

Dakota Riptide Team Handbook

Table of Contents:

- I. Dakota Riptide
- II. USA Swimming
- III. Coaching Responsibilities
- IV. Swimmer's Responsibilities
- V. Parent Support and Responsibility
- VI. Developmental Programs (Practice Groups)
- VII. Communication
- VIII. Disciplinary Procedure
- IX. Fees, Registration, and Fundraising
- X. Swim Meets and other Qualifying Meets
- XI. High School Lettering Requirements
- XII. Policies and Procedures
- XIII. Scholarship Program

I. Dakota Riptide

A. Organization

The Dakota Riptide is a swimming club organized, managed, and operated by the Dakota Riptide Parent's Organization. Dakota Riptide is not affiliated with the Mitchell/Huron area School System or City of Mitchell/Huron area Park and Rec programs. Additional information on Dakota Riptide, the handbook, forms, and meet schedules can be found on the Dakota Riptide website at: www.dakotariptide.org.

B. Mission Statement and Vision

The Dakota Riptide Mission Statement is to create, maintain, and promote individual and family fitness and meaningful life skills through community based aquatic programs. Its Vision is: Dakota Riptide is committed to; fostering health and fitness in the Mitchell/Huron area through the administration and promotion of aquatic programs, teaching life skills by instilling a strong work ethic in a safe, fun and competitive environment, and developing aquatic skills to provide all participants the opportunities to grow and succeed to their highest level while emphasizing team unity and family participation.

DAKOTA RIPTIDE has been serving Mitchell/Huron area and the surrounding area since 1980. We have consistently had swimmers attend Junior Nationals, Sectionals, Zones and approximately 90% of our senior group have gone on to compete at the collegiate level. Because South Dakota does not have swimming as a sanctioned high school sport, our athletes swim with the club year-round.

II. USA Swimming

A. USA Swimming

USA Swimming is the National Governing Body for the sport of swimming in the United States, USA swimming is 400,000-member service organization that promotes the culture of swimming by creating opportunities for swimmers and coaches of all backgrounds to participate and advance in the sport through clubs, events and education.

USA Swimming membership is comprised of swimmers from the age group level to the Olympic Team, as well as coaches and volunteers. There are more than 2,800 clubs across the nation.

USA Swimming is led by the National Board of Directors who work together with the headquarters staff, located in Colorado Springs, CO.

LSC's or Local Swimming Committees, are the 59 local governing bodies, of which South Dakota is one, responsible for organizing, supporting and governing USA Swimming's 2,800 plus swim clubs in their individual regions.

B. Responsibilities

As the National Governing Body for the sport, USA Swimming is responsible for the conduct and administration of swimming in the United States. In this capacity, USA Swimming formulates the rules, implements the policies and procedures, conducts the national championships, disseminates safety and sports medicine information and selects athletes to represent the United States in international competition.

C. USA Swimming Registration Fee

All swimmers practicing with a member club or competing in events sanctioned by USA Swimming must be registered as athlete members of USA Swimming. USA Swimming registration fees are paid annually. Once registrations fee is paid, swimmers will then receive a membership card and have liability and secondary medical insurance coverage.

D. Ruling Body

USA Swimming is responsible for setting the rules and regulations governing competitive swimming. The USA Swimming Rule Book is the official publication of USA Swimming. Changes to the rulebook are made on a yearly basis following the U.S. Aquatic Sports Convention. These changes include any new legislation, revisions and updates as voted on by the House of Delegates.

