

## **YOUR FIRST SWIM MEET**

We know swim team can be confusing and frustrating for new members. We hope the following will help you and your swimmer prepare better for your first swim meet.

Your first meet begins with a sign-up approximately 3 weeks before the meet date. Meet notices are posted online. Watch for meet entry deadlines! Copies of the meet information, as well as the actual sign-up is done on the team website.

**SIGNING UP.** Look under Events on the Home Page of the team website. If you click on the name of the event, you can see vital information regarding the meet and you can actually download the meet invitation which includes the meet schedule, meet events, entry fee costs, and many other important things you need to know about the meet. Click on the "Attend this Event" button to actually sign your swimmer up for events in the meet.

**TRAVELING TO THE MEET.** Allow plenty of time to get to the meet. For local meets (Nampa, Caldwell, Ontario), everyone drives over and back each day. For more distant meets where you will be staying overnight, you may have to drive to your destination the day or evening before the meet begins. Be sure to get directions to the pool--check posted meet information or ask the Meet Entry Chairman for directions. You will want to get a hotel room booked as soon as you decide to attend the meet.

**POOL FACILITIES.** The Boise Y Swim Team attends meets in a variety of pool facilities. Spectator seating varies in quantity and quality at each pool. Parents may want to bring lawn chairs to set around the deck of the pool. Summer meets held in outdoor pools may require umbrellas, tents, or awnings. Parents can bring coolers with drinks and snacks for their swimmer. Most meets will have a concession stand which sells a variety of food and drink.

**TEAM FUND RAISER.** Most meets are team fund raisers. Teams raise money from their heat sheet sales, concession stands, t-shirt sales (each meet may have their own custom imprinted shirt), and commissions from aquatic supply companies (each meet usually has a booth where suits, goggles, and other supplies are sold). Please support these money making endeavors as much as possible.

**UPON ARRIVAL AT POOL.** It is important that all team members sit together at a meet. Take sleeping bags, mats, etc. for your swimmer to sit on during the meet (remember, these do get wet). After situating your swimmer, go buy a Heat Sheet. This is a program which lists all events and swimmers and the order in which they swim. Check the Heat Sheet to be sure your swimmer is listed in all the events he/she signed up for—if you feel an event is missing or if your swimmer's name is nowhere to be found in the Heat Sheet, go immediately to your swimmer's coach. Highlighting your swimmer's events in your Heat Sheet is helpful. Writing each day's event names, numbers, heats, and lanes on the back of your swimmer's hand is another helpful hint.

**DURING THE MEET.** Swimmers should report to their lane at the appropriate time--usually 2-3 heats before their own. Announcements are made 3 times for each event. By the time the 3rd "call" has been made, swimmers should be behind the blocks and ready to swim.

Swimmers should check in with coaches before and after they swim. Coaches will not look for each swimmer--it is up to the swimmer to find the coach. If your swimmer receives a disqualification slip, please see that the coach gets it. If a swimmer is DQ'ed, the time is not valid and will not show up in the results.

Results of each event are posted. Swimmers are listed in the order of finish. Results are also downloaded to an app called Meet Mobile. This app has a \$5 yearly subscription fee but is well worth having. Results are also posted on the team website under the Members Only tab within a day or two after the meet.

**HELPING DURING THE MEET.** The Boise Y Swim Team is most often the largest team in attendance at a meet. Therefore, we usually have the most parents in attendance. We are usually asked to provide three to six timers at all times during the meet. Please take a turn--it is easy to learn how to time and a great way to meet other parents on the team. Parents can also learn how to be officials. Official's Clinics are held throughout the year. Clinics run 3-4 hours. In addition to the clinic, officials must do on deck training as well as take a written test before they can become certified. Swim meets cannot be run without officials. If you are interested in officiating, please call the Snake River Officials Chairman or let our Meet Director know you are interested in a Clinic.

**AFTER THE MEET.** Please be sure your swimmer has all of his belongings. Remind swimmers to pick up their area--we want to leave a good impression not trash, clothing, and towels! High Point and Team trophies are given out at the end of the meet. It is always nice to have swim team members present to accept the awards. All ribbons for individual events are placed in one sack for the entire team. They must be separated and placed in smaller sacks for each individual. This is usually done the day after the meet at the YMCA. Swimmers can expect to pick up their awards 2 to 3 days after a meet.