

Orinda Aquatics: High School Season Notes 2026

General Philosophy with Orinda Aquatics and High School Swimming

This can be a confusion and challenging time for high school swimmers in the overlapping of high school and USA Swimming Spring seasons. The following should help.

The philosophy of Orinda Aquatics is that we wish to work in conjunction with your high school coach and program. This has been a challenging relationship on a national level, and we believe we have a model that works in everyone's interest. In a broad sense, OA hopes to develop swimmers that bring discipline and character to their respective high schools. OA swimmers should be positive, humble, enthusiastic, and demonstrate a *high level of leadership and integrity* while participating with their high school teams. From a scheduling perspective, your participation with your high school should allow you to integrate with your team, but not so much that you lose your training continuity with OA. In *most* cases, OA coaches will be accommodative and supportive of the needs and requirements of your high school team.

OA Senior swimmers should:

- Give your high school schedules to your OA coach and communicate any relevant scheduling or meet information
- Convey any high school coaches' wishes or concerns to your OA coach
- Accurately convey OA training and competition information (including Clovis and/or Sectionals) to your high school coach and give them our email address if needed

OA schedule changes - see workout schedule **beginning 2/23 (post-Clovis)** on the website under **Schedules**

- **Monday, February 9th** all swimmers should go to their high school meetings or first workout. **We will have one workout from 4:45 – 6:30.** Please come to practice after your meeting if possible or if you do not have workout.
- **AM workouts** will remain **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.** Please note group days.
- **PM workouts: Wed. will be Senior all 4:15-6:30 (no DL), Thur. will follow the M/T schedule, no workout Friday PM (attend HS)**

High School Participation:

In addition to required high school workouts and meets, you should attend all high school meetings and activities.

Please check the NCS website (www.cifncs.org) for high school events, times, and NCS information.

Attendance:

OA coaches will report accurate (OA) attendance information to your high school coach.

Rule Differences & Changes:

- Swimmers must start with one foot forward on the dive in high school
- The backstroke flip-turn **can be** non-continuous in high school
- Logos on suits and caps, other than your high schools, are not allowed, i.e., wear high school team suits and caps in competition

USA Swimming "Attachment"

A high school swimmer may only swim "attached" to one team (high school or club). Once an athlete participates in a high school meet (TIME TRIALS DO NOT COUNT - provided there is no other team involved), he/she must enter any USA Swimming meet as **unattached**. This can be designated in FastSwims upon entry, or at meet check-in if not done at the time entries were made. There is a high school penalty for this. We ask that high school swimmers not participate in a high school meet prior to Clovis/Sectionals, as we would like all swimmers to compete attached to Orinda Aquatics in these meets. If you have any questions about this, check with Ronnie or Donnie.

Peak Meets Recap:

OA: Clovis/Sectionals – Feb 19-22 and Feb 26-Mar 1

Senior can enter Far Westerns (unattached) April 9-12

HS: League (JV or Varsity) April 30-May 2, or NCS May 8-9, and the CIF State Meet May 15-16

OA: All swimmers should plan on swimming in the post-NCS **Walk-on meet, Sunday, May 10th**

Talk to your OA coach as the high school season progresses about what events, and what meet (league or NCS), your high school coach may have you swim and shave for.