

PARENT'S MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 21, 2007

Introduction

Thanks for coming, welcome back to our returning swimmers and welcome to those who have joined us from summer programs as well as other USA clubs. DST is starting its 14th season, and we are looking forward to an exciting year.

Facilities

Here at DSFC, we offer practices for our developmental program (8 & unders) & our Olympic Development Program.

We are pleased to announce that we will be beginning a lesson and competitive swim program at Pike Creek..... Our traditional DST program allows for increased flexibility & convenience; we also offer practices at Garnet Valley Middle School, Claymont Elementary School and here at DFSC on the weekends.

- o the practice schedule will be adjusted throughout the year as is required to ensure the continued quality of our program and to accommodate facility time restraints

Meet the Staff

Michael Ramone is our "owner" ~ due to his various business interests, his team involvement will continue to be on a limited basis. His role includes acting as our team advisor, facilities negotiator, and he will continue to work on long range planning.

Kathy Drysdale is our CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) and will oversee the entire program.

Bruce Gemmell is the Head Coach of our Olympic Development Program & Sean Dougherty is our Age Group Head Coach (which includes the Junior Program as well as our developmental program)

Our coaching staff offers many years of training and coaching experience. Clark Bickling remains site director at Garnet Valley, Coop will be site director at Pike Creek, and Cindy Millison & Cheryl Berry will share site director responsibilities at Claymont.

Coaches in attendance: Bruce Gemmell, Sean Dougherty, Kathy Drysdale, "Coop" Copper, Amy Caponi, Cindy Millison, Cheryl Berry

Mission Statement

We have a very clearly defined mission statement that provides an environment for our swimmers to reach their maximum potential & encourages them to strive for excellence at each level of our program:

**TO PROVIDE YOUNG PEOPLE POSITIVE EXPERIENCES
THROUGH COMPETITIVE SWIMMING THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME**

Scholarship Program

We found the need to specifically define our scholarship program and now differentiate between ability based and financial need scholarships. As a point of clarification, while performance scholarships will not be awarded to the same swimmer for two consecutive years, financial need ones are available annually. Delaware Swim Team funds the scholarships based on Financial Need, and the Boosters have now taken responsibility for Performance Based Scholarships. The application due date was extended to August 20th, (yesterday) and the scholarship review committee still needs to finalize the recipients and award amounts. Anyone who applied for a scholarship (either financial or ability based) is asked to register directly with Kathy – we'll get the paperwork started tonight and finish it upon the results of the review committee.

Booster Group

General Status:

As most of you know, swimming is a sport that can require a large commitment, depending upon your child's level. A high level of support and involvement shown by the parents encourages our children to work harder.

The Boosters are an active organization dedicated to the growth and success of the Delaware Swim Team. Their vision of success includes involvement in a premier program designed to attract and develop swimmers in the region. Many opportunities are available to help your children.

Kent Steeves is the Booster President, but was not able to be at the meeting – Rafael Pagan, the head of our Membership Committee, spoke on behalf of the Booster Organization

Boosters have had a very successful season – their accomplishments are listed in detail on our web: www.delawareswimteam.com. Boosters are looking for those interested who have the desire/willingness to learn and want to help our swimmers have a great season. Training, help, and continued support is available to anyone who is interested. Boosters service volunteer program will begin this season. The 2007-8 details of this program will be posted on the web shortly for your review.

The Boosters have done a tremendous job this past year and as a team, we (team administration) thank them for all their time and effort.

- A special thanks to the Sills' family for their help building our dryland deck at DSFC – what a great addition to our training program!
- We are in need of Colorado (timing system) & computer operators (train on site) for our hosted meets (most at McKean) – please e-mail Kathy (kathyd@freestyles.org) if you are interested,
- West Regionals (end of March) is one of our biggest money makers of the year. We understand that as it is located at LaSalle, and it is not convenient for most of us, but we will be asking for your help in staffing that meet.

Officials

We are always looking for officials. Without an adequate number, Middle Atlantic will not allow us to host meets. For your convenience, we are hosting a Stroke and Turn clinic here at DSFC on Sunday, October 14th at 1:00 pm. (Just in time to start your deck training at our meet the next weekend!!) No experience is necessary. Please contact Kent Steeves or Kathy Drysdale if you have any questions.

Practice Group Structure

We continue to strive for the perfect balance of offering ability based, age sensitive groups for children of all ability and commitment levels. Anyone wishing to train with the Olympic Development Program, or anyone with questions regarding group placement should contact Sean at seand@freestyles.org or Bruce at bruceq@freestyles.org

The number of coaches on deck for any given practice is carefully balanced with the number of swimmers in a given group ~ while also exercising fiscal responsibility, to help keep your program costs in line. If group numbers change, coaching adjustments will be implemented as necessary.

Coaching Philosophy / Practices

In tying in with our mission statement, our program's objective is to have swimmers grow as individuals, not just athletes. While each coach has his/her own individual style, we all strive for improvement through positive thinking and self-confidence with a careful balance of conditioning and technique

Short Course Meet Schedule

DST swimmers are expected to attend team meets, especially those which we are hosting. Swimmers are not encouraged to attend non-team meets, as it is not consistent with our mission statement and DST coaches are not able to be in attendance. All of our hosted meets have been approved for the year and are in the process of being posted on our web site. Our full meet schedule will be available in the next week or so.

Good Communication A Must!

Our web site is the most effective means of communicating with our swimmers and it will continue to be updated regularly. (Thanks to Michelle Northshield) Please check it frequently.

Kathy will continue to send out "Kathy-grams," or group e-mails, on a regular basis. For your convenience, these e-mails are also posted on our web, as well as in the lobby at DSFC. This year, you will also be receiving either group or site specific e-mails directly from the coaches. Please make sure we have your current address. If you are not receiving e-mails, please contact Kathy to make sure we have your correct address. The first team e-mail will be sent out the week of September 10th.

Head off concerns before they become problems - For questions regarding your child's training or performance, contact your swimmer's coach or site director. If a training issue is still apparent, or for program issues, contact Sean. For registration questions, billing, or any other general team related questions, contact Kathy (or Clark, who again will be helping in the office this year).

- As a side note, please keep your children home when they are sick – and remind them not to share water bottles.

Coach's E-mail addresses are available through our web site:

WWW.DELAWARESWIMTEAM.COM

Swimmer folders are available at your primary location that is indicated on your registration forms. Please get in the habit of checking it every time you attend practice. (Let Kathy know if you don't have one within a few days of your registration)

Calendars

Calendars will be issued each month and are available on our website as well. Any practice adjustments for the month will be shown on the back... as well as on the website. To satisfy all our Eagles fans, our team picnic this year will be Sunday, Sept 30th, 1:00-4:00 pm at Banning Park, and will be organized by the Booster group! (Team Pictures will be that day as well.)

Conclusion

As an aside, for the next two weeks, we will be undergoing building maintenance, but Kathy will be in the office (kathyd@freestyles.org) to answer any questions.

For any individual program questions, please see one of the coaches. Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedules to come tonight!