

**Greater Newark Boys & Girls Club
Dolphin Swim Team - Winter Season
FAQ's - COVID Edition**

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Practices

What is the difference between swim lessons and swim team practices?

- Practices are the periods of time where each swimmer "practices" his/her skills under the supervision of a coach. Please do not confuse practices with swim lessons or classes. Swim lessons/classes are a different program offered at the club to non-swimmers. They are comprised of 3 to 6 students and one instructor. The goal of swim practices is to prepare swimmers for competition, while the goal for swim classes/lessons is simply to teach participants how to swim and to make students water safe.

How many practices are there per week?

- This depends on the practice group. Each group has a maximum number of practices swimmers may attend. This information can be found either on the calendar ([click here](#)), or the programs page ([click here](#)) of the website. For instance, at the Basic level, swimmers may come a maximum of 2 practices per week. There may be more than 2 practices offered during each week for the Basic level, so swimmers can choose any two of the days. These two days do not have to be the same every week.

What are the days and times of practices?

- Again, this depends on each group. The times for each practice group depends on the group, the day of the week, and the time of year. To look up a specific group practice time, go to the web site calendar ([click here](#)), or programs page ([click here](#)), or the Events menu in Team App ([click here](#) - you may have to be signed in to view).

Swim Meets

Are the swim meets required?

- YES. Swim meets are required for all of our program levels (from Beginner through Olympian).

When do the swim meets occur?

- The competitive season runs generally from November thru March; however, we often have a time trial meet in October, our National meet in April and a Summer Send-Off Meet in May.

Do the meets cost money?

- Some of the meets do not cost money and some do. For some meets, the fees are nominal (\$1 to \$2 per event). For USA swim meets, the fees can range from \$5 to \$10 per event (USA is a separate membership; for more info on USA swimming, go to the question regarding types of swim meets).

What type of meets does the team participate in?

- Inter-Club Dual Meets
 - This is when two (sometimes three) teams swim against each other. These meets are free. There is usually one to four of these meets, total, from November through February. They generally last between 2 and 3 hours. For these meets, you must RSVP through our [club portal](#).
- Developmental Meets
 - Sometimes called invitational meets, these meets will have one or more teams participating. Most often, swimmers compete as individuals (for individual placing) rather than acquiring points for a team score. The events may differ from the dual meet events and usually require a nominal entry fee per event (\$1 to \$2). Swimmers can choose the events they would prefer to swim at these meets. This, again, is done through our [club portal](#). Everyone is encouraged to participate - that is why they are called "developmental." They are a great way to gain experience competing.
- USA Swimming Meets
 - USA Swimming is exactly what it sounds like; it is the official organization that the United States has for swimming. They run all the sectional, regional and national meets, and they are the governing body of swimming in the US. If you want to go the Olympics, you go through them.
 - In our area, USA Swimming is represented by our region (or Local Swim Community): Middle Atlantic. Membership is \$75 per year and there are special "USA or Mid Atlantic Meets" that you can participate in with this membership; some meets also have time requirements. There are additional entry fees (usually at least \$10 per individual event).
- Florida! Boys & Girls Club National Championships in St. Petersburg
 - A lot of fun and takes place in April (dates TBD, but likely around 4/7 thru 4/9,2023). Anyone can come, but it is preferred that the swimmer has had some swim meet experience. Events that are 200 yards and longer do have cut times.

Which meets should my child do?

- How "in to" swimming is your child? If your child is new to the sport, the dual and developmental meets are your best bet. If your child is a veteran at competing, or has a strong desire to pursue swimming seriously, USA meets may be a good idea. Feel free to talk to a coach about this question; we can probably help.

Fees / Costs

What fees are required to join the team?

- Boys & Girls Club Membership Fee - \$15 (per year, per person ages 5 to 20). Any person participating in any program here at the Newark Club must be a member, primarily for insurance and national/state funding reasons.
- Participation Fee - \$80 (per year, per family). The \$80 fee is our team fundraiser fee and is charged once per school year per family. It covers items and events like new equipment, the holiday party, the end of the year party, the team gift, USA meet fees, and some coach expenses.

