

Montrose Marlins Policy Handbook

As of October 2008

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Group Structure

The group structure is designed to place each swimmer in the program where they are able to best pursue their goals. Regard is taken for a swimmer age, ability, and emotional readiness.

Summer Group 2008 - This group is new and has been set up to accommodate the swimmer who is brand new to competitive swimming. We will be working on stroke development, the foundations of freestyle and backstroke. Introduction of breaststroke and butterfly is also seen. **Being a part of this group is for the summer only. Being in this summer only group is NO guarantee that there will be a space available on the Marlins Team in the fall. We anticipate that this group should be able to compete in our Marlin Swim Meet in July.**

Zoomers- The Zoomers is a group working on the foundations of freestyle and backstroke. Introduction of breaststroke and butterfly is also seen. Swimmers will also begin starts turns and basics of reading a pace clock. Swimmer must be water safe and be able to swim one length of the pool. Ages 5-12. Meets 2-4 times a week. Emphasis on stroke development. We expect that swimmers in this group compete in meets.

Bronze- Bronze continues working on all strokes with an introduction to butterfly and race and pace strategies. Further work is seen in freestyle and backstroke with more emphasis on conditioning. Swimmers should be able to swim back, breast, and freestyle and have a developing turn and start for group membership. Meets 2-4 times a week. Emphasis on stroke development. Ages 5-12

Silver- Silver is our top age group. Emphasis now is on more competition but with the perfection of stroke technique. Mastery of all strokes, turns and starts. Meets 3-5 times a week. Emphasis on stroke development and competitive conditioning. Ages 8-13.

Senior- This phase requires the most commitment to swimming. Swimmers are more mature and are interested in maximizing their potential. Swimmers become more specialized. Swimmers learn the sacrifice required for maximum performance. Meets 8 times a week.

Suggested Number of Practices per Week by Age

8 & Unders – 2-4 days a week

9-10 - 2-4 days a week

11-12 - 3-5 times a week

13 & Over - 5-7 times a week

Swimming Fees

Monthly Fees

Monthly dues are based on which group your swimmer is in. As of 2008, the monthly dues are as follows:

Zoomers 1 and 2: \$ 30/month

Bronze: \$45/month

Silver: \$50/month

Silas: \$55/month

Pro-ration of Monthly Fees

Monthly fees will not be pro-rated, unless the entire team is off for a break, such as spring break or Christmas break.

Multi-child Discount

If you have more than one swimmer in the water you qualify for a multi-child discount. The second and third swimmers receive a 10% discount in dues, and the fourth and on are free. This discount is computed on a monthly basis and is determined by which swimmers are in the water that month. The most expensive swimmer will be charged the full amount, the rest will be discounted.

Yearly Registration with Colorado Swimming, Inc. (CSI)

All swimmers must register with CSI before they can practice or compete. Registering with CSI buys liability insurance for both the swimmer and the team. There are two types of registration: year-round and seasonal. The year-round registration period is from January 1 through December 31 of each year. The summer season runs from April 1 through August 30.

Re-registration for summer swimmers must happen before they come back to practice in September. This registration will be at the year-round rate and will be good until the December of the next year. For example, if you re-register in September 2008, your registration will be current until December 2009.

Re-registration for year-round swimmers must be done before December 31 of the current year. You can start re-registering as early as September. As above, if you re-register in September 2008, your registration will be current until December 2009.

As of 2008 the year-round registration fee was \$54. The 2008 seasonal fee is \$29.

Outreach Membership Program

The Outreach Membership Program offers qualified athletes the opportunity to become a USA Swimming member for the national fee of \$5.00 per year.

Policy for Outreach Membership in Colorado – Athletes must qualify for the reduced or free lunch program at school.

Athletes or parents must send proof of the reduced or free lunch program with application. If proof is not available parents should contact the school and have them send, on school letterhead, a statement to verify the swimmer is in the program to the CSI office.

If swimmer does not attend public school they will need to supply a copy of their tax return to show they meet the current qualification for the lunch program with their application.

Billing

We bill all our swimmers one month in arrears. For example, you will receive your bill for June at the beginning of July. The bills include monthly dues, equipments purchases (caps and goggles) and meet fees. In the summer these bills can become quite alarming. If you would like to overpay your bills in the winter to build up a cushion for the summer you are welcome to do so!