More information regarding USA Swimming go their website: usaswimming.org

III. Coaching Responsibilities

A. General Overview:

1. Support team's mission, vision and core values by providing leadership and team management in a timely and professional manner.
2. The Head coach's job is to supervise the entire swim program. This includes, but not limited to developing a swim program that is technically and developmentally age appropriate for both water and dryland training and that allows swimmers of different abilities to reach their highest potential.
3. When the swim program warrants, the head coach will supervise, mentor, and evaluate assistant coach(es). This includes preparation and/or monitoring of daily and seasonal workouts, skill sets, and group practices.
4. Head coach and site head coach will place each registered swimmer in a practice group based on age and ability of the swimmer.
5. Coaching staff will decide on which meets the team will participate in during SC and LC seasons. Bring to the board for recommendation and/or approval. Coaching staff is responsible for submitting all meet entries.
6. Attend swim meets throughout the SC and LC seasons. During meets conduct warm ups procedures, coach instruction before swim race and offer constructive criticism regarding swimmer's performance post-race.
7. Head Coach attends and participates in board meetings as non-voting member. Assistant coaches may attend meeting as requested or deemed appropriate by the Head Coach or Board.
8. Leads swimmer recruitment/retention efforts for the entire swim program. Including development (swim lessons), competitive and master programs.
9. Nurture relationships with athletes and their families.
10. Submit to the High School names of eligible High School Letter recipients. (See High School Letter Criteria) Select swimmers to receive awards at the annual Dakota Riptide Award Banquet.
11. Other duties as assigned by the Dakota Riptide Board

B. Practice

1. Training sessions are the most important part of competitive swimming. Consistent training is necessary to progress. This is why we ask that swimmers attend a minimum number of practices per week, depending on their age and ability. **See DAKOTA RIPTIDE Practice Group Section.**
2. Coaches are asked to take attendance at each practice. They may even ask the swimmers to sign in when they enter the pool area. Please see **High School Lettering Requirements.**
3. If a swimmer is late or absent from practice, please communicate to the coach.
4. Coaches will notify you of practice schedule changes due to competition, holidays and/or coach time off. Changes will be e-mailed and/or texted to those registered in TeamUnify. Notice of schedule changes will be communicated a minimum of 3 days prior to the change. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to have updated contact information.
5. Sometimes there will be unforeseen cancellation of practice because of weather, pool repairs or an emergency for the coach. People registered in TeamUnify will be notified as soon as possible.
6. If school is cancelled due to weather, practice is also cancelled, there may be exceptions to this rule that will be communicated directly to those affected.
7. Parents are allowed to observe practice, although it is at the coach's discretion to have a closed

practice.

8. Parent/Guardian will notify the coach of any extended illness or injury that may require practice modifications.

IV. Swimmer's Responsibilities

A. General Overview

To be a swimmer takes commitment and responsibility. Swimmers should arrive to practice or lessons on time, showered and ready to swim.

Swimmers will respect the instruction/direction of the coaching staff. Swimmers will respect other swimmers, chaperones, and DAKOTA RIPTIDE representatives during all practice, meets and any DAKOTA RIPTIDE event. **Refer to the DAKOTA RIPTIDE Code of Conduct Policy.**

B. Practice

Swimmers are required to bring specific training equipment to practice; swimsuit, goggles, and towels are essential. Depending on the practice group or location swimmer may also be required to bring fins, kickboard and pull buoy etc. labeled with swimmer's name. Refer to the team website www.teamunify.com/team for complete information on where to purchase swimming equipment, suits, goggles etc.

C. Swim Meets:

- Swimmers need to participate in the team warm-ups before meets. Warm ups typically start 1-2 hours before the meet starts. Communication will be sent 1-2 days before the swim meet via email or text.
- Swimmers are expected to check in with their coach before and after their swim
- Swimmers will come ready to swim with appropriate gear (suit, goggles, swim cap, towel, etc.)

V. Parent Support and Responsibility

Parent Support

To have a successful program there must be understanding and cooperation among the parents, swimmers, and coaches. The progress swimmers make depends on these relationships. The following will help keep this in proper perspective:

A. The Coach is the Coach

We want swimmers to relate to the coach. When parents interfere with opinions as to how the swimmer should swim or train, it causes considerable confusion on who the child should listen to. If you have a concern or complaint, contact the coach, ***Refer to Disciplinary and Complaint Procedure on DAKOTA RIPTIDE website***

B. The Best Kind of Parent

The coach's job is to motivate and constructively criticize the swimmer's performance. It is the parents' job to supply the love, recognition, and encouragement necessary to work harder in practice, which gives them the confidence to perform well.

