

BRIARHILLS DOLPHINS 2011 SWIM TEAM

Information Packet

Welcome, or welcome back! Enclosed is everything we think you will need to know to have a safe, happy and enjoyable summer with swim team. Please take a few minutes to read through this and familiarize yourself, and all other members of your family, with our rules and regulations. Feel free to call any board member if you have a question, comment, or suggestion, or check our website at www.briarhillsswimteam.com. We are all in this together!

PRACTICES

Encourage your child to attend as many practices as possible. Remember, practice makes perfect! Do not remove your child from the swimming pool during practice without the coach's permission. *The baby pool is out of bounds to all swimmers and siblings during practices* - sorry, but this is for insurance purposes. Due to obvious safety concerns, all swimmers are expected to behave appropriately when in or around the pool. *No swimmer may enter the pool unless we have a signed waiver on file.*

ALL SWIMMERS (new and returning) start practice on Thursday, May 12th.

6 & under	4:00 – 4:30
7 & 8	4:30 – 5:15
9 & 10	5:15 – 6:00
11 & up	6:00 – 7:00

We will follow this schedule Monday thru Friday through Friday, June 3rd.
No practice Memorial Day, May 30th.

Saturday practices are always in the mornings.

8 & under	8:00 - 9:00
9 & over	9:00 -10:00

On Monday, **June 6th** we will switch to morning practices.

9 & 10	7:30 - 8:15
6 & under	8:15 – 8:45
7 & 8	8:45 - 9:30
11 & up	9:30 - 10:30

The enclosed calendar shows the planned daily activities for swim practice.

COACHES

As you know, our coaches are experienced and will work with the kids to bring out the best in them, at varying speeds and rates of success. Please give them your total support. It will be the coaches' decision as to which events your child is in, and this should not be questioned.

MEETS

These are meant to be fun! Please do not pressure your child so much that meets become a stressful experience. If this is your first team experience, make sure your child understands what to expect at a meet. Emphasize the positives (ribbons, friends, cheering for our team and the concession stand.) Here is a brief overview of meets and what to look for.

Arrive **one hour before** the meet starts; this is to give time for warm-ups and to make any last minute changes to the "heat sheet". If you arrive late someone else may be assigned your race. Bring healthy snacks, drinks, money, goggles, towels, T-shirt, sunscreen, bug spray, something to sit on, and games. Parents may want to bring chairs, although space at some pools is limited.

On arrival, find the team area and report to the person in charge of your age group (mother/father hen). He/She will tell you what races you are in and mark your swimmer ID# on your hand with permanent marker.

Not all swimmers swim all events - this would take forever. Everyone can swim freestyle, backstroke and the free relays. We are then permitted to have two heats per sex per age group of breaststroke and butterfly. One heat of individual medley for ages 9 and up and one heat of medley relay for ages 7 and up is permitted. The coaches review the swimmer's times before each meet and assign each swimmer his/her events. The mother hens have a list (heat sheet) of what everyone swims.

Swimmers are led to the start of their race by the mother/father hens and the coaches get them ready for races. Each event begins when the starter sounds the starting buzzer or blows an air-horn. At the end of the race the child will go to the ribbons table or the mother/father hens will gather & distribute. Everyone gets a ribbon. If a child is disqualified, he will be told as soon as he exits the pool, but he still gets a ribbon.

Please encourage your child to stay with the team as much as possible. If we can't find them for a race they'll miss it. Do not leave a meet without checking with the coaches and mother hens; your child may be needed for an extra event.

If you know your child will not be able to attend a meet please fill out the attached "Vacation Notification Slip" and give it to one of the coaches. Try to let the coaches know as soon as possible if you will be absent. It makes it very difficult to rearrange relays just before a meet starts.

We ask that parents encourage their children from the sidelines. Please do not get in the way of the judges and timers who are working the meet.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

All parents are required to work during meets and you will have been asked at registration to voice your preference. If everyone works, then you will only be asked to work part of a meet on certain jobs. The team cannot function if there is no parental support. These meets are great fun, but take a lot of manpower. A representative will be contacting you regarding your assigned job.

