

## **Meet Information for New Year-Round Parents**

What follows is some helpful information about meets and other aspects of LAKY.

### **Invitational Meets**

These meets are usually three days long, involve several YMCA's, and usually have a large number of swimmers. There are several invitational meets on the schedule from which to choose.

At an invitational meet, swimmers may be assigned to swim in the morning or afternoon sessions, and/or the Friday evening session. This is dependent on their age and the events they have chosen to swim. Each invitational meet will have entry requirements/restrictions that will be communicated in the meet information packet. You and the swimmer elect in which individual events to participate. The coaches reserve the right to change the events chosen and will determine relays.

There is a fee for each individual event and relay. These charges will be assessed to your account via Daxko and will usually be billed the following week.

To enter an invitational meet, you must complete the entry process on the website. On the website, you will find the event schedule, anticipated warm-up times, entry deadline, and a link to the meet packet. The swimmer must be entered via the website prior to the deadline. Once the deadline is passed, late entries cannot be accepted because the information has to be compiled and sent to the host team before their deadline. However, there is still one last chance to enter into an event at an invitational meet. This is known as deck entry. This method is dependent on the host team's determination of availability. The cost associated with deck entries is usually double that of normal meet entry.

### **What to bring to an Invitational Meet?**

At most invitational meets, swimmers will congregate in a gym. Look for an area where other LAKY swimmers are settled. These days can be long, so consider bringing the following items:

- Sleeping bags/blankets
- Chairs and/or seat cushions. Chairs can be used in the gym. At some events, you may want to sit on the bleachers in the spectator area. (if available)
- Small board games, cards or electronic games.
- Pens, markers, crayons, paper, coloring books, etc.
- Reading material for both swimmers and parents.
- Extra towels
- Warm clothes to wear in the gym. The pool area is usually warm and the gym is usually cool. Swimmers need to have something to wear in the gym while waiting. Parents may need a sweatshirt, too.
- A cooler. Most invitational meets have concessions with a wide variety of food, but you may want something special and/or save money.
- Money for extra goggles, heat sheets, other swim accessories – many times this is cash only
- A sharpie to write your swimmer's events
- Highlighters to mark your swimmers events in the heat sheet

Upon arriving at an invitational, purchase a heat sheet. They are usually \$3-\$5 each day.

**Label everything you bring with your name!!!**

### **How Invitational Meets work**

Events (i.e., "8 and under boy's freestyle") are listed on the heat sheet. Take note of the event number, the heat number, and the lane. You may want to write these three numbers on your swimmers wrist/hand if they have trouble remembering. Most invitational meets have bullpens, also known as a Clerk of Course. These are for the 8 and under swimmers. Parents are not allowed inside the bullpen. Please find the bullpen and show your swimmers. Some age groups are required to report to the bullpen; others report directly to the blocks. Listen to the announcements and be aware of when your swimmer should report to either the bullpen or the block. Coaches are busy

watching events. They do a wonderful job, but they cannot keep track of everyone. So make their life easier by keeping track of when and where your swimmer is supposed to report. Once you drop your swimmer off at the bullpen, it is a good time for you to find a spot on deck to watch your swimmer.

## **Dual Meets**

Dual meets are one-day meets usually with another YMCA. Participation in these meets are highly encouraged as these types of meets are a low stress environment for new or younger swimmers. Again, if a swimmer is not entered by the deadline, the swimmer will not be able to participate. The number of events your child swims depends on how many swimmers attend the meet.

### **What to bring to a Dual Meet?**

Bring as little as possible. The pool deck and the viewing areas are usually the only areas available for the swimmers and the families to congregate at a dual meet. It can get crowded. Remember, pool areas are generally hot, and it's cool outside. Wear layers.

Bring towels, very compact games, blankets on which the swimmers can sit and you don't mind getting wet, and some food if you choose. Concessions are usually available at dual meets.

### **How Dual Meets work**

Events at dual meets have no bullpen, but usually, a "Clerk of Course" organizes the events. Heat sheets are either distributed, for sale or posted on the walls at dual meets. Each dual meet is different. Just like at an invitational, you will want the swimmer to mark the event, heat and lane on his/her hand. The swimmer will be responsible for getting to the block on time.

Remember, dual meets can run very quickly, so it is important to help your swimmer be aware of what event is on the swim blocks and when they compete next.

## **Championships**

Championship meets are held starting in early March with the A Championship Meet. To swim in a championship meet, the swimmer must have competed in a minimum of 3 YMCA meets, whether an invitational or dual. For AA, Zone and National Championships, a qualifying time must be achieved to swim in an event. These qualifying times will be posted on our website as soon as they are made available for the current season.