

# 2019 MSC SUMMER SWIM TEAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **General**
  - **Registration**
  - **Practice**
  - **Meets**
  - **Coaches and Other Contact Information**
- 

## **General**

### **Will my child enjoy being on the swim team?**

Yes, there are many fun things planned in the summer swim season. In addition to fun practices, there are exciting meets and donuts and bagels during morning practices on meet days. Occasionally after home meets, we have open swim and offer cookies and pizza. On the morning of the MSC vs. Meadowink meet, we have a pancake breakfast, face painting and our seniors provide entertainment hoping to rally the swimmers for this traditional rivalry. Many of the swimmers make shirts and “dress up” for this meet. At the end of the season, we hold a banquet at the pool and the senior swimmers present awards. Joining the MSC swim team is a positive and fun experience for all children.

### **Does my child have to know how to swim to participate on the swim team?**

Yes, your child will be required to swim the length of the pool’s deep end and back without holding onto ropes. If you are not sure if your child is able to swim the length of the pool’s deep end, please have a coach evaluate their skills prior to registering your child for swim team.

### **What age do you have to be to participate on the swim team?**

The minimum age required to be on the team is 5 years old. All swimmers must be able to swim the length of the deep end and back without assistance or holding onto the rope.

### **Do I have to purchase a team suit?**

Typically new suits are purchased every other year. A suit was selected for the 2018-19 season and will be available for purchase this year. It is not required to purchase a team suit - it is optional. Swimmers Network will be selling suits at MSC on Thursday, May 30<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm. If you’d like a team suit, it is important to attend this suit sale. Suits are ordered through our vendor at this time, and we need them in time for the season.

It is recommended that if you do not purchase the team suit that your child wear a tight fitting suit. It is ideal for competitive swimming.

Swim Outlet offers swimwear at a great price if you would like to order any additional suits [www.swimoutlet.com](http://www.swimoutlet.com).

### **Does my child have to wear a swim cap and/or goggles?**

No, but most swimmers find caps and goggles to be beneficial to their performance.

### **When will pictures be taken?**

Individual and team pictures will be taken during practice on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Registration**

### **When is registration for the swim team?**

Registration for the team will be available online beginning **May 11, 2019** at [www.murrysville.swimtopia.com](http://www.murrysville.swimtopia.com). Registration will continue through June 1, 2019. ***After June 1, 2019 a \$25 late fee will be assessed.***

### **Do I get a t-shirt with registration?**

Yes, every swimmer that registers **by June 1, 2019** will receive a t-shirt. You will order the size desired for your swimmer online during registration. We are unable to exchange shirts, so recommend if you are unsure between 2 sizes, to order the larger size. There will be no shirts ordered or given to swimmers that have a late registration. With such a short season, we need to complete the t-shirt order as quickly as possible so the swimmers are able to wear the team shirts for the entire swim season.

### **What is the cost to be on the swim team?**

The cost is \$60 for the nine week program. This cost includes all practices, swim meets, invitational meets, and special events for the swimmer. The cost for each additional swimmer from the same family is \$45.

### **Do I have to volunteer if my child participates on the swim team?**

Yes, the only way we are able to hold swim meets is with every parent's participation. Many people are needed to hold a meet. We also need help with all of the extra activities we plan.

### **How do I sign up to volunteer?**

You will be required to sign up for volunteer hours during the registration process online. Registration will not complete without the required volunteer hours fulfilled. The dates that we need volunteers for, the job descriptions, and the number of hours the job is worth will be available during registration. Volunteer positions are on a first come first serve basis. Register early to select the job of your choice. There are many opportunities available and most positions require no experience.

### **What if I can't fulfill my volunteer requirements?**

If you are unable to fulfill your volunteer requirements, you are responsible for finding your own replacement and contacting one of the swim moms to let them know. Please provide the name of your replacement and what job they will be fulfilling for you.

## **Practice**

### **How are the swimmers divided into groups?**

The swimmers are divided into groups according to their age. There is a 13 and older group, a 9 – 12 year old group, and an 8 and under group. The coach may move the children to a different age group based on the swimmers ability and experience with swimming.

## **What days of the week and what time are practices held for the swim team?**

Practice starts on Tuesday, May 28, 2019. The first week of practices are held from 6:30pm to 8pm (6:30pm-7:15pm for ages 10 and under, 7:15pm-8pm for ages 11 and over). Beginning June 10, 2019, practices are held daily in the morning. 9 to 12 year olds will practice from 9am until 10am, the 8 and under group will practice from 10am until 10:30am, and the 13 and older group will practice from 10:30am until 11:45am.

## **Does my child have to attend practice every day?**

Yes, everyone should attend every practice possible. Attending practice is the only way for the swimmer to improve. It also helps to create a fun atmosphere where all of the swimmers know each other. Your child will enjoy practicing with their friends. If your child is at practice during times when he/she is not swimming (for instance while a sibling may be practicing), please make sure that he/she is supervised by an adult during this time. For safety reasons, we cannot have children running around the pool grounds during practices. Our coaches are there to instruct our team during these times and for their safety must stay focused on the swimmers.

