

General info about Swim Meets

Swim meets are a great family experience! They're a place where the whole family can spend time together. Listed below are guidelines geared to help you through your first couple of swim meets. It may seem a little overwhelming, but we tried to be as specific as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Wildewood Marlins Board at Wildewoodmarlins@yahoo.com.

Before the Meet Starts

1. Arrive at the pool at least 15 minutes before the scheduled warm-up time begins. This time will be listed on the Calendar on the website. **TIMES DON'T APPEAR ON ORIGINAL CALENDAR.** The times are different from meet to meet so always double check first. Home meet warm-ups begin at 5pm. Away meet warm-ups begin at 5:30pm
2. Upon arrival, find a place to put your swimmer's towels and swim bags. The team usually sits in one place together, so look for some familiar faces. Please bring extra towels and/or sweat shirts on cold days (it doesn't have to be too cool to need this once they are done swimming in the evening). Please also bring lawn chairs for your family, as most pools do not have enough chairs for everyone.
3. Find the coach and check-in.
4. Once "checked in", some parents with an events list will write each event-number on your swimmer's hand in ink. This helps him/her remember what events he/she is swimming and what event number to listen for. Often coaches will do this for your swimmers but feel free to help.
5. It is very important for all swimmers to warm-up with the team. Swimmer's bodies are just like cars on a cold day-he/she needs to get the engine going and warmed-up before he/she can go all out.
6. After warm-up, your swimmer will go back to the area where his/her towels are and sit there until the next event is called. This is a good time to make sure he/she goes to the bathroom if necessary, gets a drink and something to eat if they aren't swimming too soon, or just gets settled in.
7. The meets are scheduled to start at 6pm, unless otherwise noted.
8. All questions concerning meet results, an officiating call, or the conduct of a meet, should be referred to the coaching staff. They, in turn, will pursue the matter through the proper channels.
9. The event program lists all swimmers in each event in order of "seed time". When the team entry is sent in, each swimmer and his/her previous best time in that event is listed. If the swimmer is swimming an event for the first time, he/she will be entered as a "no-time" or "NT". A "no-time" swimmer will most likely swim in one of the first heats of the event. All swimmers start with no "seed time" at the beginning of the season.

Meet Starts

1. It is important for any swimmer to know what event numbers he/she is swimming (again, why they should have the numbers on their hand). He/she may swim right away after warm-up or they may have to wait awhile.
2. A swimmer's event number will be called, usually over the loudspeaker, and he/she will be asked to report to the "clerk of course". Swimmers should report with his/her cap and goggle. Example: "Event #26, 10-Under Boys, 50 freestyle, report to Clerk of Course." Swimmers gather in the designated area, close to the starting blocks and then coaches or liner uppers will start to gather the swimmers by heats and rows.

Then, the Clerk of Course will make sure the kids are in the lanes assigned to them for that event. You can expect at least 2-6 heats of each event.

3. The swimmer swims their race.
4. After each swim: He/she should go back to their towel area. You can greet the swimmer at the end of his/her lane after his/her swim. Be careful not to interfere with the timer and promptly leave the area after your swimmer exits the pool.
5. Things you, as a parent, can do after each swim:
 - A. Tell him/her how great they did! The coaching staff will be sure to discuss stroke technique with them. You need to tell him/her how proud you are and what a great job he/she did.
 - B. Take him/her back to the towel area and relax.
 - C. This is another good time to check out the bathrooms, get a drink or something light to eat.
 - D. The swimmer now waits until his/her next event is called and starts the procedure again at the "Clerk of Course".
6. When a swimmer has completed all of his/her events, and you have completed your volunteer job for the meet, you may take your swimmer home. Make sure, however, you, as a parent, check with the coach before leaving to confirm that your swimmer is not included on a relay. It is not fair to other swimmers who may have stayed to swim on a relay where your swimmer is expected to be a member and he/she has already left. (The coaches speak from experience on this issue). Usually the swimmers find out the morning of the meet if they will be swimming in a relay, so parents can plan accordingly.

Age Groups

There are different age group classifications recognized by SMSL: 6 & under, 8 & Under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-18.

Food at meets

All pools, with exception of Great Mills pool, have a concessions area where you can usually buy pizza, burgers, chicken, drinks, chips, candy etc (varies by pool). The prices are reasonable and profits go to the home team. You can also bring your own dinner as well. Wildewood usually offers Papa John's Pizza and Chik-fil-A sandwich and nuggets as well as an assortment of chips, candy, etc.