Timers	- times swimmers (3 timers will be used in each lane)
Stroke/Touch Judge	- makes sure strokes are swum correctly
Ribbons	- gives out ribbons to swimmers
Mother/Father Hen	- looks after swimmers and gets them to the right place
Runner	- picks up timing slips from timers & takes to ribbon table
Concessions	- sells food and drinks; buys supplies; organizes food/drinks
Set up	- gets pool ready for meet; set up tents/tarps, etc.
Clear up	- clear area after meet

MEET OF CHAMPS & ALL STAR MEET

This will take place the last weekend/following Monday of June 25th & 27th. Our divisional Meet of Champs will be on Saturday, June 25th at one of the Katy high school pools (TBA). The All Star Meet on Monday, June 27th will take place at Katy High School and will be for those swimmers who place in one of the TOP places in the Divisional meet.

All swimmers must swim at least 2 regular dual meets to qualify for the MOC/All Stars. They must also attend the final week of practice for the Meet of Champs swimmers.

SWIMSUITS

Team swimsuits are mandatory. We want everyone to be part of the team, and like any sport this means wearing a common uniform. We will have the same suit this year as last year. Suits and swim gear will be available for purchase from A-Gleam Swimwear on **Tuesday, May 17th and Wednesday, May 25th** during practice times (3:15 – 7:00). Please come before your practice time to purchase suits or bring a towel and dry clothes to try on swimsuits after your practice time. Please wear undergarments for trying on swimsuits.

PHOTOS

We will once again have official team and individual photos taken. Freeman Photography is scheduled to take pictures on **Wednesday, June 8th** starting at **8:30 a.m.** You will be given an order form before picture day. Please complete and bring it on picture day along with cash or check. **Wear your team suit.**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- No running around pool.
- There will be no diving in the shallow end except under coach's supervision.
- Be supportive of all swimmers. Bad sportsmanship will NOT be tolerated.
- Any swimmer who misbehaves will be excluded from meets until his/her behavior improves.
- Be supportive of judges and referees decisions.
- Clean up all your trash & belongings after practice each day.
- No skateboards or skates at the clubhouse area during practice times.
- **Do not drop your children off or leave them at the pool/playground without designated adult supervision. The coaches are only responsible for the kids in the pool at the time of their practice.**
- HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

To Parents of all 8 and under Swimmers

In order to ensure the safety of all of our swimmers, we require our youngest swimmers to meet certain standards before they may join the swim team. At tryouts for new swimmers, the swimmer will be asked to jump or dive into the deep end of the pool (a coach will be in the water). The child should then be able to swim the length of the pool safely. The swimmer must also be able to stand, *safely*, in the shallow end of the pool.

For safety reasons, if your child cannot perform this task then we will recommend that your child take swimming lessons elsewhere and re-apply next season. As we want this to be a fun and positive experience for your child, we are sure you will understand and appreciate our requirements. Thank you for your understanding.

Refund Policy for New Swimmers ONLY

If a new swimmer does not qualify, because of safety issues, a full refund will be issued.

No other refunds will be given. No exceptions.

Briarhills Swim Team Board Contact List

Janna Wright	Director	281-558-1946
Jennifer Kuck	Asst. Director	281-293-7264
Donna Carrabba	Treasurer	281-556-8484
John Kuck	Referee	281-293-7264
Billy Wright	Whale League Rep.	281-558-1946
Nancy Ervin	Merchandise	281-531-1714
Barbara Nassab	Sponsorships	281-759-2003
Stina Mosvold	Volunteer Coordinator	281-558-5788
Erika Riddle	Volunteer Coordinator	281-293-9946

Vacation / Absence Notification

Parent's Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Swimmer(s) Name: _____

Meet Date(s) you will miss: *Please Circle Date Below*

June 7th **June 11th** **June 14th** **June 18th**
June 25th (Meet of Champs) **June 27th (All Star Meet)**

Date Returning for Practice: _____

Give to Coach or Swim Team Board Member