

G.R.E.A.T. SWIMMING

October 4, 2009

«AddressBlock»

«GreetingLine»

Thank you for joining **GREAT SWIMMING**. «Swimmer_name» has been placed in the «Group_name» Group which has practice times of «Practice_times». These practice times are what we have established for these swimmers but they can be adjusted with approval of their coach.

Attached to this letter are the following:

1. **October's Planning Calendar:** We will try to get these calendars out to you by the end of each month for the following month so you can plan accordingly. This month there are a couple dates that you have to make some decisions by.
 - a. By Oct 9, you will have to decide if you are going to participate in the Rapid City Racers (RCR) hosted meet. This meet is not required that you attend but it is a two day meet held here at the Swim Center that you can participate in either one or both days. The coaching staff will help you if you decide to go to this meet.
 - b. If you decide to attend the RCR meet, we will have to mail in your swimmer's USA Swimming registration form. Attached is a copy of that registration form. Please look it over and make any corrections that are needed. They will need to be mailed by Oct 14 so please return them with a check for \$51.00 by Oct 12. If you are not attending the RCR meet please look over this form, make any corrections and give it back to your coach. You must be registered with USA Swimming before participating in any USA Swimming meets.
 - c. On Oct 31, we will host our first Improvement Meet. These meets allow our swimmers that are not ready for USA Swimming meets but needs some rewards for their hard work at practice. Swimmers are allowed to swim three events at these meets and will be awarded after their swims. If they improve their time they will get an improvement ribbon. Since this is our first Improvement Meet, everyone will get improvement ribbons. At the next meet if they swim faster again then they will get another improvement ribbon. If they do not improve then they will receive a participation ribbon. No pre-registration is required for these meets, just show up on Saturday morning and tell us what event(s) you want to swim. These meets are **free** to our members.
2. **"Rapid City Fall Invite Swim Meet" information:** Each USA Swimming Meet is required to produce one of these meet sanction and have it approved by the Local Swim Committee (LSC). There is a lot of information included for you to look over and we will help you find the important information you will need.
 - a. **Warm-up Schedule:** Each meet will establish when teams will warm-up before the meet starts. Some times there will be multiple warm-up times, so always check with your coach when you need to be at the meet.
 - b. **Event limit:** This is the maximum number of swims for the meet and per day that your swimmer can participate in.
 - c. **Awards:** Each meet establishes what they will give out to reward the fastest swimmers. They also will identify what are the ages in each group and how they will be scored.
 - d. **Fees:** Each meet will have different fee schedules. Some charge a single fee for the whole meet and others will charge by event. Some meets will have other fees to include: facility fee, timing fees and other fees.

Almost all meet will have some sort of LSC Fee (this one has SD Head Tax for \$3.00). These fees will have to be paid at the time you turn in your meet entries.

- e. **Order of Events:** This is a list of the events that the host is offering. Each meet will offer different events in different order. This will allow you to look for the times/days that you will compete so you can plan accordingly.

3. **USA Swimming Athlete Registration Application:** This is a form that we will have to turn in every year, about this time, to allow you to compete in USA Swimming Meets. When you join USA Swimming you will get an insurance plan that covers your swimmer during practice and meets, a magazine from USA Swimming, USA Swimming rule book and other things. Our program does not require you to join USA Swimming, until you and your swimmer feel they are ready to compete in USA Swimming Meets. Please look over these forms and make any corrections and return them to your coach. The information obtained from these forms will be used to make a unique USA Swimming Number that will follow your swimmer though out their career. Once these forms have be submitted to the LSC and imputed to USA Swimming Data Base it becomes really hard to change any information. If you want to provide any other information, please check any boxes that apply. Please insure the following are correct:
 - a. **Legal First Name and Middle Name**
 - b. **Birthday**
 - c. **Address**

4. The above is a lot of information, but you are new to the sport of swimming so I would like to keep you informed of what is going on. I will try to provide you information has we receive it. Also, we will start working on a monthly newsletter to give you information about our team, helpful hints and what coming up. We are in the process of upgrading our web site. Currently only a few of the pages are working but please go to www.greatswimming.org and provide us some inputs. If you have any questions please ask your coach or call me at 605-484-3264 or at the Swim Center 394-5223. Email contact is greatswimming@rap.midco.net. Again thank you for joining ***GREAT SWIMMING.***

Sincerely,

Duncan R. Olney
Head Coach