

NEW PARENT INFORMATION PAGE

Have a question and can't find the answer on the website? Please use the parent resources listed below or see the frequently asked questions section underneath the parent resource names. Talking to other swim parents at practices or meets is a great way to get information as well as meet other swim parents too!!

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>CONTACT NAME & EMAIL (PHONE)</u>
Sr. Gold	Kim Kuptz, kimberlydecroix@yahoo.com , 414-315-5322
Sr. Sterling Silver	Kim Kuptz, kimberlydecroix@yahoo.com , 414-315-5322
Sr. Silver	Kim Kuptz, kimberlydecroix@yahoo.com , 414-315-5322
Sr. Bronze	Kim Kuptz, kimberlydecroix@yahoo.com , 414-315-5322
Juniors	Kim Kuptz, kimberlydecroix@yahoo.com , 414-315-5322
Age Group Gold	Brian Neuman, bmneuman@uwalumni.com , 262-565-8969
Age Group Silver	Brian Neuman, bmneuman@uwalumni.com , 262-565-8969
Age Group Bronze	Brian Neuman, bmneuman@uwalumni.com , 262-565-8969
Super 8	Brian Neuman, bmneuman@uwalumni.com , 262-565-8969
Hartford New Parent Mentor	Jan Haapala, teamhaapala@gmail.com ,
Volunteer Questions	Mark Kohnhorst, coachkohn@sbcglobal.net , (262) 367-7657
Billing and Policy Questions	Mark Kohnhorst, coachkohn@sbcglobal.net , (262) 367-7657

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to attend every practice? How much you attend is up to you. You get out of swimming what you put in. At the younger ages, many of our swimmers participate in other sports, so they often will miss a swim practice here or there or will take off a season to participate in another sport. The longer you swim and the higher the group level you participate in the more it is necessary and expected that you will make all practices.

What type of suit & equipment do we need? Practice suits should be one-piece suits that fit snug to the body. The higher the polyester count the longer the suit will last. Competition suits must be one-piece black suits, usually high Lycra content and should also fit snug to the body. Practice equipment varies for each group. Refer to the handbook or ask your group resource person listed above.

All American Aquatics has a store located in Oconomowoc and a website www.all-americanaquatics.com that offers suits and equipment. They also offer some of our team apparel. You must log in to their website (upper right corner) to access the team apparel information. All American Aquatics offers a discount for LCST members. Ask about getting a discount when you visit them in Oconomowoc. Another resource for swim supplies is the Swim Outlet at www.swimoutlet.com/lcst. There are other swim stores in the area as well where you can find appropriate swim apparel and equipment.

Which swim meets do we participate in & do I participate in everyone? Swim meets that LCST participates in will be listed under the current events section of our web page. Clicking on the meet name will take you to the informational page listing which swim groups are expected to participate. You may choose which meets you wish to attend, although it is highly encouraged your swimmer participates in as many of the suggested meets as possible. Meets that we host (Single Age, WGLO,

etc.) are meets that the coaching staff would like everyone to participate in. The swim meets are what many of our swimmers consider the best part of swimming and many participate in every meet.

What does “must meet” mean? Under the description of the meet are the words “MUST MEET” followed by a listing of all groups that are expected to participate in the event and they may be entered if you do not inform the staff that they cannot attend.

What do I need to pay attention to in the meet information listing? The meet information listing is the official report sanctioning the meet. The key information that a parent needs to look for is:

location of meet.....pool name and address
schedule/warmups.....listing of start times
entry limits.....how many events can be swum/day per/meet
heat sheet/admissions pricing.....cost to enter meet for spectators
order and day of events.....lists which events are swum on which days

What if I don’t know what events to enter my swimmer in? You may elect to have the coaches select your swimmer’s events. On the team website, click “attend this event”, click on your child’s name. In the “notes” section, you may request to have the coaches choose the events.

What is a medley? A medley is a combination of swimming equal distances of four different strokes in one race. This race is either swum by one swimmer as individual medley (IM) (butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle) or by four swimmers as a medley relay (backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, freestyle). Note: The stroke order is different depending on if the medley is swum individually or as a relay.

What is an open event? An open event is for the older swimmers that do not fit into the age group events. These events are technically open to anyone, and sometimes younger swimmers will participate if they would like to swim in an event not offered for their own age group. Open events will typically have swimmers 17 & older entered.

What is a time trial? Following the conclusion of the day’s events, time trials may be offered. If a swimmer is trying to achieve a qualifying time (specific time that must be achieved for the swimmer to enter a competitive event) and did not achieve that time during the meet, they can sign up, in advance, to swim that event again at the conclusion of the day for another opportunity to qualify. There is an additional fee for time trials.

What is positive check-in? For longer swim events, swimmers are required to check-in. If a swimmer is not in attendance, their lane will be given away to another swimmer so as to maximize the swimmers in the pool and keep the event moving. The coaches will usually “check-in” the swimmers for their team.

What’s the difference between a timed final meet and prelims/finals meet?

Most swim meets are timed finals. In a meet of this type, only heats are swum, and the final placing in an event is determined by the times achieved in these heats. Some meets, usually at a higher level of competition, are prelim and finals. In these meets, prelims are swum early in the day, with the fastest swimmers qualifying for finals. Finals are swum later in the day, in which the final placing for an event is determined.

What happens at a meet?

Your child should arrive approximately 1 hour prior to the Meet start time. They will have warm-ups with their Coaches. Warm-up times will be posted on the website.