C. Ten and Under

Ten and under are the most inconsistent and this can be frustrating for everyone involved. Be patient and allow the swimmer to learn and enjoy the sport. Sometimes the swimmer at this age will have some slowing due to growth and added concentration of the stroke techniques, this will soon lead to faster swims.

D. Not Every Time

Even the best swimmers will have meets where they do not do their best times. These "plateaus" are a normal part of swimming. Over the course of a season, times could improve. Be supportive of these "poor" meets.

E. Good Nutrition

For optimum performance parents need to contribute to the education of proper nutrition and eating habits. If you have questions, please refer to the coaching staff.

Parents Responsibilities

- Make every effort to have your children to practice on time.
- Transportation to and from meets or practice.
- Encourage good nutrition, for optimum performance provide a snack before practice. Make sure swimmer has consistent sleeping habits.
- Become familiar with team's handbook, Code of Conduct, Communication Policy, Team Travel Policy and Disciplinary Procedure.
- Help with fundraising. Refer to Fundraising for specific requirements.
- Ensure account is current and contact information is updated in Team Unify.

VI. Developmental Programs

Program focus

Dakota Riptide's program is designed to develop a child physically, mentally, and emotionally in a systematic fashion (i.e. Long-Term Athlete Development model - LTAD). Gradually increasing levels of commitment is important to helping each athlete to reach their peak performance and do their best. Emphasis is in developing technical skills and a love for the sport. In the later years, more physical and psychological challenge becomes a major part of the training program. "Too much too soon" is often the cause of frustration and inability to reach personal goals as senior swimmers. The training groups are designed for a swimmers' ability, age, commitment levels and goals. This may not make for the most convenient practice schedule within a family. Carpooling is an easy way to assist.

Practice Groups

Below are brief explanations of the practice groups. Remember that Dakota Riptide currently is a team with a small practice facility, and number of multi-swimmer families who sometimes commute some distance to practice. The coaching staff will try to make accommodations to allow swimmers to practice with siblings when possible. The coaching staff will make every effort to accommodate scheduling conflicts. However, ultimately it is up to the swimmer and their family to know the practice schedule and to practice with the group best suited to their skills and goals.

Swimmers can be moved up from various group once they demonstrate competence in each group's levels of training intensity, age and commitment. Coach and family discussions for a swimmer's desire to move to a more rigorous training group is very important

A) White:

This group is our beginning competitive level. It practices three times a week per session. Swimmers are encouraged to attend all of those practices. This schedule provides sufficient time to acquire comfort, keeping the swimmers fresh and anxious to return to the next practice. This group is focused on fun, learning proper technique for the four competitive strokes, turns, and starts. Once they begin to complete basic distances with their strokes, they will begin to compete in home meets and to travel to local competitions as their skills and confidence improve.

B) Gray:

This group has up to four training sessions per week. Swimmers are encouraged to practice at least four times per week. Technique continues to be the primary focus of this group although endurance training is being developed (training to train). Swimmers are encouraged to swim in at least one meet per month and will begin to learn basic goal setting. They now will become aware of qualifying standards for various competitions.

C) Blue:

This group is designed for those who decide to commit a significant amount of their time and effort in exploring their potential as competitive swimmers. The Blue group is a pre-senior group and is the top age group level in Dakota Riptide, normally beginning at age 11. Technique is still of prime concern. However, practices at this level now initiates higher levels of conditioning, training to race as they relate to each swimmers' competitive goals. This group practices up to six times per week. Swimmers in this group are expected to attend at as many sessions as possible each week. Blue swimmers are also encouraged to participate in focus meets designated by the coaching staff in order to evaluate swimmer progress towards their goals. It is expected that swimmers attend dry-land sessions as organized by the coaches.

