

Marauder Aquatic Club FAQ

For much more information, please see the team handbook. This is intended to answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

Registration

Q: How do I register?

A: Visit our website and either print out the registration packet and mail it in along with a check, or register online via the link provided, and send in your check. The address is provided in the packet and after signing up online.

Q: When should I sign up for the fall/winter season?

A: The sooner the better, to ensure your child has a spot since we do limit our numbers. Try to sign up by the beginning of August if possible. For the 2011-2012 season, we were full by mid-August.

Q: How big is your team and what is your limit this year?

A: This year our cap was 90, which we reached. We don't plan on getting bigger than 100. Certain training groups might be capped before others, however, to allow for proper swimmer-coach ratio. Traditionally, the older age groups fill up more quickly, but we have more room for 8's and 10's, especially boys. We have always been concerned with not getting too big.

Q: What if I'm not sure that my young child is ready?

A: If the child can swim 25 yards (1 length) without stopping, or be very close to it, he/she should be ready physically. We keep it really fun but disciplined and organized (it's not a free for all!) with the younger swimmers. Even if the child has doubts (or you do) in the beginning, wait and see because you would be surprised how quickly they can learn. Contact Coach Jillian, who coaches the beginner and novice groups, with any questions.

Practices

Q: How many practices per week should my child attend?

A: Please refer to the group listings on the Team Information page of the website. Guidelines are given, taking into account the age and ability of swimmers. For retention of skills learned and proper conditioning, it is highly recommended swimmers attend at least the minimum number of practices. There is no penalty for a swimmer not attending the recommended number of practices, except natural consequences such as not getting in shape as quickly or missing aspects of training.

Q: What if my child is involved in other activities?

A: We encourage our swimmers to be involved in other things as long as they are able to be committed to our team. We have many swimmers who do activities such as fall sports. We do ask that our dual meets and championship meets be priority during the season as we are a team and rely on everyone. If your child will be involved in activities that may conflict, please let the coaching staff know. We can prorate if necessary.

Q: Can parents sit in on practices?

A: Yes. We have an open practice policy, however we ask that parents stay on the bleachers and not distract their swimmers or talk to coaches during practice. Younger swimmers especially can be distracted easily. If you need to talk to a coach, please do so before or after practice, or leave a note in the coach's mailbox.

Q: What equipment is needed?

A: All swimmers should have a pair of fins as they are used frequently. Black, Gold, and HS are encouraged to have pull buoys, and Gold and HS are encouraged to have hand paddles. We have an equipment order in the beginning of the season, or you can purchase items on your own. Also, make sure your swimmer has enough caps and goggles because they can easily get misplaced or lost.

Q: What if my swimmer is sick or cannot make a practice?

A: You can send an email to the coaches.

Meets

Q: What kinds of meets does Marauder participate in?

A: We are an official member of USA Swimming and compete in many USA meets that are local, regional, and even national. We also compete in the Central Penn Aquatic League, which includes 20 teams (4 divisions) in roughly the Lancaster/Lebanon/York/Harrisburg area. It is set up much like the Lancaster summer league, including divisionals and an All Star meet. Driving distance is really not bad to these meets.

Q: What meets should my child swim in?

A: This depends on the group, age, and ability of the swimmer. Your best bet is the talk with your child's group's coach. All swimmers are expected to compete in the CPAL dual meets and Divisionals/All Stars if they make it. It is not a huge commitment as we only have 4 or 5 dual meets that are typically on Saturday mornings and not every weekend. We would like full participation because we believe in being a team and that everyone is important. Plus, the CPAL meets are a lot of fun! Also, young swimmers, mainly 8 and under, are really encouraged to try some "mini" meets.

USA Swimming invitationals are strictly optional but highly encouraged. They allow swimmers to try different events and choose what they want to swim. USA Swimming membership is included in each swimmer's registration fee, so it is worthwhile to take advantage of this.

Q: How do age groups work in the different meets?