To know what event, heat and lane your swimmer will compete, you will need to purchase a heat sheet or look for one posted at the meet and locate your swimmer’s name. Heat sheets should be on sale for

each meet. (LCST hosted meets have heat sheets available online for you to print off.) You can write your swimmer's events, heat and lanes on their hands/arms/thigh. A fine point Sharpie marker works the best for this, but a ballpoint pen may be used. Write the Event #, Heat # and Lane # in a tic-tac-toe box with the headings E, H, L to correspond with the #. You may also want to write the distance and stroke for your swimmer, but this is optional. Here is an example:

<u>E</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>L</u>	
7	2	5	50 back
28	4	6	50 free
33	1	3	200 free relay (swim 3rd)

You can write your swimmer's events, heat and lanes on their hands/arms.

Swimmers are "seeded" in competition according to their entry times. In each event the heats are arranged to start with the slowest swimmers seeded in the first heat and the fastest swimmers seeded in the last heat. Within each heat, the swimmers are seeded with the faster swimmers in the middle lanes.

Swimmers need to be in the "line-up" area two to three events before their race.

Results will be posted throughout the meet as times are entered.

What is the difference between a high point meet and an age group meet? A high point meet is a meet where you compete against only those swimmers of the same age. The top 16 swimmers in each event receive points. At the conclusion of the meet, all the points for each swimmer are totaled and awards are given to the highest point achievers. An age group meet is where everyone competes in age groups: 8/under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, senior. Awards are given for each event.

What's the difference between short course and long course?

A short course pool is 25-yards, a long course pool is 50 meters long. The majority of swimming competition in America, and the majority of the pools, are short course yards. Most U.S. national and major international championships -- such as World Championships and the swimming competition at the Olympic Games -- are held at the long course distance. There is also a short course meters length that is becoming increasingly popular on the international scene. Be careful when looking at short course information whether it is yards or meters.

The annual swimming calendar in the U.S. is divided into two seasons; short course (25 yards) and long course (50 meters). From September to March, virtually all competition is short course. From April through August, training and meets are offered at the long course distance whenever possible.

Parent Specific FAQ's

Do I have to volunteer at team hosted swim meets? Yes. It takes many volunteers to run a swim meet (30-40 for a small meet & 250+ for a major meet.) Volunteer expectations depends on the level of the meet we are hosting. Most meets require you to volunteer only if your swimmer is participating in that meet. We do have mandatory meets that require our membership to volunteer regardless of whether your swimmer is entered or not. An example of a mandatory meet would be a state meet. Refer to the volunteer acceptance form for specific meet expectations. By hosting meets, a major source of revenue is generated, hence keeping swim fees lower for everyone.

We also have committees that are looking for additional help. (Fund raising, social, meet planning, apparel, kitchen, parent education) Participation in these committees does not fulfill your meet

volunteer requirements, but volunteering in this capacity improves the overall swim experience for all of our children and to meet your seasonal volunteer.

When volunteering at a meet, what jobs can I do? Jobs we recommend to our newer families:

- *Timer* – stand behind the starting blocks, start and stop a stop watch, record the times
- *Admissions* – take admissions money and sell heat sheet
- *Security* – man entry ways to pool and check all spectators for wristbands and keep parents off the pool deck
- *Concessions* – sell food/drink
- *Hospitality* – work in a room for officials and coaches setting out meals and snacks.
- *Awards* – hand out ribbons/trophies to swimmers
- *Runner* - collect recorded times from the timers after each event.

We have other meet critical positions (Colorado, scoring, computer, meet marshal) that require training. If you have an interest in these jobs, sign up in the “trainee” spot to be given the opportunity to work side-by-side with an experienced worker.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEW SWIM PARENT

1. Join a carpool. Find out where other swimmers in your child’s group live and form a carpool.
2. Get involved! Feel free to watch practices and have your child participate in the meets. Introduce yourself to others at practices and meets. You will make new friends, meet the parents of kids that your child swims with, be able to exchange swimming stories/questions and most importantly become part of the TEAM! Many of our members would tell you that swimming is a family affair. Other ways to get involved include attending a Board meeting or joining a committee. By being involved, you will learn a lot of interesting information about swimming and our team!
3. Buy a swimsuit that is snug. Many parents feel they want a suit that their child can grow into. Trust us...the chlorine will “eat” the suit long before your child will outgrow it. Rinse suits in cool water after every practice and don’t wash in detergent.
4. Bring snacks for your swimmer to swim meets. Swim meets can be long and hot. Concessions are offered at most swim meets, but food selections aren’t always the healthiest. Snack suggestions: fruit, breakfast bars, yogurt, nuts, cheese, muffins, etc. Major meals should be eaten 1 hour prior to competition. Only light, easily digested snack and plenty of fluids should be consumed during a meet. FLUIDS are the most important!
5. Be prepared for swim meets. Bring an encouraging, positive attitude to support your swimmer and the team. Cheering for your swimmer and others on LCST is acceptable and encouraged! Also, bring along some money to pay for admission/heat sheets and a pen or Sharpie marker to write your child's event information on their hand and to keep track of swimmers/events on the heat sheet. Optional items to bring include a highlighter for the heat sheets, your bleacher seat for comfort and the appropriate time standards/cuts or the top times information for your child to use as a resource/reference for goal setting. Wearing your LCST apparel to meets is also optional but great for team spirit! Go Phoenix!