

SWIM TEAM TERMS AND DESCRIPTIONS

AWARDS: Swimmers will receive ribbons for 1st through 6th place. Participation ribbons are awarded to all 12 & under non placing swimmers. Heat ribbons may be issued to heat winners 12 & under. Championship ribbons are awarded for 1st through 16th place for individual events and 1st through 8th place for relay events. At the awards picnic, each swimmer is given an award for participation on the team.

BULLPEN: This is the hangout area for each team's swimmers until they are called to the clerk of course. Volunteers are needed in the bullpen at each meet to help organize relay teams, (particularly the younger kids) and get them to report to the clerk of course when announced. All swimmers must stay in the bullpen if they are not competing or at the clerk of course. All swimmers should clean this area at the end of the meet.

CLERK OF COURSE: This is the area to which swimmers report before they swim their events. They will be told which heat and lane they are to swim. Swimmers must stay in the clerk of course. Relay teams should report to their coach.

ENTRIES: A swimmer may swim as many as three individual and two relay events each meet. No swimmer may swim more than five events, but they may swim fewer, if desired. The coaches decide which events each swimmer will swim at dual meets and prepare a chart for the swimmers to check.

HEAT SHEET: A packet that is available for purchase, at most meets, to show the events of the swim meet. The coaches decide which events each swimmer will swim at dual meets and post this usually online as well as in paper form before the meet.

EVENTS: There are two types of events; individual and relay.

- Individual events include each of four strokes (freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly & backstroke) –
 - 25 meters—one length of the pool (12 and under)
 - 50 meters—two lengths of the pool (13 and over)
 - 50 meter freestyle (9–10 and 11–12)
 - 100 meter freestyle (13–14 and 15–up)
 - 100 individual medley–IM– (9 and up) where the swimmer swims 25 meters of each stroke.

- The relay events include freestyle and medley. Four swimmers are on each relay team.
 - 25 meters per swimmer (12 and under)
 - 50 meters per swimmer (13 and over)

FALSE START: Starting before the starter's signal. A second false start charged to the same swimmer results in disqualification of that swimmer in that event only.

DQ: Disqualification is the elimination of a swimmer from the one event by an official, because of a rules violation. Do not be alarmed if your child is DQ'd because all swimmers have experienced a DQ at some time. DQ's are necessary to keep all events fair. You can still swim all of your events after a DQ.

FINAL RESULTS: Points are awarded respectively as follows: 4-2-1 for first, second and third place in individual events. However no point sweeps are allowed, so a team can only score a max of six points for every individual event. Four points are awarded to the winning relay team, with no other points being awarded in relay events. Final places are determined by the official times of all the designated swimmers in the event. Three timers are assigned to each lane with stopwatches. The three times are recorded on the lane slip for that lane with the middle time of the three measured times being the "official" time.

OFFICIALS: This person has attended a school or clinic to learn the rules of each stroke and will be judging the swimmers during their races. Officials wear white shirts with white or navy blue shorts and are located around the edge of the pool. Officials will try to tell each swimmer the reason for their disqualification. Please do not interrupt any official during meets concerning DQ's. Wait until the meet is over to talk with officials or see a board member if your concern cannot wait.

STROKES: The four competitive strokes include freestyle, backstroke, butterfly and breaststroke.

SWIMMING UP: This means a swimmer is swimming in an older age group than their actual age. The swimmer may swim up in any event. Once they swim up in an individual event, they must swim up in all their events for that meet only. A swimmer may swim their own age group in the individual events and up for the relays, if needed. A swimmer is never allowed to swim in a younger age group. Age group is decided by the swimmer's age on June 1st.