

Hi everyone and welcome back or to the group. Here is a couple things that we wanted everyone to know about travel meets, specifically the Dec Juniors and March GP meets. We understand they are costly and parents do not need to feel obligated to attend every travel meet planned, your swimmer(s) will be fed, sleep and race regardless.

Travel: It is important to let us know if you plan to attend the meet as a parent or send just your swimmer(s). If Bruce is planning on flying he will send an email with his travel arrangements once they are made. If you plan on sending your swimmer(s) alone please plan on making travel arrangements around Bruce's or make alternate arrangements for your child to get to and from the airport / hotel. If we know in advance we can obtain information and oftentimes include in the hotel contract for shuttle service.

There are some times where we will arrange the flights and include in your bill which will be divided into payment options if you need, however all payments are due prior to departure to the meet. Please notify Kathy and me if you choose this option. This is not something Bruce needs to be concerned with; he coaches and does not get involved with "team admin duties".

Suggested travel times will always be communicated with the meet information. The suggested times are for several reasons which include, flight costs, limiting the number of trips required to and from the airport, ensuring adequate time for the swimmers to "get comfortable" with the pool, locker rooms, lounge's, store / Gatorade runs, Bruce swimmer meetings, flight delays due to connections or weather, school year verse summer, swimmers first swim time / event, etc.

Rental Car/Bus: When a travel meet includes renting a vehicle, the cost of the vehicle is divided among the swimmers and included in your swimmer(s) bill. Typically we will include an estimate in the bill sent prior to traveling, however, there will be an additional bill sent for the actual amount including gas, parking, etc upon return from the meet.

Hotel: Contracts are secured or are in progress for a large majority of the travel meets up through the summer. However we will notify you of the hotel when the meet information is sent out. It is very important for Bruce to know if you plan to attend or just send your swimmer(s). If your swimmer is attending alone Bruce will assign them to a room with another swimmer! There is always a method to his madness in assigning rooms; this is a coach's decision not the parents. Oftentimes I am unable to secure enough two queen bedrooms, so these will always go first to the Boys.

We have found that suite type rooms work best to allow for in rooming cooking saving time and money, sleeping and school / work necessities. However, these are not always the closest to the pool. They also provide room for "team meals". There are typically three types of rooms: A studio (no wall separating the bedroom and living room), one bedroom and two bedroom suites. If you have a preference please let me know as the prices do range and some swimmers / families have preferences which I will try to accommodate.

The meet information will include a cut off date for making hotel reservations. Prior to the contract terminating I verify all swimmers register to the hotel guest list. This is crucial to ensure every swimmer has a room to sleep as well as the coach. Please let us know if you are attending and not staying with the team out of courtesy and time since we tend to call everyone not registered.

If you are sending your swimmer(s) without a parent please let Kathy and I know so that we can Email you the form for credit card authorization. You will need to send your swimmer with this form unless it is a "team" travel meet planned and paid for by DST prior to departure.

Meals: We typically always have breakfast included with the hotel. Lunch and dinner are "on your own" unless it is a designated team travel meet. However, with each meet we try to do at least one team meal after finals one night. This requires an attending parent willing to leave finals

to pick up and set up the meal for the swimmers. Even better is a group of parents willing to miss finals to make a "pasta" meal for the swimmers. Again, please let us know to plan accordingly.

Meet: With every travel meet there will be a USA Swimming form for each parent to sign. This form will be sent out prior to the meet and must be returned signed prior to Bruce leaving Delaware. It is also important that with each USA swimming national or GP travel meet that your swimmer(s) register all medications at www.usaantidoping.org

Please plan on helping Bruce at these meets drive swimmers to and from the pool. Just like DST hosted meets need help, Bruce will oftentimes be on deck for over 10 hours at a time. He cannot drive swimmers back and forth, feed them, ensure the sleep etc and coach. No swimmer should be made to stay on deck for hours because they cannot walk back to the hotel.

For meets where more than 6 swimmers are attending more parental help is needed. Bruce will designate a parent chaperone responsible for transporting swimmers, feeding them, making Gatorade / food runs etc. If multiple parents are attending he will still designate a parent(s) to help out.

We are currently planning Jr Nat's for Dec. Please tell Bruce your swimmer(s) intentions of attending asap. The lock down acceptance for new qualifiers is the Monday after Delaware States you will need to make hotel reservations prior to Tuesday December 2nd.

As Bruce would say "Any questions please ask"!