

May 30, 2014

Dolphins Swim Team Newsletter



Mark Your Calendars

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|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Monday, June 2 | | Money for Isotopes Tickets Due |
| ▪ Tuesday, June 3 | 6 ³⁰ PM | New Parent Orientation |
| ▪ Wednesday, June 4 | | NM Games Registration Due |
| ▪ Thursday, June 5 | 6 ³⁰ PM | Parent's Timer Clinic |
| ▪ Friday, June 6 | 6 ³⁰ PM | Parent's Stroke & Turn Clinic |
| ▪ Monday, June 9 | 12 ³⁰ PM | TCA/Del Norte Meet @ TCA |

Deadlines are fast approaching! Please attend to the following items immediately!

*Due
June 2nd*

Isotopes Game

The Team will be attending an Isotopes Ball game on Saturday evening, **June 28th**. Tickets are \$10.50 each. We will need an accurate head count by Monday, **June 2nd**, so we know how many tickets to get. We would like to collect the money for the tickets by June 2nd as well. However, we can make arrangements to collect the money at a later date, if necessary. What we really need to know is how many people in each family (both kids and adults) would like to attend the game.

Please contact Kim Berling (berling.k@gmail.com or [505-410-3646](tel:505-410-3646)) by or before June 2nd. We will purchase the tickets as a block to insure the best seating options, and everyone will be able to sit together. We should all thank Coach Jenna (and her mom) for getting us these great discounted tickets to the ball game.

*Due
June 4th*

2014 New Mexico Games

New Mexico Games is early this year, Sunday, **June 15**. We need to get all registration materials in by Wednesday, **June 4th**. The registration information and entry form are attached to this Newsletter. Every participant needs to fill out a separate entry form. Each participant must also sign a Waiver of Liability. A waiver form is also attached to this Newsletter. You can print additional copies of both forms as necessary. You can also pick up an additional forms at any evening swim practice. Just see Kim Berling or Michelle Seaver. These forms are also available on the homepage of the website, where you can download them and print them out.

New Mexico Games is an opportunity for the whole family to participate in a swimming event. There are age and gender groups from 8 & under to 80 & over, so all swimmers, along with their siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and neighbors can participate. Everyone swims in their own age group. As the age groups increase, there are not as many swimmers. So all you 30's, 40's and 50+ somethings should still jump in and participate! Even if you don't feel you would do very well, you could still win an award, as there may only be a half a dozen swimmers in your age group! In addition to a having a great time, you would help the Dolphin's score points!

Swim Suits, Caps, Etc...

If you would like your swimmer to have a **Team Swim Suit**, please see Michelle Seaver at any evening swim practice. It is always nice for all our team members to have a team suit, but it is not a requirement. If you don't know your swimmer's size, you can have your child try on a team suit at practice. Michelle has a number of sizes already available for purchase. If she does not have your child's size in inventory, she can try and order it for you. Please do not wait until the last minute to acquire a team suit. If Michelle has to order the suit, it may take a couple of weeks to get in. Our team pictures are tentatively scheduled for the second week in July (more info in a later newsletter), and we would love to have everyone in their team suits for that!



The cost of a boy's suit is \$35.00. The cost of a girl's suit is \$50.00 (more material!).

There are also **Team Swim Caps** available (with a dolphin on the side!). Again, it is always nice for our team members to have the team cap, but it is not a requirement. There are two types of swim caps: Latex (\$5.00) and Silicone (\$15.00).

Michelle also has some **Team Swim Bags** still available. These bags cost \$15.00 each. You can look at all of these items at any evening swim practice, or contact Michelle Seaver at Justsprink@aol.com.

Base Passes

Acquiring a Summer Base Pass always seems to take longer than we would like. So, in order to facilitate base access (while we wait), we have some wonderful team parents (who live on base) that have offered to provide 'Temporary' base passes to those members that need them. The typical 'temporary' pass is a 3-day pass. As the name implies, it needs to be renewed every three days. These parents have volunteered to go to the gate (Louisiana & Gibson) and go through the procedure of helping members renew these passes every three days, until their permanent pass is ready. We are all very grateful for their time and effort.