D) Senior:

This group is for those swimmers who are pursuing a high level of fitness or who may want to compete at the regional, national, and collegiate level, normally beginning at age 13. Swimmers are expected to attend at least 95% of all practice sessions per month. Failure to comply may result in a swimmer being re-assigned to another practice group. Some exceptions may be made based upon travel, age considerations and medical appointments. Mandatory academic activities may be considered as excused absences if cleared before absence. It is highly recommended this group to compete at focus meets as designated by the coaching staff. Most swimmers in this group will compete at zones, sectionals in multiple events, with qualifying times for Jr. and Sr. Nationals or higher being their ultimate goal. It is expected that swimmers attend dry-land sessions as organized by the coaches.

E) Fitness swimmers

The following is the definition of a “Fitness Swimmer” and affords as to how this classification will be handled as far as fee’s and fundraising.

- 1.) The swimmer will still need to be an athlete member of USA Swimming-
- 2.) The swimmer will only be allowed to attend practices designated by the coaching staff, depending upon ability and pool space within a specific practice group.
- 3.) The swimmer will not be able to compete in individual events as a member of Dakota Riptide unless they have made arrangements with our registrar to upgrade their designation to an appropriate level; this would entail paying the difference in fees between the fitness designation and their respective competitive level fee.
- 4.) The coaches do reserve the right to utilize these swimmers as relay participants for designated meets as long as that swimmer’s participation does not displace a swimmer who has been competing during the season.

F) Temporary Swimmers

Temporary Swimmers are defined as past Dakota Riptide Swimmers who are in college or post-secondary school and back in Mitchell/Huron area that wish to practice/swim with the team for part of a season. These swimmers will practice with the senior group and will pay a rate of \$50 if swimming for 2 weeks or less. If the swimming lasts for longer than a two week period, pay the full amount of the senior group. The temporary swimmer must also be current with USA Swimming prior to beginning practice.

VII. Communication

- Per USA Swimming rules, clubs are required to have an electronic communication policy. The policy must be reviewed with and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults affiliated with the club.
- All communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and for communicating information about team activities. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection. **Refer to USA Swimming website for more information**
- With respect to electronic communications, a simple test that can be used in most cases is whether the electronic communication with swimmers is **Transparent, Accessible, and Professional. T.A.P**
- Refer to the **Electronic Communication Policy on DAKOTA RIPTIDE website.**

VIII. Disciplinary and Complaint Procedures

- The aim of these procedures is to allow a swift and just outcome to a complaint or protest made by a swimmer, parent/guardian or coach, in good faith, regarding conduct during training, competition or related activities. **Refer to Disciplinary and Complaint Procedure on DAKOTA RIPTIDE website.**

IX. Fees, Registration and Fundraising

- Club fees are assessed on a "per season" basis. The amount will differ for the summer and the winter seasons, due to the difference in the length of the season.
- Full payment is encouraged at the beginning of the season for all swimmers, otherwise you will be required to set up monthly payments, with the Dakota Riptide Treasurer.
- Outstanding balances are due or an agreement to pay these balances is necessary prior to the State Championship Meet(s).
- If balances exceed 2 months with no payment made toward balance, work with the treasurer on ways to fulfill payment obligations. If after 3 months no payments have been made toward your balance suspension of swimmer(s) maybe initiated until payments can be fulfilled. And in some cases sent to collections for payment. Please consider applying for the Scholarship Program.
- Because each individual swimmer's accident insurance is covered by USA Swimming, USA Swimming fees must be paid before the swimmer can participate in any practice.
 - It is required of all Dakota Riptide swimmers that they have a current USA Swimming membership. This membership not only supports swimming throughout the country, it also provides very important accident and medical insurance for every swimmer and every club. Each swimmer is covered at any organized practice of DAKOTA RIPTIDE and every competition that is USA sanctioned. Swimmers will not be allowed to begin any organized practice of DAKOTA RIPTIDE until they have completed the paperwork and paid for their USA Swimming membership.
- Special fees will be assessed when there is more than one swimmer per family. Presently, after the basic fee is assessed for the first swimmer per family, each additional swimmer will be discounted \$35 off the registration fee. The oldest swimmer in the family will always be considered the first swimmer.
- It is the responsibility of the swimmer's parents to notify the coach and/or a swim board member of intentions to drop from the club. If a swimmer quits the program or is dropped from the program, for whatever reason, overdue and current account balances are immediately payable in full. **Dues will not be refunded or prorated once the swim season has begun.** (Refer to the **Registration Policy**) Anyone swimming under the Dakota Riptide name must pay full dues. Scholarships are available. (Refer to **Scholarship Program**)

