was hoping MSS would offer a 3-Day Extreme Group this session but I didn't see it. Is this a possibility? Will there be a Saturday only Extreme Group this session?

A: No, we are very sorry but we are unable to offer a 3-Day Extreme option this session or the interim *Saturday Only* Extreme Group from this Winter. MSS will revisit all our Swim Group offerings for the Summer session.

Q: How do I know if my swimmer is supposed to move up to the next swim group during the Spring 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.

Practices

Q: It appears that there are not any changes to the current pool guidelines for locker room use or parent entry to the pool. Does MSS anticipate any changes to these guidelines?

A: We are not anticipating any immediate changes to the AOAC Pool Use Guidelines but will communicate any and all changes as we learn of them. Questions about the pool can be directed to AOAC Pool Director Stu Schaefer.

Q: It appears practice times are still shorter than were scheduled before the pandemic. Is there any way to expand my swimmer's time in the pool?

A: Practice times had to be cut for most of groups either in days or duration. This was necessary based upon the available pool time and the need to social distance swimmers. Unfortunately, MSS has no way to expand pool time for swimmers beyond what is scheduled at this time.

Q: How many swimmers will there be to a lane?

A: The Angie O'Donnell Aquatic Center is allowing MSS to have up to four swimmers per lane swimmers per lane. Please talk with your coach about lane assignments and or work out plans for your swimmer's specific swim group.

Q: I didn't see any information about Spring Bus Service? Any way we can get transportation to the pool for our younger swimmers?

A: MSS does not have access to use of the Nelson Bus Service this session.

Competition

Q: Does MSS anticipate any competitive swimming or intersquad meets this Spring?

A: Wisconsin Swimming has not posted Spring Meet info or guidelines at this time. MSS will keep our membership apprised if and when this changes. MSS will work with the AOAC to determine if we can offer any intersquad meets for the Spring Session and will notice our membership about this early in the season.