These passes can be renewed at 6:30am (before morning practice) or at 6pm (before evening practice). But we must know ahead of time exactly who will need a new pass on any given day. Each base parent can only sponsor 3 people at a time. So it is very important that you contact Kim Berling (berling.k@gmail.com or 505-410-3646) at least one day in advance of when you want to renew your pass, so she can make the necessary arrangements. It is even more important that, **when you schedule to renew your pass, you show up promptly at the gate at the appointed time.** These base parents need to get their kids over to practice the same as you do, so please be considerate of their time. It is also important that you bring with you all the paperwork you will need to get your pass renewed (**driver's license, vehicle registration, vehicle insurance**).

Anyone who still needs a Summer Base Pass should get their paperwork in as soon as possible. The link to the base pass paperwork is available on the website: www.dolphinsswimteam.net. You can also see Kim Berling or Michelle Seaver at any evening practice and they will also have the necessary forms.

New Parent Orientation

There will be a New Parent Orientation on Tuesday, **June 3rd** at 6:30pm. If you are new to the team, or still have questions, please plan to attend. We will meet by the bleachers on the NE side of pool (adjacent to the sliding glass doors).

Swimmer Evaluations

We have been very blessed this year with many enthusiastic, young people wanting to join the team. We will always welcome swimmers at any skill level. However, *all* team participants must have some basic, fundamental level of skill in order to participate (being able to float, kick and propel themselves forward – unassisted – for at least 12 yards).

We have been working with a lot of non-swimmers during the month of May (children who have never had *any* kind of swim lessons). This is our pre-season training time, so it has not been an issue to work with these children to see if they are developmentally ready to participate on a swim team. However, as June approaches, we will need to evaluate these swimmers to determine if they are ready to fully participate in a 'swim team' environment, or if they should spend some more time working on the basics through some formal 'swim lessons', or the equivalent.

Coach Ed, Coach Joel and Coach Candace have been evaluating all of these swimmers this past week. Some of these youngsters have made remarkable progress in the last few weeks and have been moved into lanes where they will continue to receive 'swim team' coaching. However, if our coaches feel that your child is not quite ready for the 'swim team' environment, they will let you know.

If this occurs, you have several options available to you: You can continue to come to practices and work with your child yourself. Once you feel they have a firm grasp of the basics, you can ask to have them re-evaluated. You can also secure regular, group swim lessons for your child. Many of our coaches also offer private swim lessons as well.

Sometimes, all these kids need is a few weeks of one-on-one attention. Unfortunately, our coaches do not have the ability to provide that sort of attention during the swim team practice. Their job is to refine, perfect and enhance the skills of *all* the swimmers in their lane during that one hour period they have in the water.

If it is determined that your child is not quite ready for the swim team, and you have already turned in registration forms or paid any money, that money will be refunded to you. However, your child will still be able to participate in any of the other team activities. We want all the children to remain members of the team, even if they are not quite ready to participate in swim meets this year. In our (considerable) experience, 100% of all the children who fall into this category during their first year end up being capable of fully participating in the swim team the following summer. So we encourage everyone to remain a part of the team while their little ones get their sea legs!

Parent Clinics

There has been a change in the date for the Parent's Stroke & Turn Clinic. The new date is Friday, June 6th at 6:30pm.

Volunteers are needed at every meet. We encourage all parents to help out. We will offer a Parent's Timer Clinic on Thursday, **June 5th** at 6:30 pm and a Parent's Stroke & Turn Clinic on Friday, **June 6th** at 6:30pm. The clinics will provide you with the information necessary to volunteer for one of these positions at the meets, but they will also help you understand how your swimmer will be judged during the meets. We encourage all parents to attend.

JOIN

Yahoo Groups

All general communication is done through Yahoo Groups. If you have not already signed up for Yahoo Groups, please do so immediately using the following link:

http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/dolphinsswimteam_abq

Once your Yahoo account is setup, you can redirect all e-mails to the e-mail account of your choice. Please be sure to check your e-mail prior to all swim meets to ensure that no last minute changes have occurred with times or arrival instructions.