A: For CPAL meets, the swimmer's "age" is whatever their age is on Dec. 1 of that season. A swimmer might turn 9 in January, but on Dec. 1 they were 8, and get to be an "8 and under" for the whole season. For USA meets, the swimmer's age is whatever age they are on the first day of whatever meet they are swimming in. They "age up" when they actually turn a new age.

Q: What if my child can't attend a dual meet?

A: If your child has a valid reason for not being able to attend, please try to notify the coaches in writing by the Wednesday before the dual meet, or as early as possible. We understand that illnesses and other things can come up last minute, so please call the coaches right away if it is last minute because meet lineups take a lot of work. We really would like families to make their best effort to get their swimmers to the dual meets, so if transportation is an issue, we can gladly arrange something.

Q: How do Divisionals and All Stars work?

A: Divisionals works much like in summer league. We compete in a meet against the other teams in our division in basically the same format as the dual meets, on a Saturday, except that it includes both free and medley relays for all age groups. This meet is split-session with the 8's and 10's in the morning and 12's, 14's and Opens in the afternoon. Swimmers must compete in at least 3 dual meets during the season to be eligible for divisionals.

After all the Divisionals meets are completed (all 4 divisions) the results are compiled. The top 16 individual swimmers in each event and top 8 relays in each relay event advance to the All Star meet. It is the same event format as Divisionals and also split-session. Families will be notified as soon as the coaches know who qualified, which is usually late afternoon/early evening of the day of Divisionals. All Stars is held the next day, a Sunday. This meet moves quickly. It is an honor to make this meet and swimmers receive really nice awards (medals).

Parent Involvement

Q: Do I have to volunteer?

A: We ask that parents volunteer to help at the dual meets, and especially at the home meets as there are more jobs to fill. We are flexible with volunteering and kindly ask that parents help with whatever they feel comfortable with. There are many options that even the brand new swim parent can handle. We will also need a couple volunteers for Divisionals and All Stars. One of the easiest jobs to do is timing, and you get a great view of the races! We can train parents in jobs if needed.

Please be advised that we absolutely do not use a "point" system for volunteering like some clubs, and do not charge parents who don't volunteer or participate in our optional fundraising. The team handbook has more specific information regarding jobs.

Q: Does Marauder have a parent board?

A: We have an awesome group of parent officers, but the head coach/chairman presides over everything. We have a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Job descriptions are in the team handbook.

The 2011-2012 board is:

Co-Presidents: Jen Sugra and Andrea Morgan

Vice President: Steve Morgan

Secretary: Leigh-Anne Drumm

Treasurer: Mark Boldizar

Contacts

Q: Who do I contact for different situations?

A: Head Coach Kyle Almoney- kalmoney@millersville.edu Questions relating to Gold/HS groups, payments/prorating, USA Swimming, clinics, specific stroke technique, underwater filming, meet absences, invitational meet payments.

Coach Amy Curry or Coach Katie McNerney: Questions relating to Gold/HS groups.

Coach Jillian Almoney- JBswim02@yahoo.com Questions relating to Beginner/Novice groups, registration, website, email communications, meet absences, meet sign ups, swim lessons, CPAL League.

Coach Becca Laufer: Questions relating to the Black group.

Jen Sugra or Andrea Morgan: CPAL representatives- anything having to do with the league

Steve Morgan- volunteering

Leigh-Anne Drumm- newsletter/communications

Mark Boldizar- billing/payments

Miscellaneous

Q: To whom do checks get made out to for registration payments?

A: "Swim Camp"

Q: To whom do checks get made out to for meet entries?

A: Kyle Almoney. We then write one big check for all entries.

Q: What are the username and password for the "Team Page" and team photo album?

A: Please email Coach Jillian and she will send you them.

Q: How does the team photo album work?

A: You may log in and upload photos to share with the team. It is "private" and password protected, so only our team can see it. Photos can be used in the end of season slideshow shown at the banquet.

If you have any other questions, please refer to the Team Handbook and/or contact the appropriate people.