

What is this "Meet Entry" thing all about?????  
First Year Parent Information  
Edition 2

So here I am sitting at the practice watching kids take this thing called an entry form from a table. What is this all about? This form is what you need to fill out with your child to enter them into the following weeks meet. They will always have the meet date on them and have a space for your child's 3 individual events they would like to swim. It is not mandatory that your child swims 3 individual events, but they may swim up to 3 individual events per meet with 2 relay events for a total of 5 events. If you do not see the entry forms please ask the coaches. They will be available at least 2 weeks prior to each meet.

Here is how it all works. Every swimmer is allowed to swim 3 individual and 2 relay events per meet. The individual events are chosen by the swimmer and parent. If the parent wants a coach to suggest what events they feel their child is best suited for all you have to do is ask the coach. The coaches will sometimes recommend a child's event based on seeing an improvement at practice in a certain stroke. **The list of events included at every meet is posted in the "Entries" section of the website as part of the "State Qualifying Times."** At every meet they start at event #1 and run straight through the order to final event #104. The girl's events are the odd numbers and the boy's events are the even numbers. Example; Girls 11-12 Year Old, 50 Fly is Event #1 and Boys 11-12 Year Old, 50 Fly is Event #2. State Qualifying Time for Event #1 for the Girls is 36.00 seconds, Boys qualifying time for Event #2 is 39.00 seconds.

Some event numbers may have more then one heat due to being more then 6 entries. Again using Event #1 there may be 18 entries for a particular meet. Therefore there will be 3 heats. This changes from meet to meet based on number of entrants. Each heat the participant's seedings are based on past times. The quicker times will be placed in the last heat, so the first heat has the slower heats or kids which may not have had a prior time for this event. The middle lanes are the quickest past times in this event per heat. Even if your child swims in the first heat they may still win the event if they have the fastest time of all swimmers in that event for that meet. Final results are all based on time and not position in their individual race.

Relay events teams are put together by the coaches only and are based on the fastest times generally and who is the best at certain strokes. The coaches have the liberty to switch relays around to give kid's a chance to swim with others early in the season to try and evaluate each swimmers potential and what kids click well together. Toward the end of the season the coaches will have a pretty good feel for who is best at a certain stroke and will be teaming up the quickest kids to have relays that may qualify for the state meet.

After deciding your child's events with the coach and your child turn the form into the coach a week before the meet. See "Meet Entries Deadline" document on the website.

**Remember you child needs to swim in a minimum of at least 3 regular meets per season to be able to swim the Sectional Meet and qualify for the State Meet in Marshalltown in March.**

Stay tuned for First Year Parent Information, 3rd Edition.