Registration

- To register your swimmers, parents must fill out the online registration and the following forms:
 - health
 - discipline/behavior
 - Handbook, Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedure
 - photography permission
 - Fundraising responsibility.
- The Dakota Riptide fee for the season is used to cover the coaching costs as well as miscellaneous team costs.
- No returning swimmer will be allowed to participate in any Dakota Riptide practice or meet until registration is made.
- New swimmers are afforded a two-week trial period.
- Full payment at time of registration is encouraged.
- A Scholarship program is available. (See Scholarship Section)

- Scheduling changes, Swim Meet notifications and/or updates or changes will be announced via email and/or text message, when registering In TeamUnify make sure email and cell phones numbers are current. Include all family members that will be needing information

Fundraising

Fundraising is the primary means of financing the team, paying our coaches, and operating costs. Dakota Riptide conducts fundraisers during the year in which all families are obligated to participate in. ***This is a critical part of the swim family's responsibility for vital and healthy swim club.***

- Operations costs include but not limited to:
 - Facility (cost, rent, maintenance, staffing etc.)
 - Coaching staff salaries, travel and continuing education
 - Travel cost for team trips
 - Awards, public relations, and marketing
 - Costs associated with operation of the team
- The Fundraising committee sets the fundraisers of the year along with the rules and obligation(s) per family. **See Fundraising Policies**
- Hosting swim meets is another fundraising activity that takes place during the year, which may include hosting meets throughout the short course and long course seasons. Every family is expected to supply at a minimum one-two worker(s) to assist in running the meet, food donations for concessions, and/or other items needed to host a successful swim meet.
- Summer swimmers are required to help in fundraising efforts during the summer season.
- Summer swimmers only will be required to pay one third of the full fundraising fee per family for the fundraising fee of Calendar sales.
- Fitness swimmer's fundraising obligations will be one-half of the rate of other competitive designation, with only the first season reduction applying. Fitness swimmers still must assist with hosting our meets at the same level as our other families.

X. Swim Meets and Other Qualifying Meets

- Although not mandatory, attending swim meets allow an opportunity for swimmers the value of hard work, of setting and chasing goals, and other life skills including dealing with setbacks, developing sportsmanship, feedback on their training, and developing friendships inside and outside of their swim team.
- Because swimming is a great family sport, attending meets allows parents to provide support, be involved in goal setting with their swimmer, and witnessing their swimmers hard work.
- One consideration that is at the forefront for any family is the expense associated with travel to attend a meet away from home. If this is a concern, families are encouraged to pick a single day or session at a local meet to have a swimmer compete; there are enough competitions during a season within a two-hour drive of Mitchell/Huron area to ensure that swimmers will get the competitive experience that they need.
- The swim meet schedule will be posted on the website prior to the start of the swim season. Focus meets receive this designation either because the time of season or the quality of the meet facility lends themselves to top performances. Obviously, coaches do not require meet attendance; this is simply an effort to assist families to plan a meet schedule that gives their swimmers an opportunity to perform at their highest level. As swimmers get older and more competitive, these meets could be further from home, again the “Focus Meet” designation will assist families to make decisions regarding what works best for them and their swimmer.
- To register for a swim meet, go to the Dakota Riptide swimming website, under the Events/Meet tab to register.
Typically, the coach will decide which events the swimmer will compete in during the meet. For questions or special requests of events for your swimmer, please visit with the coach.
- Meet entries will billed directly to the individual families account.

