

Aggie Swim Club

Frequently Asked Questions During Try-Outs:

Q: How do I know if my swimmer is ready for your program?

A: Any swimmer who can complete one length of the 25 yard pool unassisted and without stopping is ready for our program.

Q: My swimmer only knows freestyle. Is that a problem?

A: No!! Our program will teach the four competitive strokes, starts and turns. Our number one priority is teaching proper swimming through proper technique.

Q: What is a try-out and what should I expect?

A: A try-out is an evaluation done by our coaching staff to determine a swimmer's ability and readiness and to place them in the best possible group. Each swimmer is different and age is not a factor. A try-out will last about 10 minutes.

Q: I don't want to commit to swimming all year. Can my swimmer stop at any time? What is the cost?

A: You do not have to commit to any period of time – your swimmer can start and stop at any time by e-mailing us (putting in writing) your intention and the date you want to stop. There is no cost to stop or to re-start. (As long as written notification is done before the start of a month you will not be responsible to pay for that month's coaching dues).

Q: What is the cost for your program?

A: The monthly cost depends on the program your swimmer is in, which is determined during try-outs. The costs everyone incurs are:

- Annual USA Registration Fee (based on a calendar year, but covers 09/01/15-12/31/16 for first-timers): **\$76.00**
- Annual Family Administration Fee (covers September through August): **\$65.00**
- Monthly Dues: From **\$65.00 to \$115.00** per month (depend on swimmer's evaluation)

Q: My child is eligible for the free/reduced lunch program at the public school. Are we eligible for a discount?

A: Yes!! USA Swimming discounts the registration fee from \$76.00 to \$5.00. The family administration fee is discounted from \$65.00 to \$32.50 and the monthly dues are discounted to \$50.00 per month. A copy of the form from the public school for the current school year must be provided with your registration. Additional volunteer hours may be required.

Q: Do you take credit cards? What about EFT payments?

A: We do accept both credit card payments as well as EFT payments. There are forms to complete for either of these payment options. Not using the automatic pay options will add \$5 per month to your dues.

Q: What do you need from me today if we want to sign up?

A: We need your completed registration form and \$76.00 for the USA registration fee. All other fees will be billed by e-mail during your first month. You will be asked to choose a practice time and possibly days of the week, depending on which group your swimmer is placed in.

Q: Are there limits to the size of my swimmer's practice group?

A: Yes. We try to limit the size of our novice group to 1:8 or 1:10. We try to limit the size of our development program to 1:12 or 1:15. These sizes allow us to maximize our coaching and maintain a quality program.

Q: What if the time/day I want for my swimmer's practice is not available?

A: You may select an alternate day/time for your swimmer. When your first choice becomes available you are welcome to switch practice days/times.

Q: Once I select a practice time can I change it?

A: Yes, as long as that new practice time has openings. You can contact Shannon Clark at aggieswimclub@suddenlink.net to find out.

Q: My swimmer does not want to compete. Do we still need to pay the USA registration fee?

A: Yes. We are a USA Swimming program and the requirement is that all swimmers must be USA registered. This gives the swimmer and the Club secondary liability coverage should your swimmer have an accident during practice or a meet.

Q: My swimmer does not want to compete. Can we still join?

A: Yes, however, we do encourage swimmers to at least compete in our Intrasquad meets which are held in B/CS monthly and include only our team. This allows the swimmer and parent to witness the swimmer's improvement over time. (NOTE: Some higher level practice groups do have a competitive requirement).

Q: Where are meets held?

A: There are two levels of swim meets – Intrasquad and USA. The Intrasquad meets are all held in B/CS and are fun introductions to competition for the kids. We hold these about once every six weeks and they only involve swimmers from our Club. USA meets are also held once/month and are in the northeast Houston area.

Q: What is this service hour requirement?

A: For your swimmer to be a part of our program – novice through senior - you as parents must be willing to support your swimmer and our program by working at up to 4 of our hosted meets in B/CS. The jobs are easy (timing, hanging paper, concessions, etc) and only require your time. Usually each of the meet sessions lasts approximately four hours. Parents of novice swimmers must volunteer for 2 sessions; age group development parents 3 sessions and age group and above parents 4 sessions. (Swimmers registered in the reduced fee program must volunteer for 4 meet sessions, regardless of the group your swimmer is in). Working our hosted meets will give you an inside perspective into the sport of swimming!!

Q: What if we are not sure if we want to join. Can we join later and when do we have to decide and what do you need if we come back later?

A: We are a year round program that accepts new swimmers throughout the year. If you are not sure today if you want to sign up you can sign up at a later time. All we need when you return is the completed registration form and \$76.00 for the USA registration to get your swimmer started.

Q: When will my child be ready to move up to the next level?

A: All swimmers are evaluated individually. Some will be ready to move to the next level quickly, others a little more slowly. Coaches will provide parents with evaluation forms every quarter to let you know how your swimmer is progressing. When your swimmer is ready to move up his/her coach will talk with you.

Q: Is there a number of practices per week my swimmer must attend?

A: No. Each group offers a set number of practices per week, however, you may decide how many or how few to attend based on your schedule. The more practices a swimmer attends the better they will get in a shorter amount of time.

Q: My child is involved in other sports/activities. Will that be a problem?

A: Not at all. Many of our swimmers are involved in other activities. Our practice schedule allows for flexibility.

Q: What equipment does my swimmer need?

A: For our novice group your swimmer only needs a suit – one piece for girls and a "competition-style" suit for boys, which can be either a jammer (knee length) or brief. Goggles are also required. For girls with shoulder-length or longer hair a cap is also required. All other equipment will be provided on site. Other groups do have equipment requirements which will be discussed with you at the time your swimmer is moved into those groups. Any equipment needs can be purchased through the Club.