

# **Swim Meet 101 for Parents and Guardians**

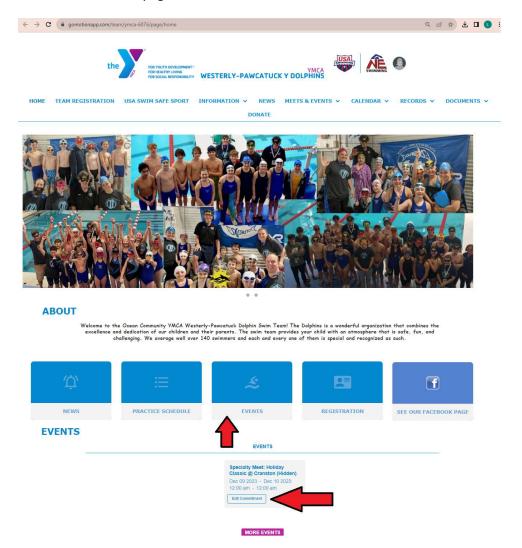
So you're ready to sign up for your first swim meet. Here is a little guide to help you along the way.

## 1) SIGNING UP:

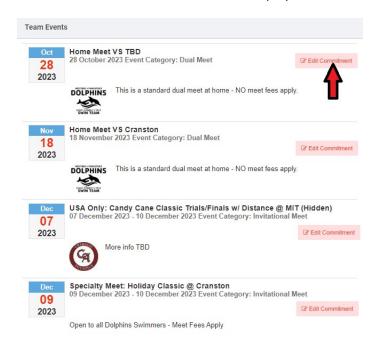
Visit the Team Home Page:

http://www.ymcadolphins.org/

At the bottom of the page there is an Events Button as well as an Event List.

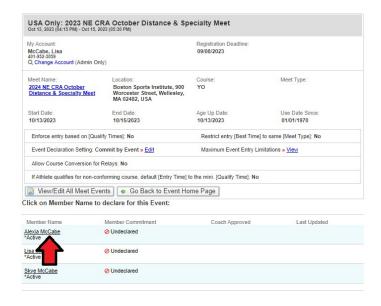


If you select the Events button a list of available events will be displayed similar to the picture below:



Next to the swim meet, click the Attend/Decline button. If you are not already logged in, you will be prompted to log in with your TeamUnify account.

Your swimmer's name(s) will appear in a list, select the name of your swimmer and the event signup page will appear.



Use the drop down box to select **Yes, Please sign up [Swimmer's Name] for this event**. Place a check mark in the Day/Session box. (For some special meets you can choose the events your swimmer will swim in. For most meets, the coach will select the events.)

## **Click Save Changes.**



Now your swimmer is all signed up for the meet.

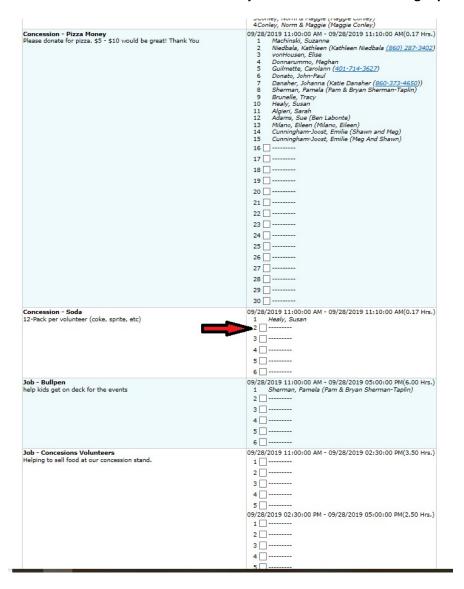
This can also be done using the OnDeck app. Your login info works for both the website and app.

## 2) VOLUNTEER:

Our organization is mostly run by volunteers. To make a meet run smoothly it takes a lot of volunteers. There are many options and jobs available at home meets. At the very minimum, donating something to the concession stand is appreciated. The money raised from the concession stand goes back to the team. At away meets we sometimes just need some volunteer timers.

To volunteer, select the Job Signup Option next to the meet.

Select the **checkbox** next to an available job slot and then click the **signup** button at the top.



Fill in the required information and submit.