Other Qualifying Meets

- These meets require a certain time standard to participate. Visit with the coach about these opportunities for your swimmer.
 - State A Championship
 - All Stars
 - 14 and Under Zones Championship
 - Sectionals
 - Futures
 - Nationals

Meet Preparation

General Prep Items:

Bleachers are available at some meets for viewing competition, it is advised to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and other lounging items for designated “camping” areas for both the competitor and spectators. Coolers (filled with healthy snacks) Gatorade, and /or water are best for fueling your athlete. Meets generally have concessions, but they will have limited offerings. Kids may want to bring games, or other activities to entertain them between events. Swimmers should also bring extra towels, extra pair of goggles and even an extra set of clothes to all meets.

Purchase a meet program at the beginning of the meet. This is needed to know when your child is scheduled to swim. Some parents review the program and highlight each event their child is swimming. Meet Mobile is an app that can be purchased on your mobile device and swimmer results are able to be viewed remotely. Some meets do not participate in Meet Mobile. The races are swam in heats with the fastest swimmers seeded last, much like a track meet. Swimmers are divided up into age groups - 8 & under, 9 & 10, 11 & 12, and 13 and over.

For an out of town meet, you typically need to make your own travel and hotel arrangements. Creative travel suggestion are hotels, campgrounds, friends or relative. Sometimes the team will reserve a block of hotel rooms before a meet. If this happens you will be notified as to where to call to put your name on a room.

Summer Recommendations

Camping areas are outdoors, and canopies are helpful for sun or rain. Sunglasses and sunscreen are also advisable for you and your swimmer. Dark goggles are recommended for summer use. Summer meets are usually Long Course Meters (LCM), which is 50 meters in length.

Winter Recommendations

Indoor pools are very humid and warm during the winter. Dressing in layers or lightweight short sleeve shirts and shorts is recommended. SCM stands for Short Course Meters and SCY stands for Short Course Yards. Both of these are swam in the winter. Winter meets are usually Short Course Yards (SCY), or occasionally Short Course Meters (SCM), which is 25 yards/meters in length.

Team Travel

A team travel is defined as: travel to a swim meet or other team activity that is planned and supervised by the Dakota Riptide, which may include overnight stays. For more information see **Team Travel Policy on the DAKOTA RIPTIDE Website.**

XI. High School Lettering Criteria

For swimmers that attend schools outside of Mitchell, please contact your school for lettering requirements.

The Mitchell/Huron area High School Board's philosophy/mission statement identifies the need for the joint effort of students, parents, staff and community to meet the responsibilities and purposes of developing the potential of our youth. Based on this philosophy the board's policy on athletic letter recognition for students (9-12) participating in an organization or club not affiliated with or sponsored by the Mitchell/Huron area School District 17-2 is to grant approval to organizations or clubs meeting the following procedures and criteria.

Letter Recognition Organization or Club not affiliated with MHS

The Dakota Riptide in accordance with policies established by the Mitchell/Huron area School Board has established the following criteria for Dakota Riptide members to be eligible for a High School Letter in the sport of swimming.

1. Must be a High school student (9-12) in good academic standing (see Mitchell/Huron area High School Handbook page 23 for student activity eligibility on page 23)
2. Must have satisfactory attendance at practice, which will be defined as 85% attendance with that swimmer's designated practice group during the period of Nov. 1 through the Winter State A Championship Meet.
3. Must participate in at least two (2) meets during the season as defined above.

In addition, the Swimmer must not have violated the Mitchell/Huron area High School Extra Curricular Participation Code Conduct and Academic Requirements as outlined on the Mitchell/Huron area High School Website.