The billing accounts close the last Friday of each month. This means that if your check is not to the treasurer by this day it will not show up on the current bill. It will be credited to your account when it is received, it just won't be reflected on the current invoice. The bills will be sent out the first week of each month.

Obviously we prefer all bills be paid in a timely manner. No one likes to be a bill collector! We are a business and have to pay our bills. Therefore, we need you to pay yours! We know it's easy to fall behind, but we have to pay salaries, meet fees, etc. and can't afford to carry large bills from month to month. We do have several very large outstanding bills, and people who have left the team without paying theirs. This is not

fair to the all the rest of the families who make great efforts to pay their bills or make arrangements to pay them down. In an effort to run the team more like a business, and to be fair to everyone, we have decided on the following policy:

After your bill is 60 days overdue, the treasurer will send you a letter reminding you of this fact. After your bill is 90 days overdue your swimmer(s) will not be able to swim and we will start charging interest on your bill. We will not be able to enter them in meets while the bill is outstanding. You will need to pay 80% of the balance before your child will be able to practice or compete with the team again.

The Marlins are a business with bills of our own to pay, but we are not a punitive team and are very willing to work with you if you are having financial difficulties. Please contact our treasurer should that be the case.

Fund-raising Obligation

Our monthly dues cover our coaches' salaries and benefits. To cover the rest of our expenses, each family is asked to fund-raise each year. This obligation starts the year after you join the team. Each family is required to raise \$150 each year. This is per family, not per swimmer. More extensive fund-raising information can be found on the webpage at: <http://www.montrosemarlins.org/fundraising.html>

Some examples of how we spend our fund-raising monies include: fins, kickboards, breast stroke fins, underwater camera and associated equipment, subsidizing our summer dual meet, office supplies, end-of-year gifts for coaches and swimmers.

Things the Team Pays for

The Marlins pick up the costs for the following things:

- relays
- Entry fees for Silver State Championships and Colorado State Championships

Parental Responsibilities

The Marlins is a parent-run team. This means that besides fees and fund-raising and getting your kids to practice on time, there are other parental responsibilities as well. We need

everyone's help to keep the team healthy and vital. The following is a list of some of the things we ask of our parents:

- Volunteering at our home meets in July and November
- Donating food items for both meets
- Volunteering at the Western Slope Championship meets
 - o The money collected at this meet goes entirely into a support fund for the entire Western Slope. Since the hosting team does not get to keep any of the money, all attending teams are required to help with the chores that go along with putting on a meet. Therefore, if your child attends this meet, you will be asked to help out.
- Timing at away meets
 - o Many teams do not have the luxury of a large parent base as we do. For that reason all the teams depend on each other to help with timing. We ask that you do occasionally volunteer to time at away meets.

Communication with Parents

Our preferred method of communication is via the webpage and email. Please make sure we have your current email address, and make sure to check our webpage frequently, especially during the summer months. The address is: www.montrosemarlins.org. If you don't have a computer or don't like email, please make sure you let Cindy Sperling know and she will add you to her regular mailing list.

Swimming Breaks

This is a big one. We do not want to discourage children from trying other sports, in fact we encourage it. We have to balance that with the fact that we have quite a number of children on our waiting list. After much discussion, this is what the board came up with:

Each swimmer will be able to take two full months off without having to pay dues. This is pretty much the length of most sports programs, especially for the younger children. After the two free months you will have two options.

Your first option is to pay ½ the monthly fee. This will entitle your swimmer to one practice per week. As soon as your swimmer starts coming more than once per week the normal fees resume.

The second option is to not pay ½ the monthly fee. At that point your swimmer's spot will be given to the next person on the waitlist. If your swimmer decides to come back later, they will be put on the bottom of the waitlist.

The team will require notification of your plans so we know when your child will be gone. If your swimmer is gone for a month, we will make a good faith effort to contact you. If after that we still don't hear from you, your swimmer will be removed from the rolls.

Officials

We are always in need of officials. This is a great way to learn more about swimming and to be an active participant in your child's chosen sport. Free classes are offered throughout the year. After a day of being overwhelmed by lots of info, you register with CSI (this cost is covered by the Marlins), do some studying and take an online test. Once you have your credentials you have to work on deck with other officials for 20 hours. This is where you really learn the practical ins and outs of being an official.

As an enticement, the team is offering the following 'perk' for our officials:
If you work 3 or more sessions at any meet, the team will refund meet entry fees for up to 2 of your children.

If you are interested in officiating or finding out more about it, please contact Steve Winslow at 596-7274.