- Program Fee(s) - Varies depending on the group and length of time participating. The program fee can be paid monthly, by session, or in full (for entire school year, Sept-May). These fees can be found on the web site at <https://www.gnbcdolphins.org/programs/>.

Registration

How do I join the team?

- It is strongly recommended that swimmers "try-out" the team for a practice or two before officially joining the team. This way, swimmers get a chance to see how practices are run (and whether they like it or not), and the coaches get a chance to see the swimmers and make sure they are in the most appropriate group. Once a swimmer has decided that he/she would like to join, registration is available online.

How do I know which group/level to join?

- Descriptions for each program can be found on the "Programs" page of the website: <https://www.gnbcdolphins.org/programs/>, including a description of the group, practice days and times. Choose a group that looks to fit best and try a practice or two before committing to the team.

What do I need to do to come and try a few practices?

- You will need to join our Team App (<https://gnbcdolphins.teamapp.com/>). Be prepared to ask for permission to join a specific level (like Basic, or Advanced). Once you are approved, go to "Events." From here you should see a list of practices (assuming we have practices scheduled). Click on a practice you would like to attend and RSVP. There is a limit to the number of swimmers at each practice.

How/Where do I register?

- Registration is online on the website, www.gnbcdolphins.org. Before registering though, please read the following words of advice.
 - **Decide which sessions/months to participate in, and how to pay.** There are three ways to pay and participate in our programs:
 - **Monthly:** Choose this option to pay by month. An option for automatic payments is available. Use this option if joining mid-session.
 - Advantages: Smaller initial payment; spread payments out; join for smaller amounts of time; smaller commitment.
 - Disadvantages: If joining for the full school year, the sum of all payments is more than the other options.
 - **Session:** Choose this option to pay for a complete session (the Fall Session is September-October, Winter is November - March, and Spring is April-May).
 - Advantages: slightly cheaper than paying monthly; break payments up into 3 smaller payments for the school year (instead of one lump sum); join for a specific session.
 - Disadvantages: larger initial payment (compared to monthly); the sum of the three session payments are slightly more expensive than the year payment.

- **Year:** This option is a one-time payment for the entire school year - September thru May (Fall, Winter & Spring Sessions). Choose this option for a swimmer who is committed to swimming the entire year.
 - Advantages: One payment and done; cheapest option.
 - Disadvantages: Must pay all at once; option is offered during September only; we generally do not do refunds on this option (in the case you change your mind) - be sure you plan to swim the full year.

Can I register at the club?

- No. Online registration is required.

Can I pay for registration online?

- Yes. Online payment is preferred and can be done during [registration](#), or at a later date by logging into your account on our portal: <https://swimportal.active.com/?a=284283406>

Can I pay at the club?

- Yes, however, this would have to be via check. NO cash.

Is there a discount for multiple children?

- Yes. There is 5% discount for the second child. The discount for each additional child (after the 2nd) is 10%. Please note that this is per immediate family or household. Swimmers must be registered on the same order for the discount to automatically populate.

Am I able to register more than one child at the same time?

- Yes. In fact, to get the discount, you must register all participants on the same order. Once all information for the first child is in (and you are on the check-out page), DON'T check out. There is a link in the upper right-hand corner of the check-out page: **+Add Another Registration**. Click this to add another child. Do not check out until all family members are registered in order to receive the 2nd child, etc. discount automatically.

Do I need to create a new account each time I register?

- NO. Please do not create multiple accounts. Please use the same email and password you used during your initial registration (including those participants coming from our lesson program). This way, all of your purchase history, as well as all of your swimmers' meet participation and times will be all in one place.

How do I get to my account?

- This is the link to our club portal: [club portal](#). There is also a link to the club portal on the home page of our [website](#). I highly recommend bookmarking both our [website](#) and our [club portal](#).