

MUSCATINE SWIM CLUB NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2009

Here is some important information for you as the 2009-2010 Y swim season nears.

NEW PARENTS MEETING:

There will be an informational meeting for anyone wanting to learn more about the Muscatine Swim Club program on **Monday, September 28, 2009 at 6:30 at the Muscatine YMCA**. If your child is interested in swimming this season this is a good meeting to learn and ask questions about the program.

INFORMATIONAL PARENTS MEETING:

There will be a mandatory parents meeting on **Monday, October 19, 2009 at 6:45 at the Muscatine YMCA. AT LEAST ONE PARENT SHOULD ATTEND THIS MEETING**. This meeting is a great opportunity to ask questions, meet the coaches, and learn more about volunteering during the meets.

REGISTRATION:

Attached to this newsletter is a registration form. A registration form must be completed for each swimmer in your family. If you need more, please photocopy your form. Registration deadline is **Monday, October 19, 2009 for returning swimmers**. There will be a \$25.00 late fee for registrations received after October 19, 2009. Please send your completed registration and check payable to the Muscatine Swim Club to PO Box 504, Muscatine, IA 52761. You can also register at the parents meeting.

The fees for this year are **\$150** for the first swimmer in the family and **\$125.00** for each additional swimmer in the same family. The fees for **new swimmers** will be held for the first two weeks of practice as a trial period and refunded if necessary.

A two month payment plan for the registration fees will be available. The payment plan for the first swimmer is \$75 at registration, \$75 by Nov. 20. The payment plan for the second or additional swimmers is \$75 at registration, \$50 by Nov. 20. Any swimmer whose registration fee is not current based on the previous dates will not be allowed to participate in the program until they have paid.

Parents who have assisted with the U of I football fundraising program will receive a registration credit of 55% of the fundraising money they earned for the swim club during the football season.

Swimmers must also have a current Y membership. Scholarships for the YMCA and swim club are available. Please contact Jocelyn Paxton at the YMCA at 263-9996 for scholarship information.

IMPORTANT – A SWIMMER CANNOT ENTER THE WATER UNTIL THE REGISTRATION IS COMPLETED, SIGNED BY A PARENT, AND THE INITIAL FEES ARE PAID. WE HAVE TO ENFORCE THIS RULE BECAUSE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE.

VOLUNTEERISM:

The Muscatine Swim Club is a parent run volunteer organization. It is imperative that all parents volunteer in some capacity during a home swim meet to make the season a success. We will have a volunteer signup sheet prior to each home meet. **It will be a requirement this year that if your child is signed up to swim in a meet that at least one parent (or designate) will be required to volunteer.** If a parent is unable to volunteer the swimmer will not be able to participate. We have 5 home meets this year with one of these meets being Sectionals. We would like to see 100% participation from all parents but the requirement is that one parent (or designate) volunteers during a swim meet if your child is swimming the meet. By getting everybody involved the amount of time spent working at a swim meet should be around 2 to 3 hours.

A requirement for the sectional meet is to have at least one certified timer per lane. To become a certified timer you must go through the YMCA level 1 official's clinic. Therefore the club needs additional volunteers to attend an official clinic to ensure enough certified timers are available to time during the sectional meet. The club will announce, when available, the times and locations for the certification clinics. The Muscatine Swim Club pays for the cost of the clinic and the clinic is around 3 ½ hours long. The club is also working to get a clinic in Muscatine this fall.

Volunteers should sign up by the Monday before the Saturday meet. The more volunteers we get the less of the swim meet everybody has to work. Volunteers please don't hesitate to sign up for unfamiliar jobs because you will be trained. The volunteer coordinator will ensure all volunteers know what to do. If you are new to the job, you will be paired with an experience parent or have a mentor to help. There will also be training on the different volunteer positions prior to the first meet.

