



McFarland Spartan Sharks

2020-21 Fall/Winter Session

Important Information and Frequently Asked Questions

MSS is pleased to offer a safe, high-quality Fall/Winter 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 families (those families whose swimmer participated in MSS in Fall/Winter 2019-20 and/or Spring/Summer 2020) on **Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 7 a.m.** and will close **on Friday, September 4, 2020 at 9 p.m.** Families who did not have swimmers with MSS in the past year will be able to register **Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 7 a.m. through Friday, September 4, 2020 at 9 p.m.**

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 session owing to current public health orders. We will be opening registration to new families and those who have not swam with MSS in the last year, but we are expecting most, if not all, groups will be waitlisted. It is possible this could be the case for even a few returning families as well. For this reason, if you're child's swim group is full, we ask interested families to **COMPLETE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION AND SIGN UP FOR A SWIM GROUP WAITLIST.** There is no obligation nor charge for being on the waitlist. If families opt not to finish this Fall/Winter Session or public health orders change, we will bring new swimmers into the program using these waitlists. Coaches may suggest a swim evaluation for any new MSS swimmers prior to beginning practices.

Q: It looks like the fees have increased since last year. Can you please explain the current fees? Will fees change if MSS is able to add more swimmers to practice times?

A: Yes, MSS has had to increase fees to help cover the costs of pool rental and coaching costs, which are typically covered by larger swim groups and the revenue that comes from hosting our annual Fall Swim

Meet and other fundraising events. MSS has kept administrative costs down and will increase pool time for swim groups as soon as we are able to do so. We cannot promise decreases in fees at this time, but the Board is committed to keeping our fees at reasonable levels and will make adjustments if it is feasible to do so.

Q: Will you accept credit cards? Will there be a MSS Payment Night? How does payment work?

A: MSS is pleased to announce that we are accepting online credit card payment for this registration as current public health guidelines do not support a payment night. In fact, **MSS IS ONLY ACCEPTING ONLINE CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FOR THIS REGISTRATION.** We cannot accept cash or checks. Payments will look different in another way as well. **Rather than collect all payment up front, MSS will be collecting swim group fees MONTHLY VIA CREDIT CARD this Fall/Winter session.**

Here is the breakdown: The September payment will include the *USA Swimming Fee, Fundraising Fee and two months of the Swim Group Fees*. Billing from October forward will be that month's portion of the monthly swim fee charged the credit card provided at registration. If competition resumes, splash fees for swim meets will be charged monthly as well.

Q: What if we want to take a break from this session or my swimmer is injured for a period of time. Does the new monthly billing allow families to take a break and come back before the end of the Fall/Winter Season?

A: No. Given the expected waitlists, MSS will not be able to hold spots in swim groups. Any family who opts to not finish the season will lose their spot. Any family who does not complete the season for reasons other than swimmer illness or injury will not be granted priority registration in next MSS swim season.

Q: We have a credit with MSS from the last session. How are credits applied? What do I do if my swimmer cannot participate this session and we want a refund?

A: Existing credits will be applied to swim group fees in this registration. (Note that we cannot apply the credits to the USA Swimming or Fundraising fees.) Families that are not registering this session should contact our Treasurer Tracy Marks-Geib at msstracymarks@gmail.com about their credit status. Families whose swimmer cannot participate owing to illness or injury can request a refund for one month's worth of swim group fees (excluding the USA Swimming Fee and the Fundraising Fee) in the month of **SEPTEMBER 2020 ONLY**. Given the fiscal challenges resulting from the pandemic, MSS is not able to issue refunds for any reason for the the remainder of the Fall/Winter session, including if the pandemic forces MSS to suspend our season or practices.

Swim Groups

Q: It appears most swim groups have less practice time assigned this session. 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. Many pools in the area are simply not available for use. We are hopeful this will change and will message families when/if we are able to expand pool time.

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

A: Unfortunately, no. In ordinary times, we 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 thought you would offer a 3-Day Extreme Group but I didn't see it? Is this a possibility?

A: No, we are very sorry but our more limited space and time does not allow for a 3-Day Extreme option this session. If pool time increases, we will revisit this along with other groups.

Q: I see there is a HS Boys Session but not a H.S. Girls Session? Can you please explain this? If the H.S. Boys Swim Season is cancelled or postponed, can my swimmer continue with MSS?

A: From what we know at this time, we anticipate that the HS Girls' Swim Season will start at the end of the MSS Winter Season, which is why no HS Girls Group is being offered. We will work with our HS Girls swimmers and families to offer a seamless transition to their HS teams. If the HS Boys's Swim Season is delayed or cancelled, MSS will work with those swimmers and families to continue on our Senior 1 Team. Other specific questions can be directed to Coach Nick.

Practices

Q: I read the *Return to Swim Guidelines* and I have questions about watching my swimmer at practice and cleaning guidelines at the McFarland Pool. Who can I talk to about these things?

A: Questions about the pool can be directed to AOAC Pool Director Stu Schaefer. Any questions about your child at practice (including watching practice) can be directed to your coach. Their contact info is listed at the top of the *Return to Swim Guidelines* sheet.

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

A: The size of the pool at the Angie O'Donnell Aquatic Center allows us to have two swimmers per lane. (More information about practices can be found in the *Guidelines for Returning to Swim* document.)

Q: I didn't see any information about a bus this year? Any way we can get transportation to the pool for our younger swimmers?

A: MSS does not anticipate having any access to Nelson Bus Service this session due to the pandemic.

Competition

Q: Does MSS anticipate any competitive swimming or intramural meets this Fall or Winter?

A: Wisconsin Swimming has not announced sanctioned meets at this time, including the MSS Fall Meet. MSS will keep our membership apprised if and when this changes. MSS will work with the AOAC to determine if we can offer any intramural meets this Fall or Winter and will message the membership when we have more information.