

MARINER SWIM TEAM

WHITE BEAR AREA YMCA

2100 Orchard Lane

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Whitebearareavmca.org

A partnership of the City of White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, White Bear Lake Area School and YMCA of Greater St. Paul

SECTIONS

The section swim meet is coming up on January 29 at St. Kate's. There are some requirements to be able to swim this section meet. Each swimmer must have competed in 3 YMCA meets this season. All events entered for sections must have a valid time from this season. You cannot swim an event at sections that you have not swum for a legal time this season.

We would like to have swimmers evenly spread over all events. Coaches will be talking to swimmers over the next week to discuss how best to spread out our swimmers so we get the best representation possible in all events.

Coach Shelly needs to know as soon as possible if you are not planning on swimming this meet. Coaches will be working to put together relays over the next few weeks. It helps if we at least know who is NOT swimming the meet. Final relays will not be decided until after the results of our last home meet.

Entries are due the Thursday before our home meet. If a swimmer is waiting to decide on an event they are swimming at the last home meet, please note that on your entry. Changes in section events can be made at the end of the home meet based on those results.

The rules are strictly enforced at the section meet. This means each swimmer may only compete in 3 individual events and 2 relays. There can be no mixed relays and we cannot "double swim" anyone in a relay. This means it is VERY important for swimmers attend the meet if they commit to the meet. If a swimmer

scratches it is very likely that an entire relay will be affected and not be able to compete. If a swimmer falls ill and cannot attend the section meet it is important to let Coach Shelly know as soon as possible.

STATE

Swimmers qualify for the state meet two different ways.

The first way to qualify is for them to finish in the top 3 in an event at the section meet. The top three swimmers from each section in individual and relay events all proceed to the state meet. This fills up to 8 of the 12 available lanes for each event.

The second way to qualify is to be the fastest "at large" swimmer in the state for an individual or relay event. There are 4 or more "at large" openings in each event. All section results are compiled and it is strictly based on finish time at the section meet. We have had many swimmers get into the state meet this way.

The state meet is Sunday February 12 at the University of Minnesota. This is a very fun meet and it is a great experience for the kids to compete at the U of M aquatics center. If you cannot make the State meet and still want to swim the section meet please let Coach Shelly know as soon as possible. We can make substitutions now for the state meet, but it is best to know before we get to sections.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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January 10

Brainerd meet entries due
Parent meeting

January 11

1/22 USA meet entries due

January 14

Brainerd meet

January 17

Home meet entry due

January 19

Section meet entry due*

January 20

Pasta dinner at Noodles

January 21

Home meet

January 22

USA meet

January 25

2/5-2/6 USA meet entry due

January 29

Section meet!!

February 5-6

USA meet at St. Thomas

February 12

State meet!!



USA SWIMMING

The Mariners are finalizing our charter documents to be recognized by USA swimming as a member team. This will make it easier for those swimmers who wish to participate in USA meets.

USA swimming is the major organizer of amateur swimming in the US. Many YMCA teams across the country compete in both YMCA and USA organized competitions. Both organizations have competitions from the local to national level.

USA meets are much more formal and larger than the YMCA meets we typically swim. USA meets are also organized by how fast a swimmer's times are; ie A, B, C, Champ or zone times. YMCA meets, with the exception of regionals and nationals are usually based solely on the local competition.

For those swimmers who are looking for a different level of competition USA meets can add another level to their swimming experience. Especially for those swimmers in middle school and high school it is a good experience since many of the high school swimmers compete USA in the off season. This gives our swimmers a better idea of where they are in comparison to other swimmers their age in the state.

USA swimming requires a yearly membership application and fee. There also are meet fees attached to all USA meets. Fees vary based on the meet.

The WBA Mariner Swim Team is going to compete in the following meets this winter.

January 22- Twin invite hosted by the Twin Cities Swim Team at the University of Minnesota

February 5-6 – STAR winter classic hosted by the STAR Swim Club at the University of St. Thomas

March 3-4 – A/B finals – location to be determined

For those who qualify:

March 8-10 - Senior State meet

March 16-18 – Age Group State meet

Registration forms for meets will be available on the timing table by the swim team office and on-line.

If you have any questions please ask Coach Shelly

YMCA REGIONAL SWIM MEET

The regional representative for YMCA has been working for the past year to get back to a YMCA only regional swim meet. The regional swim meet that we have been attending was once run by the Northeast YMCA Mariner parent group as was strictly a YMCA event. The meet became very big and eventually was turned over to MYAS. MYAS (Minnesota Youth Athletic Services) organizes many large tournaments for youth in the state for basketball, baseball and wrestling. They opened the meet up to USA and YMCA swim team from across the region. Over the past several years this meet has gotten to be very popular and a HUGE meet. The last several years there were many swimmers who qualified for the meet but were not able to attend because they limit the number of entrants. Rather than making the time standards harder or limiting the number of teams based on area, they limit to first come first in. This year they changed the meet so that only the fastest 64 swimmer entered in each event will be allowed to swim.

The YMCA MN state league comprised of swim coaches and aquatics directors from across the state all agreed this did not follow with the principles of YMCA competitive swimming. There has been quite a bit of effort put into organizing the YMCA regional swim meet this March. All of the Minnesota YMCA teams will be participating in the meet. The Iowa and Wisconsin YMCA teams have also said they are going to support this meet. This meet will be a YMCA sanctioned meet so swimmers will be able to use their times to try and qualify for the National YMCA meet.

We will not be participating in the MYAS regional swim meet at the end of March.

The YMCA regional swim meet will be held March 10-11 at the Rochester-Olmstead Recreation Center in Rochester MN. Entries for this meet are due February 6. If a swimmer qualifies for an event at the State meet I will make that addition before we send our final entry file. There is a \$30 meet fee for this meet and you must achieve a qualifying time to participate. High School times and those achieved at USA meets can be used to qualify for this meet. Relays will be put together from those swimmers entered in the meet.

We will get information out on a block of rooms in Rochester for Friday and Saturday night for those wishing to stay over and not drive back and forth. If there is any interest in getting together carpools please let someone on the parent group know.