

GROUP PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Skills testing is only one factor among many that go into judgments about the best practice group placement for each swimmer.

Other factors include developmental readiness (physical, physiological, and psychological), attendance, and whether the swimmer has taken full advantage of the developmental and leadership opportunities in their current group. There may also be practical factors such as available space in groups, handling of discipline issues, etc.

You can find more information about developmental readiness of swimmers in the Coaches Corner section of our web site at www.ddst.org. Some Leadership benchmarks are listed below.

Decisions about group placement are based on the best professional judgment of each coach, and will not always appear "equal" for each swimmer.

Our goal for each swimmer is always to place them in the group that will best foster their continued long-term development and happiness, as a person and as a competitive athlete. In some cases, the best placement may require returning to a previous group for a while.

All children develop at different rates regardless of chronologic age. During this sometimes difficult process, coaches need the support of parents in avoiding unwarranted comparisons with other swimmers, and instead supporting a swimmer's own progress and goals.

Minor frustrations during this process are normal, expected, and part of the learning process. If you or your swimmer have questions or concerns, please arrange for a coach-swimmer-parent conference. If you still have questions, please contact the Head Coach or Board President.

All of our coaches are expected to maintain professional conduct at all times, and to avoid gossip or innuendo about other team members. We expect the same conduct of all team parents.

It is the policy of the Douglas Dolphins that, in cases involving Coaches' own children, or in other unusual circumstances, group placement decisions are made or confirmed by the Head Coach and, if felt necessary, in consultation with a designated Board member. In the case of the Head Coach's child, the next most senior DDST coach will decide in consultation with the Board.

Some Leadership benchmarks for your child (at practices and meets):

- Setting good examples for peers.
- Cheering on and otherwise supporting peers at meets and practices.
- Good sportsmanship.
- Self-control.
- Specific leadership roles when assigned by coach.
- Following coach instructions.
- Attending at least 80% of practices per month (any options for make-up practices can be obtained from your coach).

Senior Group is covered by a separate contract and additional criteria. Check with the Head Coach for more details.