Volunteer Job descriptions can be found here:

https://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=ymca-6076& stabid =174657

## 3) MEET DAY:

Now to prepare for the day of the meet. Swim meets tend to last 4+ hours so you'll need to do some packing.:

- 1) It is a good idea to bring some portable chairs, some people bring blankets to sit on.
- 2) Something to keep your swimmer occupied while waiting for their races. (Books, Games, Portable devices, ect..)
- 3) A water bottle.
- 4) Food your swimmer will get hungry.
- 5)Towels bring multiple towels.
- 6) Clothing to keep warm between warm-ups and race and between races.
- 7) Cap and Goggles Extras are a good idea, sometimes these items break.
- 8) For some of the smaller swimmers who get cold, a bathrobe or small blanket to wrap in is a good idea.
- 9) Flip-flops or other easy slip on/off footwear. Swimmers are not allowed to walk around the YMCA barefoot.

Please arrive at the time that the coach has requested for the meet. You will need a little time to get your area setup and get your swimmer(s) ready for warm ups. At home meets, we set up in the gymnasium of the Y.



## 4) CHECK IN:

Upon arrival, there will be a check-in desk at home meets. Be sure to check in so that your swimmer is not scratched from their events as a no-show. If it is an away meet, check in with a coach.

After you check in, head over to the setup area and put your stuff down. A warm-up sheet may be posted on the wall. Find your swimmer's warm-up group and be sure they are ready to enter the pool at the right time. If a sheet is not posted, see a coach for warm-up time.

An event sheet will also be posted on the wall. Find your swimmer's name and the events that your swimmer is signed up for will be listed.

The Event Sheet will look something like this:



We like to list the swimmer's events on their hands using a Sharpie. There are usually volunteers around to assist with this.

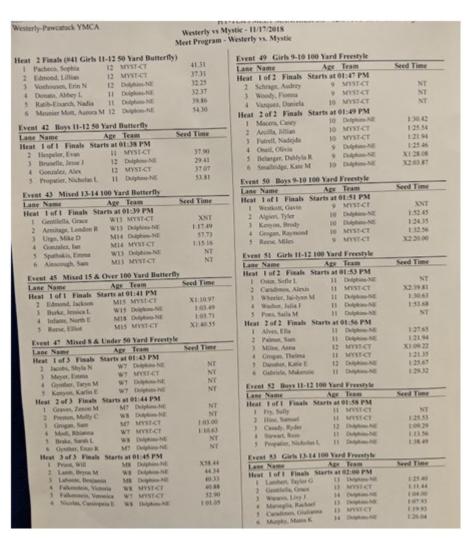
## 5) WARM UPS:

Your swimmer's group will be called to the pool area for warm-ups. Something must be worn on your swimmer's feet as they walk through the Y. A pair of flip-flops or other type of easy slip on/off shoe is recommended.

After warm-ups, your swimmer will return to the gymnasium. Have them dry off and keep warm until race time.

#### **HEAT SHEETS:**

Just before the meet starts, heat sheets will be available for purchase. A heat sheet will list all the events in the meet and each individual heat within those events. Heat sheets are \$2.



#### 6) BULLPEN:

Once the meet is ready to kick off, the first events will be called to the bullpen which is set up in the gymnasium. When your hear your swimmer's event number being called, bring them over to the bullpen to be lined up for their event. Then you can head to the pool area for viewing. Please try to have your swimmer return to the gymnasium after their race to be ready to be lined up again if they have a next race. If your swimmer's races are back to back and the line for their next event is already in the pool area, a coach may request that you stay and get back in line in the pool area.

## 7) CONCESSION:

At most meets a concession stand is available to purchase food, drinks, and snacks. At home meets, please be sure to sign up to contribute to the concession stand. We also need volunteers to run the concession stand.

## 8) VIEWING AREA:

There are some designated viewing areas for spectators. Once your swimmer has been lined up in the bullpen or on the pool deck, volunteers will get them to the correct location. Please stay in the designated areas and do not come up behind the diving blocks unless you are a volunteer who is required to be there.

## 9) Photography Policy:

Per USA Swimming and SafeSport policies, no photographs or videos are to be taken in the restricted area. The restricted area is defined as the area from the flags at the starting end of the pool and extends to all area behind the starting blocks.

Please be respectful of other swimmers privacy and try to only photograph or video your own swimmer unless you have permission from the parents or guardian of another swimmer to photograph or take videos of them.

Have Fun and if you have any questions, a coach or volunteer will be happy to help you.