

Hello Age Group I Families and Swimmers:

We are eager to begin another season at the Kansas City Blazers and I am excited to serve as the Head Coach for our Age Group I program. I would like to take a moment to share our team vision and group objectives, as-well-as, additional information as it relates to the Age Group I program.

Our primary goal is overall team success through individual achievement. The vision for Age Group I is not only to prepare our swimmers to compete at their best, but to continue to develop the character traits, technical skills, and personal self-esteem necessary for each swimmer to realize their individual potential and goals for swimming. We endeavor to instill in our athletes a sense of dedication and self-discipline by offering a challenging program that allows swimmers to step outside of their comfort zone for a better chance at success.

There are expectations for practice and meet attendance that are imperative to your swimmer's success. At the Age Group level, swimmers are encouraged to attend practice 3 times per week. In addition to participating in local swim meets as recommended by the Head Coach, Age Group swimmers are encouraged to participate in our Blazer Series Swim Meets (developmental intra-squad meets) intended to allow our swimmers to experience the excitement of competition, while building their confidence in a supportive and fun environment. Parent volunteerism and participation in team hosted events and swim meets is a huge part of supporting your swimmer.

Every athlete has the potential to accomplish whatever they envision for themselves in swimming and in life. As coaches, we want every swimmer to be able to take the most from each practice, swim meet, and any other Blazers team related event. Please take a moment to review the Age Group Program Information, in full, with your swimmer(s) to ensure that he or she is aware of the policies and expectations of the group.

As Head Coach of Age Group I, I am looking forward to working with all of our swimmers from all sites. The three primary practice sites are: Blue Valley North (BVN), Blue Valley West (BVW), and Shawnee Mission North (SMN). \*\*Friday night practices will be at Shawnee Mission Aquatic Center (SMAC) 17251 W 87th St, Lenexa, KS until mid-November.

I will be coaching primarily at Blue Valley North High School throughout the week and will be with the whole Age Group I team on Fridays. Uldis Tazans will be head site coach at Blue Valley West and Sofiia Filatova will be head site coach at Shawnee Mission North. *When communicating about your swimmer, please include both my email address and the head site coach's email address in your correspondence.*

We will be limiting our numbers at each site to keep the team evenly dispersed. Practice sites are set and cannot be switched back-and-forth throughout the week/season.

***All practice times and locations are subject to change due to the school's activities schedule and policies.***

**Blue Valley North (BVN) Address: [12200 Lamar, Overland Park, KS](#)**

BVN	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Age Group I	X	6-7pm	X	6-7pm	**6:00-7:30pm

**Blue Valley West (BVW) Address: [16200 Antioch Rd., Stilwell, KS](#)**

BVW	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Age Group I	6-7pm	X	6-7pm	X	**6:00-7:30pm

**Shawnee Mission North (SMN) Address: [7401 Johnson Drive, Overland Park, KS](#)**

SMN	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Age Group I	6-7pm	X	6-7pm	X	**6:00-7:30pm

We have a wonderful group of families returning and I am excited for the many new families that have joined for this year. **Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a pool parent.**

On behalf of our staff, we look forward to working with our Age Group I swimmers and families in the upcoming 2023-24 season! Please never hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns as soon as they arise.

*Don't forget to change your swimmer's shirt size for the new season!*

**Shawn Lynn-Bequette**

Head Blue Valley North Site Coach and Head Age Group I Coach [shawn.lynn-bequette@jocogov.org](mailto:shawn.lynn-bequette@jocogov.org) or [s.lynnbequette@hotmail.com](mailto:s.lynnbequette@hotmail.com)