Examples of volunteer positions needed for the swim meets are listed below:

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|--------------------|---|
| Stroke judges | Lane timers |
| Turn judges | Clerk Of Course workers: cafeteria, staging area, |
| Starter's | swimmer escorts, card runners, ribbon table |
| Referees | Concession workers |
| Computer Operators | Selling programs |
| Set up / Take down | |

PRACTICE TIMES:

Practice schedules will be established once registration is complete and put on the website by Wednesday, October 28, 2009. Practice starts on November 2, 2009.

This year both current swimming ability and age will help determine what practice group a swimmer will be assigned.

Tentative plans for this year are to have 2 practice groups at the YMCA pool (4-5 M-F and 5-6 MWF) and 2 practice groups at Carver Pool (Muscatine High School) (5:30-6:30 M-F and 6:30-8:00 M-F). As in years past for the most part the younger swimmers will practice at the YMCA pool and the older swimmers will practice at the High School pool. Remember that the registration numbers will ultimately determine the practice times and locations.

PRACTICE CANCELLATION:

There will be practice on scheduled no school days or early dismissal school days. If school is cancelled or let out early due to inclement weather there will be no swim practice on that day at either location. Also, if the Carver Pool is to be used for a Muscatine High School or Middle School swim meet, we either will not have practice or hold a practice at a different time.

MEET SCHEDULE:

The tentative winter swim meet schedule is attached. In order to participate at sectionals, swimmers need to compete in three meets by February 6, 2010. Swimmers must compete in the sectional meet to qualify for the state meet. Like last year swimmers will be responsible for swim and splash fees at sectionals.

MEET SIGN UP:

It is the responsibility of the swimmer or parent to notify the coaches on whether the swimmer is going to participate in the upcoming meet by the Monday prior to the meet. Meet entries are due to host teams by 12:00 on Wednesday. Coaches need time to enter events for each swimmer and put together relay teams. The signup date for the Sectional meet will be January 18. The sign up deadlines are also listed on the meet schedule.

STATE MEET INFORMATION:

The state meet will be held at the Marshalltown Y on March 6 & 7. The boys meet will be on Saturday, March 6 and the girls meet will be held on Sunday, March 7. The swim club will not be reserving a block of rooms this year for the State Meet. Everybody is on their own to reserve motel rooms. It might be a good idea to reserve a room early and then cancel later if necessary.

REGIONAL MEET INFORMATION:

The Midwest Regional Swim Meet will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on March 27 & 28 at the University of Minnesota. Swimmers attending the regional meet will be responsible for swim and splash fees. Anybody who plans to attend will need to reserve their own hotel rooms for the weekend. Attached is the address for the Midwest Regional Swim Meet website: [Minnesota Youth Athletic Services](#)

OFFICIALS CLINIC: YMCA Swim Officials

The club will announce, when available, the times and locations for the certification clinics. The Muscatine Swim Club pays for the cost of the clinic and the clinic is around 3 ½ hours long. The club is working to get a clinic in Muscatine this fall.

These courses are designed to certify (beginners, currently certified USA, high school, and collegiate swim officials) or recertify (currently YMCA certified) individuals as officials in the YMCA of the USA's Competitive Swimming Program. Courses focus on events, procedures, and the duties and responsibilities of the officials prior to, during, and after the meet. A score of 80 percent must be achieved on an open book 100 multiple choice and true-false content item test in order to be certified or re-certified. Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be certified to officiate in the YMCA of the USA's Competitive Swimming and Diving Programs.

Expiration date: Three years

Please see a board member if you are interested in attending the officials clinic.

