

So what is this Sectional Thing all about?????
First Year Parent Information
Edition 4

For those new to the team a little about what Sectionals are.

As you can see as the year has progressed the kids have had the opportunity to swim various events and in various relays. This is how the coaches can evaluate their progress through the year and recommend what events they should sign up to swim at sectionals. Sectionals are like a brand new season in one day. The prior times the kids have posted before sectionals mean nothing other than how they are seeded in their events. The swimmer must have competed in a minimum of 3 meets prior to Sectionals being Sunday, February 12th. (Yes, there is not a typo, the Sectional Meet is on Sunday so please make provisions to either go to church on Saturday evening or attend the church gathering at the pool right before the meet starts.) In their events they swim at sectionals the individual needs to either win their event or swim at, or quicker than, the state qualifying times to advance to the state meet in Marshalltown. The state qualifying times are posted on the website in the Entries section, or on the bulletin board at the pool. The qualifying times are generally also shown in the programs available the day of the meet.

As stated above it doesn't matter what the kids have done in the past meets when sectionals arrive. If a swimmer is disqualified at sectionals in a specific event they cannot qualify in that event for state. There have been many stories in the past of swimmers having this happen to them, and that is just the way things go. If a swimmer had a state qualifying time 2 weeks ago but missed the required time at sectionals, they don't qualify, (that only works in women's figure skating.) Therefore have them evaluate their strokes to make sure they swim them properly and do not get disqualified. False starts, improper turns, and touching their goggles are all ways to be disqualified. Per Muffy only the freestyle stroke kids are allowed to touch their goggles since in all other strokes it breaks the stroke sequence. If their goggles fall down after they dive in the pool have them leave them alone and just give it all they have.

This season has been a great season and watching the kids compete against each other in meets, and push each other in practice is why Muscatine has a successful swimming program. Muscatine's future in swimming is looking very bright and we need to support these athletes in any way we can.

At the Sectional meet we have a special request of all parents and fellow swimmers. There is this thing called an adrenaline pump that goes into action when kids hear uncontrolled cheering as they swim. It is an amazing thing and when they hear cheering it has been proven that adrenaline, if handled with care, will make their times faster. That is our request . . . it doesn't matter which Muscatine swimmer is swimming make some noise and watch the times drop and the smiles pop. As parents we need to let them all know that we are proud of all of them no matter what their abilities may be. I enjoy watching all of the kids. Even if they come in last, barely can make it out of the pool and ask, "What was my time?" When they hear it was a personal best to them they had just won the Olympics! Isn't that what it's about.

Good Luck to all the swimmers and see you at Sectionals!

Stay tuned for First Year Parent Information, 5th Edition.