

Blue Wave Swim Team

Meet FAQ's:

1) How do I know what events my child is swimming at a meet?

Heat Sheets are posted on the Blue Wave website under Swim Meets link at <http://www.balconeswoods.org/bluewave/index.htm>

The events are listed in the order they will occur in the meet. Look through all events of the correct age group to know what your child will be swimming.

2) What is a "Heat Sheet"?

The "Heat Sheet" lists swimmers' names, followed by entry times, that show when that child will be swimming during each event. If a child is in Heat 1, he/she will be in the first group of contestants to compete in that event. He/she is usually in a heat with swimmers of similar ability, based on time. The time used will be their fastest time achieved that season. If a swimmer has never swum an even it will be listed as "NT" – no time.

3) Who chooses my child's events?

Coach Huddle does the entries each week and enters swimmers based on whether or not the swimmer is legal in a stroke and how competitive the swimmer will be in a particular event.

4) How many events can my child swim in each meet?

Three individual and two relay events are permitted per swimmer. The events include 25 yards or meters of each stroke (Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Freestyle) for swimmers aged 8 & Under, and the same plus 100 Individual Medley for ages 9-10. The 11-18 year olds all swim 50 yards or meters of each stroke plus the 100 Individual Medley. Medley and Freestyle Relays are offered. Four swimmers comprise a relay team.

5) What is a Medley Relay?

Each swimmer swims a different stroke in the order: back, breast, fly and free

6) My child is swimming in one event and someone else's child is in four events. How is that possible?

The only reason a swimmer would not be entered in three individual events is if they do not yet do the stroke(s) correctly (legally). This is often the case for new swimmers learning Breaststroke and/or Butterfly. The rules for those two strokes are much stricter than for Freestyle and Backstroke. Every effort is made to place each swimmer on at least one relay per meet.

7) How is it determined which lane a swimmer is in for each event?

The fastest swimmer in each heat, based on entry times, is in lane 3 of a six lane pool. The second fastest is in lane 4, the next in lane 2, and so on. In an eight lane pool, lane 4 is fastest, lane 5 second fastest, and so on.

8) Can I make last minute changes to my child's events?

No. Entries must be finalized by Thursday afternoon in order to be "merged" by computer with the other team's entries to create the "heat sheet". On rare occasions, we can "deck-enter" a swimmer on Saturday morning, but changing entries is not allowed at that point. Any special needs of the swimmer to leave early or come late that would affect entries should be communicated to Coach Huddie by Tuesday each week.

9) How are relay teams chosen?

Relays are created by combining the fastest four swimmers in an age group/sex. The coaches have access to all swimmers' times on our computer program, so can figure out the fastest combinations. If a swimmer is not legal in a stroke, they cannot be put on a relay. We often enter three relays per event, in order to give more swimmers a chance to compete. The fastest four swimmers are on the "A" relay, next fastest "B".

10) What is a Heat Ribbon?

Heat ribbons are given to the winner of each heat. The winner of a heat is not necessarily the winner of the whole event. All swimmers of the same two year age group and sex compete against each other. Sometimes there are as many as six or more heats in an event. Final placing is determined by time, regardless of which heat a swimmer is in.

11) Will a swimmer receive a ribbon for participating in each event?

A swimmer may win a heat ribbon if he/she wins a particular heat, but unless his/her time is among the fastest six of the entire event, he/she will not receive a place ribbon. Any swimmer who improves a time in any event will receive an improvement ribbon. These are placed in family files early in the week after a meet. Swimmers in age group 6 & unders and 7/8's who do not receive any place ribbons may receive a rainbow "participation" ribbon for each meet.

12) What does it mean if a swimmer is disqualified or "DQ'd"?

If a swimmer performs the stroke or turn incorrectly, pushes off the bottom of the pool, pulls on the lane line, or leaves early on a relay take-off, they will be disqualified from that event. A time performed in that event will not be counted. Because we want our youngest swimmers to learn the correct way to perform a stroke, all ages may be disqualified but the judges and coaches will make their best effort to explain what was done incorrectly so they may learn and do it properly at the next meet.

13) When can a swimmer start swimming the "I.M." or Individual Medley?

Swimmers in the 9/10 age group and older can swim the IM. It is a four length event, one length of each stroke, so it's not for everyone. ;-)

14) How do I find out results from each meet?

During the meet, the results are normally placed on a wall or fence near the pool. After the meet, results are posted to the BW website under swim meets and the date of the meet and name of the opponent.

15) How many meets must a swimmer compete in to participate in Champs?

Each swimmer must compete at two dual meets and swim at least two events at each meet in order to swim at Champs. 6 & under swimmers must swim only one event per meet to compete at Champs.

16) What is Champs?

