

The following is information from the Swim Team Parent Meeting on Thurs. June 4th. They include what was discussed in the new parents meeting from 6:00-7:00 as well as the meeting for all parents which followed.

Swim Team Parent Meeting Thurs. June 4, 2009

Introductions: Regina Evans welcomed everyone and introduced herself as well as Chris McIlroy and Matt Fenn, who were co-presenters at this meeting. Chris identified the swim team, known as the Lionville Riptide, as a YMCA program. He briefly identified key YMCA personnel, specifically Joe Rusiewicz, Senior Program Director, and Jackie Fenn, LCY Branch Executive. He also introduced the Swim Parent Association (SPA) as an organization which "is responsible for running meets, including supplying officials, timers, and other helpers for all home and away meets as required by the PennDel League, coordinating social and fundraising activities for the team, and providing information and support to the coaching staff. Funds help the swim team purchase equipment, sponsor a season recognition (event) and purchase gifts for coaches and swimmers."

Board Members

Chris McIlroy was voted in, by majority vote, as new President of the LCY Swim Team Parents' Association.

President --Chris McIlroy c_mcilroy@msn.com

President-Elect – OPEN

Treasurer --- Anindya Dasgupta anindya_dasgupta@vanguard.com

Communications:

Web Site -- www.lcyswim.org ** You are highly encourage to spend time exploring this web site and to visit it on a regular basis. Most of the information you will need is available there and additional information will be posted if there are changes. This is your first source for finding answers to your questions.

E-mail --E-mail is a primary means of communication for this team. Attendees were asked to verify their e-mail addresses as there were several e-mails from the original list which were sent back undeliverable. If you have not received any e-mails about summer team, please send Matt Fenn your e-mail address. All e-mail changes should go to him as well. Matt prefers e-mail to phone messages as questions will get addressed in a more timely fashion. Matt.Fenn@umly.org.

Swim Team Bulletin Board—located in hallway beyond the Welcome Center. Info such as meet sign-ups, volunteer sign-ups, and other info will be posted there.

Family Folders—Every family has a folder located in a plastic bin by the swim team bulletin board. Please check it frequently for non-electronic communications, ribbons, etc.

Meeting Minutes – SPA meetings are held monthly during the fall, winter and spring. Minutes from past meetings are available on the web site if you are interested in learning more about the parent group.

Program Set-up: Matt Fenn (Interim Head Coach) reviewed the following:
Practices

Placement-- Swimmers are placed in practice groups by the coaching staff taking into consideration physical development/ability, age, emotional development, practice habits and commitment to the sport, as well as pool space. The YMCA swim team competes for pool space with several other YMCA programs. Safety is always a prime issue.

Coaching staff --Practice groups will, for the most part, have consistent coaches on deck. Lead coaches by group are as follows: GREEN – Matt Fenn, YELLOW – Kristen Ficca (until 6/23), then Ross Herman (presently Associate Aquatics Director), BLUE –Bert and Lisa Marlin, RED – Kaitlyn Swymmer. Other coaches currently include Bria Cerra, Ben Yahr, Christa, Brian Brucker, and Doug Evans.

Practice Schedule -- Swim team starts on Monday, 6/8. Practice schedule is available on the web site www.lcyswim.org. Please note practice times and/or days change after 6/22.

Swim Meets

Invitationals—During the summer season, the Lionville Riptide swim team participates in invitationals, meets in which several “invited” teams get together to compete. It is a more relaxed format and swimmers are not required to swim these meets [although the meets are a good opportunity for the competitive part of the sport]. Transportation to these meets and arrival at the appropriate time are the parent’s responsibility. Directions to all pools are on the web site as well as on the individual meet invitations (also accessible on the web site by clicking on Meet Central then on the particular meet name). Finally, although there will be a coach(es) at every meet, parents have a shared responsibility of making sure their swimmer(s) get to the starting block for his/her event(s) at summer invitationals.

Where to Find Meet Information—

Meet Central on the team web site:

Date of meet

Event (click on this to see meet invitation)

Type of pool (short course – 25 meters SCM or 25 yards SCY, long course – 50 meters LCM)

Who is eligible for the meet (i.e., age 9 and under, 12 and over, all swimmers, etc.)

When sign-ups are due

Entries (who signed up---double check this if you think your child signed up for the meet)

Results

Directions – web site, left column or on meet invitation

Meet Sign-up Procedure—

Sign-up sheets –are/will be posted on the swim team bulletin board in the hallway just beyond the Welcome Center desk at the YMCA.

Events allowed - The maximum number of events allowed for any particular meet should also be posted on the sheets or the meet invite.

What events you child should swim - please speak to a member of the coaching staff if you are unsure about this.

Seed times – If your child is a returning swimmer, he/she will have a seed time if he/she has competed previously in this event while on this team. If your child is new to the team but has previous USS

swimming experience, please e-mail Matt Fenn and he will be able to access previous times on the USS database which may be used as seed times. All other swimmers will have no time (NT). Seed time is used to group swimmers based on like times in order to provide the most equal competition in the pool.

Pentathlon due date is 6/5/09. Other meets with due dates next week are posted as well.

TO ENTER---- In order for your child to be entered in a meet you/your child MUST circle the events he/she would like to swim ON THE SIGNUP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD before the posted due date. Failure to do so will result in your child not being allowed to swim that meet. **Keep in mind that there is a \$3-5 dollar charge for every event entered and your escrow account will be deducted for any events circled, as once entries are forwarded to the host team we have no way of being reimbursed for that charge.

