

“Meet Entry Deadlines”

The most important thing to remember about the entry forms is they need to be in to the coaches at least a week before each meet. This is very important due to the volunteers who have to input all of our almost 200 swimmers into the computer entries program along with all of the other teams. **A swimmer or responsible parent of that swimmer is to let the coaches know at a minimum, a week before a meet if they are not going to be in attendance.** Kid's will need to bring a note from a parent if the parent does not personally tell the coach. It must be turned into the coach a week ahead of the meet. We do realize that kids also get sick which is a different issue.

If you have any reason that you believe that you will not make the beginning or end of a meet for any reason, then it is your responsibility to tell the coaches to scratch your child from that event by Friday a week before hand for the events you as parents feel they will not make it in time for. This is your option but again you need to let the coaches know a week ahead of time.

The following are the very reasons why we will enforce this issue.

1. Coaches put together the events and relays for the meet (the weekend before the meet).
2. Parent volunteers take the entries from the coaches and enter them into the computer software program the first part of the week of the meet. Does that mean I can still call on Monday night and get it changed because I forgot? No, then you are putting the responsibility on the parent volunteer to contact the coaches on your behalf, which should not be the volunteers responsibility.
3. The volunteers with the entry program receive all of the other teams entries hopefully by Tuesday and have to input them.
4. Muscatine Swim Club sets up for the meet on Friday and starts programming all the entries into the scoreboard system from Meet Manager or Easy Meet software.
5. The Meet is held on Saturday and we get the results. The entry process starts again.

Realistically here is what happens when a child is entered into the program and is not present no matter what team. Whoever is helping the swim teams to make sure that their kids are getting into the Clerk of Course when they are suppose to is running all over the complex looking for the missing individual. Then the Clerk of Course holds the group until it is determined the child has been scratched. In the meantime the parents in the stands are complaining about, " What is the hold-up?" The group is then released into the pool area. That group of kids comes up to the starting blocks and the timer for the absent child, who is shown on the scoreboard raises their hand since that child is not present. At that time we have to go through the whole process of again verifying that the individual is not there. Ask those who have been at prior meets when a swim team brings in last minute entries and changing half of the ones they had? Were they upset? Each change honestly delay's the meet about 10 minutes, if not more, for each of the actions above which they have to go through. Take this times 3 to 6 changes and it starts adding up in delay time.

Another reason for letting the coaches know about an absence a week before the meet is they need to put together the relays. Kids not being there when the coaches have not been notified the week before hand will pull the whole effected relay unless there is someone who is not in an entered relay who may take their place. Then if the relay doesn't compete the other members of the relay effected by the absent member will not look real favorably on the one who is not present to have them explain why they could not be there. The kids in the relay are the ones this is effecting, not the swim team, coaches, or anyone else.

As stated above regarding if you are going to miss part of a meet. **IF THE COACHES KNOW A WEEK AHEAD OF TIME IT IS NO PROBLEM.** If you show up early at the said meet and expect to swim an event you had stated that you felt you would miss, you will not. Also do not ask the coaches what time they think a certain event will take place or if they think you will make it. No one knows exactly how the meets will go. If you are trying to balance different extracurricular events and try to be at two events at one time it is your responsibility. We cannot forecast equipment failures, teams changing their entries, etc.

The above is fair to all parties and will show no favoritism. If you do not see the above as being black and white and think there is some gray areas let us know immediately for clarification.