**2024 Invitationals / Championship / End of Season Info**

**When does the season end?** After they have swum their last meet, their season is over. Typically, Novice champs for the 8 & under swimmers. 9 & up will finish up at the Division Championship meet unless they are signed up for an invitational, (Cupid or Presidents), or qualified for Silvers or Districts.

**Practice Changes:** As team size decreases and we begin to taper, we will adjust practice times. After Silver Champs, all swimmers will practice at 5 pm on M/W/F. Tuesday will remain at 6:30 pm and Thursday may not be available, or time will change due to the Y swim lesson program.

**Division Champs:** Sat. January 27 at Allegheny Valley Y. **The deadline is January 12!** This is one of the **required meets for all swim team members**. There are no qualifying times. This meet is important as it will determine our placement in the league for next year. There are 4 teams in our division; Sewickley, Allegheny Valley, Blair and Uniontown. There will be an over-all team Champion and age group by gender team champions – ie: Girl’s 9-10, Boys 11-12, etc. Winners will earn team banners to display at their Y. These are team awards, not individual. Individual awards  - medals, ribbons, high point, etc will be listed in the meet invite. We are required to provide timers and officials for this meet. I would like to have enough so that we can do shifts and no one has to work the whole meet.

**Invitationals:** There is an opportunity to swim 3 invitationals. These are all listed under Meets and Events on TU and are **all open to sign up now.**

1. **Sprint for the Duck at IUP on Sunday, January 21st.** **Deadline was yesterday but if you email me before 8 pm this evening, I can put them in.** No events over 100 yards. This meet is important for our 13-14 swimmers who do not have an opportunity to swim 50’s other than the 50 free. Top times swim the relays and to get 50 times in back, breast and fly, they need to swim them at an invite. Relays can be either composite (using individual times) or the actual relay time.
2. **AVY Cupid Classic** is Saturday, **February 10**, at Allegheny Valley Y. **Deadline is January 15.**
3. **Presidents Invite** is Sunday, February 18 at Plum Senior HS. **Deadline is January 29.**

**Silver Champs:** 2-day meet, March 2-3. This meet has **qualifying time standards**. These are located on the “parent info” tab on Team Unify. There are also bonus events as follows; 1 or 3 qualifying events can choose 1 bonus event, 2 events get 2 bonus, for a total of no more than 4 events. There are no relays at Silvers. Events are swum as timed finals.

Swimmers are recognized on the podium – typically top nine individuals – 1-3 medals, 4-9 ribbons. District qualifiers are recognized and get a special award but do not place. Swimmers may still qualify for Districts at the Silver meet. If they do, and plan to attend, I need to know before they leave the meet.

As of today, we do not know the site for Silvers. Rose E Schneider Y is hosting but it will not be held at their Y. They had planned to have the meet at Westminster, but their pool is down indefinitely. I will update you as soon as a site is confirmed.

**Swimmers who qualified for both Silvers and Districts**. If your swimmer is qualified for Districts in only a relay or 1 or 2 individual events, and are very close to a District time, then it is reasonable for them to attend the Silver meet. Otherwise, they should focus on Districts.

**District Championships:** 3-day meet, Thursday-Saturday, March 7-9, at Spire Institute in Geneva, OH. Spire is an Olympic and Paralympic Training Center and just an awesome venue.

This meet also has qualifying times. They can be found on Team Unify under the parent info tab. Swimmers can qualify up-to and including Silvers. Thursday events do not begin until mid-afternoon, so no need to get a hotel for Thursday. The meet announcement and list of events by day will be under the meet on Team Unify as soon as received. For now, **information on Districts can be found on westdistricts.com.** There is a max of 3 individual events per session, not including relays. All events will be swum as timed finals. Top 12 swimmers are recognized on the podium.

We have a block of rooms for immediate family only. We want to make sure we have enough rooms for all our swimmers. I will send the hotel info out to all District qualifiers in a few weeks. We are planning a Team Dinner for Friday evening.

**District Relay swimmers** will be announced after the results from the President’s meet. The top 4 swimmers will swim the relays. For the medley relay, we could have one swimmer who has the best time in more that one event. In that case, we will go to the 2nd or 3rd to make up the relay team. District relay swimmers are expected to be available for both Districts and States in the case their relay moves on. That said, **if your swimmer is in the top 6 in an event and cannot attend both Districts and States, I need to know that ASAP**

**Important** -  If your swimmer is in a relay, I need to know ASAP if they **do not** plan to attend. In addition, if they are on a District Relay Team, they are also expected to swim at the State meet if the team makes it in.

**District Volunteer Requirements:** The league is running the District meet – all teams will share in the work and the profits. We will be required to fill volunteer positions - officials, timers and others, based on the number of swimmers per session. Think about it, it took every parent on our team to run our home meets. Now multiply that by 20. It is a monumental task and will take everyone to do their part to make this a great meet for our kids. If your swimmer is going to Districts, plan to volunteer!

**District Rep Needed!**We are required to have a **parent rep for districts**. This person will need to attend virtual meetings every other Sunday evening, (only 30 minutes), to represent our team and get info. Right now, Coach Lexi has been filling in but she will be coaching at Districts and not available to run tasks. This is not a hard job but **we need someone who has a district swimmer to step up now.** This is a parent job - not a coach's. **Please let me know if you can help and I will put you in touch with coach Lexi so she can fill you in.**

**State Championships:** 3-day meet, March 22-24. Top 6 individuals from each event, (except 1000 & 1500), and top 4 relays from West District Champs will compete at the State Meet. This meet is prelims/finals format for 11 and up swimmers. The 9-10 group swim events once, as timed finals.

States will be held at the Mylan Park Aquatic Center in Morgantown, WV. Beautiful, newer facility and only an hour away! We have a room block for our team that I will send out.

Whew – that’s a lot of information! Please keep this as a reference. If after you have read the above info and checked Team Unify, you still have questions, email or call me at pkwalick@sewickleyymca.org , 412-741-9622, ext.134.

Coach Paula