

At the Meet...



Swim meets are a great family experience. They're a place where the whole family can spend time together.

Listed below are some very in-depth guidelines geared to help you through your first couple of swim meets.

Before the Meet Starts

- Arrive at the pool at least 15 minutes before the scheduled warm-up time begins.
- Upon arrival, find a place to put your swimmer's blankets, swim bags and/or sleeping bags. The team usually sits in one place together, so look for some familiar faces.
- Once checked in with your coach, have the swimmers write each event-number on his or her hand in ink. This helps him remember what events he is swimming and what event number to listen or watch for.
- Your swimmer now gets his cap and goggles and reports to the pool for warm-up instructions.
- After warm-up, your swimmer will go back to the area where his team is sitting and wait there until his first event is called. The meet will usu-

ally start about 10-15 minutes after warm-ups are over.

- According to USA Swimming rules (because of insurance purposes), parents are not allowed on deck unless they are serving in an official capacity. Similarly, all questions concerning meet results, an officiating call, or the conduct of a meet, should be referred to a coach. He or she in turn, will pursue the matter through the proper channels.
- A psych sheet is usually available for sale in the lobby or concession area of the pool. It lists all swimmers in each event in order of seed time. If the swimmer is swimming an event for the first time, he will be entered as a "no-time" or "NT." A "no-time" swimmer will most likely swim in one of the first heats of the event. A heat sheet may be available close to the start of the meet that lists the actual heat and lane a swimmer will be competing in.

Meet Starts

- A swimmer usually reports directly to his lane for competition a number of heats before he actually swims. Check with your swimmer's coach for specific instructions.
- In some novice meets, a swimmer's event number will be called, usually over the loudspeaker, and he will be asked to report to the "clerk of course" or "bullpen." Swimmers

should report with his/her cap and goggle. The clerk will usually line up all the swimmers and take them down to the pool in correct order.

- You can expect at least 4-8 heats of each event.
- The swimmer swims his race.
- After each swim: he is to ask the timers (people behind the blocks at each lane) his/her time.
- The swimmer should then go immediately to his or her coach. The coach will discuss the swim with each swimmer.
- Depending on the coach's instructions, the swimmer may be asked to do some recovery swimming if a "warm down" pool or lanes are available.
- Things you, as a parent, can do after each swim:
 1. Tell him how great he did. The coaching staff will be sure to discuss stroke technique with him. You need to tell him how proud you are and what a great job he did.
 2. Take him back to the team area and relax.
- When a swimmer has completed all of his events, he and his parents get to go home. Make sure you check with the coach before leaving to make sure your swimmer is not included on a relay.