

## **MANTA RAYS SWIM TEAM**

### **END OF REGULAR SEASON AWARDS**

At the end of every regular YMCA season, we recognize hard work, dedication, and other aspects of competitive swimming.  
Categories are subject to change each season.

Categories:

- **Most Improved Rookies**
  - Awarded to rookie athletes that have shown the most overall improvement (practices, competitions, skills, work ethic, team spirit, etc..)
  - There are 8 awards available for this category–divided by Gender & Age Group (8u male & female, 9/10 male & female, 11/12 male & female, 13 & up male & female)
  - If there is not a rookie in that age group/gender, no award is issued.
- **Most Improved Veteran**
  - Awarded to veteran athletes that have shown the most overall improvement (practices, competitions, skills, work ethic, team spirit, etc..)
  - There are 8 awards available for this category. Divided the same as rookies.
  - If there is not a veteran in that age group/gender, no award is issued.
- **Best Overall Attendance**
  - Divided by age group (8u, 9/10, 11/12, 13 & up) to the athlete with the highest practice attendance in their age group.
  - There are 5 awards available for this category.
  - Best Overall Team Attendance is also awarded.
- **Future Team Leader & Best Core Values Representative**
  - This is awarded to those athletes that demonstrate YMCA Core Values (Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility) and encompass the Manta Rays Team Spirit.
  - There are 4 awards available for this category. It is divided by age group.
- **Time Drop Machine**
  - Awarded to the athletes with the most amount of time dropped for their age group for the current season.
  - There are 5 awards available for this category.
  - Time Drop Machine Overall is awarded to the athlete with the most amount of time dropped for the entire team.
- **NEW 2023-2024!!! Legacy Award**
  - The Legacy Award is given to any Manta Ray athlete that has been an active member of the team for 7 consecutive seasons or more.
  - Each Legacy Award also gets a set or drill named after them to be used for future seasons.
- **NEW 2023-2024!!! Top Ray**
  - The Top Ray award is issued to the athletes that have set the most new team records within the current season.
  - There are two Top Ray awards available. One for Male and one for female.
- **YMCA State Championship Meet All-Star**
  - Each Iowa YMCA swim team is allowed to nominate two athletes (one male and one female) to the All-Star team.
  - All Star Team candidates should be committed to YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – positive role model, HEALTHY LIVING – taking an active role in a lifelong sport and SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY – giving back and supporting others in their community. They should show dedication to YMCA Swimming and great sportsmanship to all those around them.
  - These athletes are recognized at the State Championship swim meet on the day they compete.
- **Manta Ray of the Year**
  - One award is issued to the athlete that displays the characteristics of each of the other award categories and the Manta Ray team spirit.

Please note: Coaches do their best to nominate a variety of candidates for each award category. We attempt to give awards to as many different athletes as possible. Not every athlete will receive an award.

Some categories are cut and dry and based on statistics and numbers, other categories are more flexible. If a nominee is awarded an overall category, they would not be issued the award for their age group/gender too–that would go to the next eligible athlete.