Mitchell/Huron area High School Code of Conduct

Mitchell/Huron area High School Handbook Student activity eligibility page 23

Mitchell/Huron area Middle School Handbook Activities eligibility and conduct page 1

The names of the eligible swimmers will be submitted by the head coach of the Dakota Riptide to the Mitchell/Huron area Senior High Athletic Director.

XII. Policies and Procedures

- **Dakota Riptide Swimmer Registration Policy**

Any current DAKOTA RIPTIDE swimmer who registers for a session owes the USA Swimming fees (if applicable) and current session dues regardless of amount of participation during that session. The only exception would be in the event of a medical injury that is supported by a physician's letter stating child's inability to participate the duration of that session. In the event a swimmer/parent forwards to the DAKOTA RIPTIDE Parent Board of Directors a physician's letter of a medical condition that prevents the swimmer from participating the remainder of the session, session fees will be refunded on a pro-rated basis. USA swimming fees will not be refunded.

This situation, however, does not relinquish the family's responsibility on other obligations to the team such as fundraising and assistance at swim meets.

The Dakota Riptide does not allow any deck registration for any member who wishes to swim for Dakota Riptide. The registrar is the only individual permitted to register any swimmers for the Dakota Riptide Club.

- **Fundraising Policies:** The Fundraising committee sets the fundraisers of the year along with the rules and obligation(s) per family. Which may include, but not limited to:
 - Calendar Raffle
 - Swim-A-Thon
 - Hosting Swim Meets
 - Various fundraising opportunities provided through community organizations
 - Grants
 - Donations

Policy for Calendar Raffle

All families will be required to sell a required number of calendars annually. During November each family will receive their allotted number of calendars, set forth by the Fundraising Committee and Board of Directors. If a family chooses to begin swimming with Dakota Riptide after December 1st, the family will be assessed the entire amount of the calendar obligation as a fundraising fee. All calendar sales and monies are due on January 7th (approximate) of each year. Calendars will not be distributed for sales after the January 7th deadline.

Policy for Disbursement of Calendar Raffle

The following shall be the policy of the Mitchell/Huron area Dakota Riptide in accordance with distribution of Calendar monies to members of Dakota Riptide.

1. Members must have sold their required allotment and each calendar paid in full.
2. If the member wishes to pay the fundraising fee and waive selling calendars, that money is due and owed at the designated deadline for turning in calendars.

Dakota Riptide will not distribute any winnings to Riptide families unless the above two criteria are satisfactorily met. Questions about this policy can be directed to the Dakota Riptide Board of Directors.

Dakota Riptide Competition Team Swim Suit Policy

Dakota Riptide swimmers can choose any solid colored suit for competition but must wear **current** team cap for all competitions when representing Dakota Riptide. For further gear or tech suit questions, please contact the coaching staff.

It is recommended that the competition suit be worn only to meets and a separate suit be worn for practice, because suits worn every day to practice will wear out and fade faster. If you need help determining a proper size, ask another parent for help. The meet suit should be fitted tight to help the speed of the swimmer.

Additional Policies and Procedures can be found on the Dakota Riptide swimming website:

- Code of Conduct
- Team Travel Policy
- Communication Policy
- Disciplinary Procedure

XIII. Dakota Riptide Scholarship Program

Program Purpose:

The Dakota Riptide is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing community based aquatics through the sport of competitive swimming for children in the greater Mitchell/Huron area. To that end the Dakota Riptide has created a scholarship program for children who wish to participate, but are not financially able to do so. The following information outlines the program, eligibility requirements, and obligations on the part of the scholarship recipients.

A. Applicant Criteria:

Those wishing to apply for Scholarships must currently receive one of the following benefits or have extenuating circumstances that may require a need for assistance.

1. Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch Program
2. Medicaid Recipient
3. Extenuating Circumstances
4. No outstanding balances greater than 60 days old with the DAKOTA RIPTIDE.

B. Application Process:

1. Applicants must fill out the attached Scholarship Application Form within 10 days of opening the fall or Summer Season. Scholarship Forms may be obtained via the DAKOTA RIPTIDE website; www.DakotaRiptideswimming.com or through the team's Registrar.
2. Applicant must complete the Scholarship Form and return it to the address listed on the application.