## **Is practice mandatory on the day of the meet?**

Practice is not mandatory on the day of the meet but it helps the coaches determine the line up and enables the relay teams to practice together. Donuts and bagels are available for sale after practices the day of meets.

## **Meets**

### **How many meets are there during the swim season?**

This year there are 11 total meets. Meets are categorized by dual meets, invitational meets, and "special" meets. Dual meets are open to all swimmers. Invitational meets are meets in which the coach selects the swimmers he/she wants to participate. Only those swimmers can attend. "Special meets" are held for swimmers who are an odd age this year (i.e. 9, 11, 13, and 15) and a mini meet (swimmers 8 years old and younger).

### **Does my child have to swim at every meet?**

Although, it is not mandatory to attend every meet the coaches encourage 100% participation in all meets. In order to have a successful season, we need our full team in attendance at every meet.

### **Will my child be able to swim at every meet?**

Some meets are "invitational meets" and have a limited number of spots for swimmers. The coach will select the swimmers to participate and notify them that they have been invited. Only those swimmers selected can participate. All children are able to swim at every dual meet. If your child is able to swim at the meet he/she will be placed in an event. The coach determines the events your child will swim.

### **How do I sign my child up for a swim meet?**

You will commit 'yes' or 'no' for each meet for each swimmer in your family. If you've signed up your swimmer for a meet, it is expected that he/she will attend unless an emergency comes up. The coach spends a great deal of time preparing line ups for each meet.

### **What time are the meets and when am I expected to arrive?**

The coach will announce what time to be at the meet in the days leading up to each meet. Arrival time will vary depending on whether it's home or away.

### **How do I know which events my child will be swimming?**

The coaches will hang up a list of the events and the swimmer names at the meet. Look on that list to see the events your child is swimming.

### **How many events can my child swim in?**

The maximum number of events a child can swim for points at a meet is 2.

### **Do I have to check in upon arrival at the meets?**

Yes, have your swimmer go to the assistant coach that is checking all swimmers in to ensure that everyone has made it and no events will be missing a swimmer.

### **Will the coaches find my child when it is his or her turn to swim?**

The coaches are extremely busy during a meet. It is mandatory that the swimmers stay together as a group so it is easier to notify them that their event is coming up. There are several older swimmers on the team who will be helping the coaches by lining up younger swimmers for their events. Please encourage your swimmer(s) to stay with the team during meets and not in the stands with you.

### **How long do meets last?**

Meets are approximately two hours long.

### **Where can I find directions to the meets?**

Directions are available at [www.murrysvilleswimclub.org](http://www.murrysvilleswimclub.org).

### **What do I take to a swim meet?**

Our well-known concession stand will be open early for you to purchase dinner at the pool for home meets. We also encourage you to support our fellow clubs by purchasing food from their concession stands. It is one of only a few means for the clubs to make money for our teams. Pack an umbrella, towels, a chair to sit on, sweatshirt, and other things to keep your child entertained. Also, sharpies are helpful for the swimmers to write their event(s) on their hands.

### **Should I notify the coach if my swimmer is signed up for a meet and unexpectedly, is not able to attend the meet?**

Yes, telephone one of the coaches as soon as you know that you cannot be at a meet. Swimmers are often in relay events (a team of swimmers) and without a swimmer attending it jeopardizes the other swimmers' opportunity to participate. The coach will try his best to rearrange the line up so that all swimmers attending can participate. But please notify the coaches as early as possible by committing 'no' if you know that your child will not be able to attend the meet in advance.

## **How are meets scored?**

There are score sheets handed out at each meet. Basically, for every event there are two point swimmers from each team. These swimmers swim in the first heat of each event in lanes 2, 3, 4, and 5. The other heats and/or lanes are alternate swimmers and are not necessarily swimming for points but swimming to improve their individual times.

## **Are the meets ever cancelled due to bad weather?**

You must show up for every meet rain or shine. Meets do get cancelled however; a meet is not cancelled until a half hour past the starting time of the meet. Every effort will be made to swim the meet so please do not leave until the meet has been officially cancelled. If a meet is cancelled, it will be rescheduled for a later date.

## **Coaches and Other Contact Information**

### **When can I talk to coach?**

The best time to talk to the coach is before or after practice, or after a meet. Please refrain from trying to talk to the coach during practice. The coach has limited time to work with the swimmers and it is imperative for the safety of the swimmers that the coach be focused on them.

### **If I have any other questions whom can I contact?**

This year the three swim team moms are:

Julie Clark	<a href="mailto:clark3964@gmail.com">clark3964@gmail.com</a>
Nicole Kociela	<a href="mailto:kocielan3901@comcast.net">kocielan3901@comcast.net</a>
Rhonda Kvocak	<a href="mailto:rkvocak@comcast.net">rkvocak@comcast.net</a>