

West Austin Aquatics

Parents Meeting by Head Coach Janet Risser

April 26, 2009

Thanks for coming. If ever there is a concern or question please call me (Janet) 266-3400 or 748-6185.

Welcome all the new swimmers joining WFLY!

I am proud to announce WFLY is one of only a few teams in Texas to be a USA Level 4 team (the highest level) given to teams who are overall working towards being a stable and growing program. WFLY was also awarded the Bronze Medal based on swimmer performance.

We are very excited about the merger with Lakeway Aquatics. Nate and I have been working for four months to work through the details to provide a stable swimming environment for the Lakeway swimmers who want to be part of a competitive USA team. Having available lane space year round is essential for USA Swimmers. I am pleased to have a dedicated head age group coach to allow me to make sure all swimmers are getting the individual attention they need at practices and competitions. The collaboration will also help Nate learn more about coaching and be at a place where he can be part of a team that is training elite swimmers. Katie Roberts will also be helping with the USA team this summer. Ginny Walsh will be going to Lakeway to lead the Lakers summer league team. It is our hope that the Lakeway pool can be secured so a swim team will reside there after the summer league season. We envision it to be a recreational program to fit the needs of Lakeway residents.

A meet schedule and practice schedule were handed out.

Bronze Group – elementary swimmers

Silver Group – middle school swimmers, high school swimmers just beginning USA

Gold Group – elite middle school swimmers, high school swimmers, college swimmers

It will take some time to decide the best group for new swimmers. Please be patient while Nate and I work through placing new swimmers in groups.

The swim team is taking on two fund raising tasks. The money raised will be used for anything the team needs. We are hoping to put into place scholarship funds for seniors. The amount to be proportional to the number of years they have been on the team. The first is running the snack bar. The swim team will take 80% giving 20% to WAAC to be used to pay sales tax and other expenses. Many volunteers will be needed. The second is WFLY is hosting Long Course Junior Olympics. Need help with working the meet, finding sponsors, designing t-shirt, etc.

At the first UT meet (next weekend) not everyone could swim all events since they had qualifying times. WFLY will have a non-sanctioned meet after practice May 16 to get times for everyone to see where we are starting for the season. We will have a team BBQ so swimmers and families can meet. The day before, May 15 WAAC and Colin's Hope are hosting a Summer Fun Safety Fair at WAAC. We need help in promoting the event, helping with the swim clinic and booths, and helping gather stuff for the event. We need MANY volunteers. This event will raise awareness on very important safety issues. Please encourage everyone you know to attend. It is free and a great way for families to start their summer. All families should have safety plans for their houses and when they take children to water activities. This event can save lives so please help us make it a success.

The team is also looking for parents to help find hotels, put together championship goodie bags, and help with a championship dinner.

Team will be going to Corpus Christi in June. Meet schedule was passed out. It will be revised as needed if swimmers need other meets. If parents know of a meet that looks interesting they should let me know. WFLY holds sanctioned time trials when needed. UT meets of Memorial weekend and July 4 weekend are not on sheet. These are family weekends. There is a weekend this summer with four championship meets affecting WFLY swimmers. I will be at the US Open but all of the meets will be covered by WFLY coaches.

Suits for meets can be picked by younger swimmers. There are South Texas regulations for suits for 14 and younger swimmers. A parent should never feel they have to purchase an expensive suit. The fast suits should be saved for end of season. However I do not make a big deal for the younger swimmers on what they wear. Swimmers should know that the most important thing is that they are training and will be prepared for championships. In competition, if a cap is worn it must be a WFLY cap.

There will be no Friday practices in May. WAAC has events each Friday and it is important there be at least one day a week where kids can be kids.

Information is sent in emails each Tuesday. If you are not getting emails, send your address to ginny@wfly.com

WAAC web site is www.wfly.com phone number is 263-4282.

Meets are posted on the bulletin board. Championship meets on the front windows. Entry forms are in the plastic drawers by the water fountain.

This is a very exciting time for WFLY. Many teams in the Austin area are going through uncertain changes but I feel like we are making great strides forward.