

# **WASHINGTON WATER JETS SWIM TEAM POLICY**

This policy shall govern the Washington Water Jets Swim Team, parents, coaches and swim team board. Situations not covered by this policy shall be determined by majority vote of the swim team board.

This document should be kept current by annual updates or whenever parents or the swim team board deem appropriate. The Swim Team Board has the authority to review and make changes to the Swim Team Policy, as needed.

## **Role of Swim Team Board**

1. Consults with Park District to interview and hire coaches.
2. Reviews the by-laws annually and makes suggestions for amendments where needed.
3. Handles disciplinary issues with swimmers.
4. Sets Swim Team Policy, reviews Swim Team Policy annually, and amends as needed.
5. Arranges for training session for new parents prior to meet season in timing, judging, etc.

## **Role of Coaches**

1. The coaches are directly answerable to the board and to the Park District, not to individual parents.
2. The coaches must enforce Swim Team Policy and Board decisions.
3. The coaches are responsible for maintaining discipline, providing opportunities to improve swimmers' skills, encouraging the development of good sportsmanship, and completing all meet paperwork, including placement of swimmers in all events.

## **Swimmer Definitions**

Beginner: A child will be declared a "beginner" if he/she will put his/her face into the water and can swim the width of the competition pool using any kind of stroke.

Novice (8 & Under): A child will be declared a "novice" if he/she can swim the length of the pool using any stroke.

Swimmer (14 & Under): A child will be declared a “swimmer” in an event in which he/she can correctly do the strokes for that event and swim the distance required at a meet. This may be “for points” or in an exhibition heat.

Seeded Swimmer:

Individual Event. Three swimmers placed by the coaching staff, but not necessarily the fastest swimmers.

Medley A Relay. The fastest swimmer of each of the four individual stroke events.

Free A Relay. The fastest four freestyle swimmers.

All B & C Relays. Relays shall consist of all other available swimmers placed by coaching staff.

### **Swim Meet Guidelines**

Swim meets at the Washington Park Pool will be conducted under USS rules unless suspended by a majority vote of the Swim Team Board. Generally, the rules are:

1. A swimmer may compete in no more than three individual events, the free relay and medley relay, including exhibitions, unless specific meet entries allow more events.
2. A swimmer must swim in an age group based upon his/her actual age the day of the meet.
3. A swimmer may swim up in an age group, but must stay in this group for the entire meet.
4. Scoring will be seven (7) points for first place, five (5) points for second place, four (4) points for third place, three (3) points for fourth place, two (2) points for fifth place and one (1) point for sixth place for individual events. Relays scoring will be eight (8) points for first place and four (4) points for second place. In relays, a team taking first and second places will receive the ribbons; however, the other team will receive the second place points.
5. Completed meet sheets for both teams must be turned into the meet director at least one-half hour (½ hour) before a scheduled meet. Changes can be made only with the approval of the coaching staff.

The following additional guidelines shall be observed:

1. Time trials will be held before the first meet to help determine seeding. Records may not be broken at time trials.
2. Lane assignment is determined by the coaching staff.
3. All possible lanes are to be filled in each meet by seeded swimmers, unseeded swimmers swimming up or by exhibition swimmers in individual events.
4. In relays, there will be as many exhibition teams and number of available swimmers as lanes permit.
5. Any age group, male or female, which has more than twenty (20) active swimmers, will be split into Orange/Black teams for away meets only. These teams will be alternated at each away meet.
6. Substitutions/additions for signed out members of an orange/black team will be made only with the head coach's permission or invitation.
7. Swimmers are required to notify the coach two days before a meet if they are unable to attend.
8. Swim meet rosters, including exhibitions, will be posted the day of a meet.
9. Novices and beginners are strongly encouraged to participate in our stroke clinic and to be in a swim class or taking swim lessons from a private teacher.
10. Records will be kept for meter pool times. "Team" records can be broken in any meter pool.
11. If someone is close to breaking a team record, every opportunity should be given to that swimmer to break that record at a meter pool.
12. It will be the coaches' decision which swimmers swim in meets based on the following: Ability, Attitude, Practice attendance and Dedication. This noted, some swimmers may swim in more events than other swimmers.

Approved by the Board of Commissioners on 5/15/01 and by the Washington Water Jets Swim Team on 6/15/01  
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