



Barracuda Swim Club Frequently Asked Questions

OUR WEBSITE

Specific and general information about our club can be found on the team website. This is a great depository of all things Barracuda. Take the time to familiarize yourself with it. The URL is: www.BarracudaSwimClub.org

The right-hand column of the home page has team announcements (called Barracuda Bites), most with links to more specific information. These announcements change regularly and families are urged to check the site on a regular basis. The left-hand column has links to specific topic areas, including New Swimmer Info, Practice Schedules, Fees, Meet Details, and the Swim Shop. Below are some of the more common concerns and where answers can be found.

TOPIC

WEBSITE LOCATION

JOINING THE TEAM

Getting started on the Barracuda Swim Club is very simple. A step-by-step guide is available for our new members

COSTS

There are four basic costs involved with being on the Barracudas:

1. USA Swimming fees: This is an annual amount which each swimmer must pay to join USA Swimming. USA Swimming is the national governing body of our sport.
2. Training fees: Each swimmer pays an amount to the club to participate in practices. These training fees are based on a swimmer's workout group and chosen payment plan.
3. Family Fundraising Obligation: Training fees only cover part of the operation of the club. Each family is required to participate in fundraising activities to help keep our club financially solvent.
4. Meet fees: Participating in most meets requires entry fees to be paid. These are usually assessed on a "per event" basis.

PRACTICE GROUPS

The team is divided into several practice groups based on a child's age and ability level. The coach will make practice group assignments.

CONTACTING THE COACHES AND BOARD

The coaches are happy to answer questions and discuss ideas with our members. However, when the coach is on the deck that is his time to be with the swimmers. Unless it is an emergency, please do not interrupt him at that time. Talking after practice or setting up a mutually convenient time to talk or phone is more appropriate. Emails are another great way to communicate if face-to-face contact is not necessary.

NEW SWIMMERS link on the left-hand column navigation bar.

FEES link on the left-hand column

A detailed explanation of these fees, plus a fee calculator, are found on the FEES link

The amount required to be raised and a list of possible fundraising activities can be accessed through the FEES link
Meet fees are posted for each meet on the appropriate MEET DETAILS page – left hand column.

A detailed explanation of our practice groups can be accessed from our PRACTICE SCHEDULES page.

Coaches' and Board members' contact information is available via the CONTACT INFO link on the left-hand navigation bar.

Coach Chris: 423-833-5595

bscswim@yahoo.com

Coach Jorge: 423-967-4264

ieblasini2@gmail.com

Coach Will 316-847-1765

wjm21aguilas@yahoo.com

TOPIC

FORMS

The following forms are required to register a swimmer: USA Swimming membership form, Payment Option form, Bank draft form (optional), and Parent Involvement form. Other forms may be required under certain circumstances.

EQUIPMENT

A beginning swimmer has some basic equipment needs: swim suit, swim cap, and goggles. As a swimmer progresses to higher training levels, other equipment may be recommended or required. When a swimmer first joins our team, they will receive a team cap and a team T-shirt. Suits and other equipment can either be purchased locally, or through our preferred supplier, Swim And Tri.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Swimming is a unique sport in that successful clubs have a strong, dedicated corps of parents that can be counted on to actively support the coach and the activities of the club. Barracuda Swim Club parents are expected to do their part to help make the team a better experience for everyone involved.

Parents can be involved in 3 main ways:

1. Support your child's efforts and encourage his/her dedication
2. Take care of the "hidden training" – the 20-plus hours of the day that a child is not in the pool swimming. Proper nutrition, adequate rest, keeping up on studies – these types of things impact a swimmer's performance in the water.
3. Volunteer to help out either at team functions or behind the scenes. Volunteering can be simple, such as timing at a swim meet, or more in depth, such as serving on our Board or organizing a team function.

SWIM MEETS

While attendance at swim meets is not a requirement to be on the team, the coaching staff feels that regular participation in meets is beneficial. The swimmer can measure improvement in time and/or technique, challenge preconceived limits, and learn to set and pursue goals. The coaches find meets provide a great way to individually evaluate a swimmer's progress. Besides, swim meets are great places to interact socially with teammates and opponents, alike. They're fun!

Entering a swim meet: When the coach receives the meet information from the team hosting a meet, that information is posted on the web site, along with the sign-up deadline. Swimmers can sign up in person at practice or sign up on line through our web site. The Meet Schedule provides recommendations as to which meets a swimmer of a certain level should attend. If you have any questions, just ask the coach.

WEBSITE LOCATION

FORMS link on the left-hand navigation bar

SWIM SHOP link in the left-hand column

Our Parental Involvement Interest Form lists many opportunities for a parent to volunteer both time and talents for the betterment of the club. You can find this form via the FORMS link. Of course, any talents you may wish to share are appreciated. Simply contact a coach or Board member.

The meet schedule, meet details (specific information pertaining to each meet), on-line meet sign up form, directions, and a handy **Meet Primer** can be accessed through the SWIM MEETS link on the left-hand column of the home page.

As each meet is posted for sign-up, links are provided in the BARRACUDA BITES (team announcements), or you can go through the SWIM MEETS link.