<h1 style="text-align:center; color:red">How to Sign Up for Meets
Alameda Gators Swim Team</h1>

The Alameda Gators participate in roughly one meet per month. Participation in meets is optional but encouraged at all levels and expected for senior groups and above. The meet schedule is developed by the coaches. Copper through Senior groups participate in "Age Group" (also known as C/B/A meets.) Senior Elite swimmers participate in Senior meets (swimmers from the Senior group can attend Senior meets upon invitation by their coach). The schedule can be found on the Gators website under the tab "Swim Meets".

Notices are sent out to swim families when meets are open for entries. **It is up to the swimmer's parent to enter their swimmer in meets.** (Exceptions are travel meets, like Tahoe and Lost Dutchman, when the coaches enter swimmers in these meets.) Please consult with your swimmer's coach if you have questions about which events to sign them up for.

1) **Read the meet sheet.** A link is sent out to the meet sheet with each meet notice. This lengthy but very informative document describes the specifics of the meet, including where and when it will take place, how may events swimmers can enter, and whether minimum entry times are required or if entries with "no time" can be accepted.

2) When you are ready to enter, go to Swim Connection's Online Meet Entries by following the link in the meet notice sent out from the Gators or at (OME) webpage: https://ome.swimconnection.com/login

3) If you don't have one, create an account - Click on the Sign Up Now button to create your free account. Fill in all required fields.
   Hints:
   - Use your own name and email for the account – not your swimmer's. You will enter swimmer information later in the sign up process.
   - Under the "Show Meets For" section, choose **Pacific Swimming.**

4) If you've entered all required fields, you should get a confirmation message. Follow the instructions in your email to activate your account.

5) Once activated, click on the **My Swimmers** tab at the top then click the button to **Add Swimmer.**
   Hints:
   - You will need your swimmer's USA Swimming number in the **Registration No** box. You will find your swimmer's USA swimming number in your Gator account page on the Gator website (click on My Account on the right side, then click My Account again underneath, then select the Members tab. Scroll down to ID card Number.) Do not follow instructions on SwimConnection to create a number, as this may result in a different number than was created by the team and sent to USA Swimming. If this happens, you will be asked to pay for a new USA Swimming registration at the meet. Please use the number that is on our website.
   - **If you previously swam with a different team, please confirm that your existing USA Swimming ID number was generated accurately on our website or your swimmer will end up with two numbers.**

6) If your swimmer has already been registered with Pacific Swimming, OME will find him/her in the Pac Swim records, and the swimmer will be added to your account.

7) You are now ready to enter the meet. Follow the link to the entry page on the notice sent out from the Gators. Or, in Swim Connection, click on the Enter Meets tab and select the meet the Gators are attending. Please double check that you are entering the right meet. Do not enter a meet that is different from the meet selected by the coach.

8) Hit the Enter button, to enter your swimmer in this meet.

9) **If you previously swam with a different team, you need to register for meets as ALGA Unattached for 120 days after your swimmer last swam with the previous team. You can manually overwrite with the previous team code with ALGA and check the "Unattached" box.**

10) Click Get All Best Times and your swimmer's best times from previous meets will be automatically entered.

11) If your swimmer does not have a time for a given event, some meets will allow you to enter NT (for "no time") and others will require *you to enter a fictional time.*

12) To enter a fictional time, you need to consult the USA Swimming time standards. Please be sure you are looking at times for the type of meet you are entering, short course or long course. http://www.pacswim.org/userfiles/cms/documents/801/2017-2020-motivationaltimes-top16.pdf

13) Find the appropriate list for your swimmer's gender and age group. **If this is your swimmer's first competition,** find the events that you want to enter, and make up a fictional time that is SLOWER than the B Min time listed.

14) When you have entered times for all events that your swimmer will swim, hit the Save button.

15) On the next page, select **Go to Payment Page** and follow instructions listed there to submit your payment.

16) You will receive two confirmation emails from Swim Connection.

17) A payment receipt and a Meet Summary. Print out the Meet Summary and bring it to the meet with you.

18) After you have signed up for the meet, please sign up for a volunteer shift at the meet by following the link to the Gators website from the meet notice.

Phew! You did it!

If you have any questions along the way, please consult with your swimmer's coach or a parent board member!

Check out the following swimming related apps that can help:
- Meet Mobile – The free version of this app provides very limited information about meets. For an annual fee of $1.99 per month or $5.99 per year, you can get live heat and lane assignments and results through this app.
- Deck Pass – USA Swimming's official app. Swimmers can track their best times and earn patches.
- On Deck – This is the mobile version of the Team Unify Alameda Gators Site. You can access information about your account, etc.

See you on Deck!
#GatorPride