Meet specifics

Arrival/Warm-ups- Arrival times are set by the host team. Depending on the number of swimmers, they can be an hour or so before the meet starts. Coach will generally send out warm-up times. Swimmers should arrive 10-15 minutes before the team's scheduled warm-up time to get ready (find team, place for swim bag, put on goggles, cap, etc.) Attendance is taken. Warm-ups are coach-supervised. If you cannot attend a meet due to illness, please contact Matt Fenn.

Session groupings—Meets may be split AM/PM by age, gender and/or swimming events.

Admission and Program fees—There is generally a \$3-4 admission fee at invitationals for adults. There may be an additional charge for the program as well.

Snack bar—There is generally a snack bar at swim meets. You may be asked to donate to a snack bar at our team's hosted meets.

Timers—Parent volunteers are needed to run every swim meet. In most cases teams will ask for additional help from visiting teams to time the swimmers in their events. This is an easy on-the-pool-deck job. No experience necessary!

Length of meets—Invitationals are generally 4 hours long, not including warm-ups. If, for some reason you need to leave the meet early, please let the coaches know so they are not looking for your child.

What to Bring—

Swim bag-- team suit (should have ordered this at registration; returning swimmers – suit is same as last winter), team cap (if child wears a cap) and spare, goggles and spare, at least 2 towels, sweatshirt/pants/dry clothes LABEL ALL

Sunscreen—for outdoor meets

Chairs –for outdoor meets

Cards, music, games---LABEL ALL

(Little) Healthy snacks/drinks—Swimmer should have small snacks, beverages such as water, sports drinks. NO SODA.

Highlighter and pencil/pen—for marking swimmer's names in program, writing down swimmer's times

Volunteer Requirements

Home—

Pentathlon (Sunday, June 14th). This is a volunteer organization. Running a meet requires a large number of volunteers. If your child is swimming, you must volunteer in some capacity for this meet. Sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. This is the largest fundraiser for this team this summer. Will be asking for food donations for snack bar as well.

TEAM Champs (Sunday, July 19th). This end-of-season intersquad meet's focus is acknowledgment of the swimmers' improvement over the season. It will be followed immediately by the awards picnic.

Away—

Volunteers as requested by other teams. Boyertown is requesting 2 timers from our team at this time for their meet.

Picnic Coordinator needed. Will provide contact person for specific info from last year. If interested, please contact Chris McIlroy.

Deck Procedures and Practice Rules

Practice—Parents are reminded they are not allowed on deck to watch swimmers during practice. Please sit in the lobby or on the balcony. Also, the coaches believe your child is important, but please do not talk to coaching staff about your child during practice. Rather, wait until after practice or e-mail Matt Fenn about any concerns. Matt.Fenn@umly.org

Meets—Parents are not allowed on deck during meets unless you are working the meet. Swimmers are encouraged to speak with the coach immediately after each swim for feedback. All swimmers are encouraged to support and cheer for each other.

Finances

Invoice—You will receive periodic invoices from the treasurer with your account balance.

Escrow—The SPA keeps a \$25 escrow account per swimmer to pay for meet entry fees. Lionville SPA will write one check for all LCY swimmers to the host team. Your individual swimmer's event fees will be deducted from your family's account. You will be notified if you need to replenish this amount.

Payment Procedures--

YMCA Swim Team fee---Remember this is a YMCA offered program---Payable by June 8th to YMCA (at Welcome Center desk), amount will vary by age group—minus deposit of \$50 paid at registration.

Swimmer's fee--\$30 per swimmer, paid to LCY Swim Team Parents' Association, put in lock box (under family folders in the hall) by June 8th. Pays for things such as swimmer's T-shirts, awards, coaches' gifts, etc.

Escrow--\$25 per swimmer, paid to LCY Swim Team Parents' Association, put in lock box by June 8th. May combine swimmer's fee and escrow in one check.

Swim Suits/Caps

Suits--Every swimmer should have ordered a team suit or have one from this past season. This should not be worn to practice, but saved for meets. Swim suits will be available for pick-up on Friday, 6/12 from 6PM-7PM and 6/14, the morning of the Pentathlon at 7AM. Contact Phyllis O'Brien karamo1@comcast.net if you cannot make these times.

Caps –Team Caps are for sale for \$5 each (latex or silicone) and will be available at the morning of the Pentathlon as well. We are getting rid of old caps in preparation for new caps for the fall.

Scoreboard

As we were informed in our last e-mail from Joe Rusiewicz, “In our contract with the High School, we have requested funding for equipment. The contract was accepted by the School District and we are in the final stages of purchasing a new scoreboard for the pool. Ross has been assisting me in finding this new scoreboard and as soon as we finalize the purchase, I will forward the information on to you.” [Copied from e-mail to swim team dated 6/2/09]

Search for a Head Coach

Chris McIlroy commented that he has been involved in the process of searching for a new head coach. He gave credit to Joe Ruciewicz for handling this professionally, openly, and honestly with the persons involved. Chris shared that the goal is to get a coach in place who has good experience teaching swimmers at all levels, has an energetic personality, and could add to the team. After the recently completed interviews, it was felt we had found this person. Unfortunately, as you all know, that person turned down the position. It was decided not to hire any other candidate from that round of interviews. Chris stated he believes the team has excelled and deserves a head coach who can meet and build on previous successes. The position will be reposted. The feeling now is that there is no time urgency to just “fill the slot”. We need to get the best coach on board as long as it takes. We should appreciate our present coaches, as they are excellent resources, many with outstanding swim resumes (See Coach Bios on web site) and we can confidently rely on this coaching staff for their expertise. Matt Fenn has agreed to continue for the summer as Interim Head Coach.