IMPORTANT DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

September 28, 2009:	New Parents Meeting	6:30 PM @ YMCA
October 19, 2009:	Mandatory Parent Meeting	6:45 PM @ YMCA
November 2, 2009:	Practice Starts	
November 21, 2009:	Y Meet @ Muscatine (Muscatine & Wilton)	
December 5, 2009:	Y Meet @ Muscatine (Fairfield, Muscatine, Tipton, & Wilton)	
December 12, 2009:	Y Meet @ Fairfield (Fairfield, Grinnell, Muscatine, Oskaloosa, & Wilton)	
January 9, 2010:	Y Meet @ Marshalltown (Charles City, Blackhawk, Marshalltown, Muscatine, CR Stoney Point, & Wilton)	
January 16, 2010:	Y Meet @ Muscatine – Mega Meet (Burlington, Keokuk, Muscatine, Ottumwa, Washington, & Wilton)	
January 23, 2010:	Y Meet @ Cedar Rapids MARC (MARC, Monticello, Muscatine, & Wilton)	
January 30, 2010	Y Meet @ Cedar Rapids Stoney Point (Stoney Point, Muscatine, & Wilton)	
February 6, 2010:	Y Meet @ Muscatine - Invitational	
February 14, 2010:	Y Sectional Meet @ Muscatine	
March 6 & 7, 2010	Y State Meet @ Marshalltown (Sat – boys, Sun – girls)	
March 9, 2010	Swim Team Banquet @ YMCA	
March 27 & 28, 2010	Midwest Regional Swim Meet @ Minneapolis	

Please see the Muscatine Swim Club 2009 – 2010 Fall/Winter Schedule for more information. Meet dates and locations are scheduled to change.

CLUB COMMUNICATIONS:

In an effort to make correct information available to all parents, we ask that you provide us with an accurate e-mail address. This is the most efficient way for us to contact everyone when there is a change in a practice schedule or to notify you of an upcoming event. If you do not have any e-mail address, please find a friend to contact you with the information. Unfortunately, we are not able to call everyone individually. The Swim Club's website is www.muscatineswimclub.com. Please check the website daily for any updated information.

For more information or concerns please contact: The Muscatine Swim Club via email at info@muscatineswimclub.com or

Kevin Halstead (563) 264-0442 kphmlh@machlink.com

Sue Greenwald (563) 340-4044 greeny@netwtc.net

Bob Calegan (563) 288-3491 robert.l.calegan@rrd.com

YMCA Aquatic Director: Jocelyn Paxton (563) 263-9996 jpaxton@muscatiney.org

Are you a new Member? (Please Circle) Yes / No

MUSCATINE SWIM CLUB REGISTRATION FORM

2009/2010 FALL - WINTER SEASON

(Please fill out separate form for each swimmer)

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Birthday _____ Age on Dec. 1 _____

Mother's name _____ Father's name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Emergency Phone _____

E-Mail _____ (*Mandatory for communication purposes)

Certified Official _____ (date of certification)

Physician _____ Phone _____

I hereby certify that my child is in good health. Further, I agree to accept all responsibility for his/her health with respect to use of the swimming pools used during the current swim season. I hereby certify that my child has my permission to participate in such swimming meets and workouts as scheduled by the Muscatine Swim Club. Further, I shall not hold the Muscatine Swim Club or the Muscatine Community Y responsible for any accidental injury that might be incurred while participating in or traveling to or from such meets and practice sessions. In case I cannot be reached, I authorize emergency medical/hospital treatment.

The Muscatine Swim Club Board reserves the rights to remove a swimmer from the club if he/she or his/her parents do not abide by the rules set by the club. I also acknowledge that the Muscatine Swim Club is a parent-run youth activity that requires participation from every family and agree to volunteer to assist at home swim meets in some capacity.

The fees for this year are \$150 for the first swimmer in the family and \$125.00 for each additional swimmer in the same family. The fees for new swimmers will be held for the first two weeks of practice as a trial period and refunded if necessary. THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS OF REGISTRATION FEES FOR RETURNING SWIM CLUB SWIMMERS.

A two month payment plan for the registration fees will be available. The payment plan for the first swimmer is \$75 at registration, \$75 by Nov. 20. The payment plan for the second or additional swimmers is \$75 at registration, \$50 by Nov. 20. Any swimmer whose registration fee is not current based on the previous dates will not be allowed to participate in the program until they have paid. There will be an additional \$25 late fee for any returning swimmer signing up past the deadline of October 19.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: Muscatine Swim Club
P.O. Box 504
Muscatine, IA 52761