C. Review and Disbursement of Funds:

1. Each application will be reviewed by the DAKOTA RIPTIDE Co-Presidents and Treasurer. All applications are kept confidential, and only the DAKOTA RIPTIDE Co-Presidents and Treasurer will review scholarship applications.
2. Each Scholarship is funded for the season applied for (Fall or Summer Session). All scholarship responsibilities outline below will need to be followed or applicant is not eligible for any further scholarship assistance.

D. Scholarship Benefits:

It is the goal of Dakota Riptide to fund each applicant that applies for assistance with our organization. Every effort is made to raise the monies that are necessary to fund all applications. Through the generosity of local businesses and organizations, Dakota Riptide strives to fund every application and an amount is budgeted each year for this process. Each scholarship that is funded receives the following benefits:

1. Membership Fees: Scholarship Applicants will receive complete payment of the Dakota Riptide Membership Fee for the season they have applied for assistance. As outlined above, Scholarships are funded for each season (Fall and Summer) and the applicant must indicate on the scholarship form and which season they wish to apply for.
2. USA Swimming Fee: The Dakota Riptide is governed by a national organization called USA Swimming. Each Dakota Riptide member is required to pay an annual membership fee as part of their membership dues. It is the obligation of the applicant to pay the USA Swimming Fee required as part of membership to the Dakota Riptide. If the applicant is only applying for the summer session, the fee is reduced and is termed a "seasonal swimmer", this fee is due and owing at the time the scholarship application is approved.
3. Swim Meet Fees: Each competition or meet that is attended by any swimmer has fees associated with it. The Dakota Riptide will pick-up all applicable meet fees (head tax, event fees, facility use fees) for any home meets hosted by the Dakota Riptide. Any other meets that a scholarship recipient attends will be the sole responsibility of the applicant.

E. Scholarship Responsibilities:

1. Volunteering: As a member of the Dakota Riptide, all members have an obligation to volunteer their time at meets, and any other Dakota Riptide function where volunteer help is needed to complete team functions. Scholarship recipients are required and encouraged to volunteer their time whenever asked.

2. Fundraising: Fundraising is the primary means of financing the team, paying our coaches, and operating costs. Dakota Riptide conducts fundraisers during the year in which all families are obligated to participate in. This is a critical part of the swim family's responsibility for vital and healthy swim club. **See Fundraising Policies**
3. Swimming equipment, practice and competition suit, cap and goggles.

F. Scholarship Application Frequently Asked Questions

- **May I submit my application via email?**

Yes, applications may be submitted via e-mail to the Registrar or Board President, a list of current e-mail addresses of Registrar/DAKOTA RIPTIDE Officers can be found on the DAKOTA RIPTIDE web-site. You can also submit your application via mail or in person to the team's Registrar.

- **When will I be notified if chosen to receive the funds?**

You will be notified within 10 days of your application by the President.

- **Am I eligible to receive monies two years in a row?**

Yes, however application must be made for each swim session

- **How many scholarships will be given out each year?**

Scholarships are limited to the amount budgeted each year and the availability of funds. The scholarship committee is charged with raising monies for scholarships, and every effort is made to fund each scholarship. If the amount of scholarships exceeds available funds, then each applicant will receive an equal amount of funds available.

- **Is my information and application kept confidential?**

Yes! Only the Board President and Treasurer review and approve the applications. All information is kept in strict confidence neither the coaching staff nor any other Board Members know who has been awarded a scholarship.

- **What are the Membership Fees?**

Membership fees are broken down by age group and the number of swimmers in each family. A complete fee schedule is listed on the website.

- **Who is USA Swimming and why do I have to pay the fee?**

USA Swimming is the governing body for all Local Swim Clubs. Membership in USA swimming provides our liability insurance, training for officials and supports local clubs with information and assistance.