The last meet of each season is our Championship meet (Champs). All teams in the league swim at the same meet and it is usually held at the University of Texas Jamail swim center.

17) What is the difference between yards and meters?

Meter pools are longer, by about seven feet per 25. Balcones Woods pool is 25 yards, while the other teams in our league are 25 meters long. The UT pool is yards for our Champs Meet. You will notice the time difference with results; meter times will be slower. Fortunately, the software we use is able to convert times from yards to meters and meters to yards so our swimmers are properly entered in each meet.

18) What happens if my child's goggles fall off during a race?

The short answer is: KEEP SWIMMING! Unless there is a major problem being caused by the goggle mishap, swimmers will be fine competing without goggles. In breaststroke and butterfly, hand or arm motions to correct goggle issues can, and often do, result in disqualification. There is more freedom with freestyle and backstroke. If a swimmer does lose his/her goggles, he/she will be permitted to retrieve them right after the race.

19) How are the meets scored?

Dual Meets -	Individual Events	Relays
1st –	5 points	5 points
2nd –	3 points	0 points
3rd –	1 point	0 points
Championship Meet	Individual Events	Relays
1st	7 points	14 points
2nd	5 points	10 points
3rd	4 points	8 points
4th	3 points	6 points
5th	2 points	4 points
6th	1 point	2 points

20) What if my child is sick the morning of a swim meet? Whom should I contact?

Contact your age group parent and ask them to let the coaches know immediately. If you can't reach them, try to call the coach directly. Huddle's number is 835-1636.

21) Can my child swim up at the BW pool on a Friday before a meet?

We encourage kids to take it easy on Fridays before the meets and to have a restful day. Drink plenty of fluids and go to bed early. Meet days are often long and hot.

22) Why do the coaches want my child to wear a swim cap?

Swim caps keep unruly hair out of the swimmer's eyes and also make a swimmer more streamlined. Our Blue Wave caps are also very noticeable and will help spectators and coaches spot our fast swimmers!

23) Where can I buy swim team equipment such as goggles?

Our team runs the "Bluetique" both during practices on some days before meets and on meet days. Prices are similar or cheaper than other local sources. Other needs can be found at Lane Four Swim Shop at the corner of 183 and Burnet Rd. We typically buy our team suits from Lane Four.

Team Info FAQ's:

1) When is swim team registration?

Registration usually occurs in late March and is announced through the neighborhood newsletter. Cost in 2009 was \$125 for the first swimmer, and \$100 for additional swimmers from the same family. The cost includes a team suit, team t-shirt, and Memory Mate team photo, as well as a trophy. What a deal!

2) My child has a friend who would like to join the team but does not live in the neighborhood. Can they swim for Blue Wave?

No. Swim team is open to neighborhood residents. Children whose grandparents live in the neighborhood can swim on the team.

3) How do I find out who the Swim team President is?

Check the swim team link on the Balcones Woods website. The names of all officers and committee chairs are listed. The names of President and VP for the following season are also announced at the end of the current season.

4) How do you determine if my 4/5/6 year old will make the swim team?

The first two weeks of practice are probationary for swimmers of these ages. The child must have no fear of the water or putting his/her face in., no separation anxiety and must be willing to follow direction. While there is a Pre-Team, it is not intended to serve as swim lessons for beginners. The pre-team is intended for children who may be ready for swim team later that same season but need more confidence before competing at meets. At swim meets, no assistance may be given to swimmers in the water. Parents should sign children up for swim team with the full intention of having the child compete. If, after two weeks, a swimmer shows signs of confidence and determination and has made significant progress, they may make the team. Those who do not make the team or Pre-Team, and have not worn their team suit, will receive a refund.

5) We are new to the team. How do we get our yard sign?

Yard signs will be handed out at the first Pep Rally, which occurs just before the first meet. You may also contact the committee chair listed on the website if your sign needs some touch up.

6) How do I sign up to volunteer? Do I have to volunteer in order for my child to be on the swim team? Will there be training for volunteers?

You can sign up for a committee on the day of registration. At least one parent or grandparent from each swimmer is expected to volunteer for the team. Some jobs are done outside of meet hours. Volunteering is crucial to the smooth operation of this team, and our volunteers are the envy of the league! Speak to the particular committee head for more information on training.

7) What are the Family Files and Communication Notebook?

The crate with Family Files and Communication Notebook is located at the pool and are very important tools for getting and giving info! ;-) Please look in Family Files for notices, meet ribbons, etc., and USE THE COMMUNICATION NOTEBOOK TO LET THE COACHES KNOW WHEN YOU WILL MISS PRACTICES AND OR MEETS. Please let us know ASAP about missed meets.

8) What is the money made at our Concessions Stand used for?

Concessions are a key part of the swim team budget and help keep our registration fees low. Please support our concessions at home meets!