

FALLING OAKS RACING RACCOONS SWIM TEAM FAQ

Does my child need to be a member of the pool to join the swim team?

Yes, in order to join the swim team each child must be a member of the pool. For pool membership information see <https://fallingoaks.org/membership>. You do not need to live in the Falling Oaks neighborhood to join the swim team.

Do I need to fill out any forms to register for the swim team and how much does it cost?

Yes, there is a swim team registration form which includes the swim team fees. Scroll to the bottom of the [Swim Team](#) page to the Forms heading. The 2023 Swim Team Form is the swim team registration, and form and includes information about the swim team fee. You need to hand in a paper copy of this form with your payment to the green mailbox at the pool. Your payment can be made online if you choose at the link at the bottom of the swim team page. (There is a small processing fee included for the online swim team payment.) There is also a 2023 Google Doc that needs to be completed for each swimmer found right under the swim team registration form.

When does the season start and when does it end?

Practices for the 2023 season begin on June 5th. The season ends with the swim team party on the evening of July 22nd.

When are practices?

Practices are weekday mornings. The day after a swim meet there is no practice the next morning. See [Swim Team](#) under meet schedule.

Donut Thursdays

Donut Thursdays are a FOHA tradition. Every Thursday swimmers receive a donut after practice. Kids love this tradition, and often it's a great motivator if your child is having trouble motivating themselves to go to practice a little later in the week. Parents may drop off money labeled "donut Thursday money" to the green box at the pool. We will purchase the donuts. If your child has an allergy we have popsicles available, or you're welcome to send your child with their own special "donut Thursday" snack, if you prefer.

Does my child have to go to all the practices?

Ideally, kids attend all scheduled practices except for vacations. Sometimes kids are sick, or extra tired one morning, or you have an appointment, and coaches are very understanding.

When and where are meets?

The meet schedule is listed on the swim team page, and addresses can be found there as well. The meets and locations are also on the swim team [calendar](#).

Does my child have to swim in every meet?

No, your child does not have to swim every meet. This is a summer league, and we recognize families go on vacation or sometimes have other conflicts. Your child does have to have competed in at least two dual meets to be eligible to swim at championships.

How do I make sure my child is signed up for a meet?

A Google form will be emailed to each family approximately a week before each meet, and you indicate your child's/children's availability for that meet on the form. We do ask that if you commit to a meet, you make sure your children come to the meet. There are relays for each age group, and if one child doesn't show up at the last minute that impacts everyone in their relays. It ends up letting other swimmers down because they aren't able to swim their relays if swimmers do not show up for meets they committed to. If told in advance, we can easily build lineups around absences, but not at the last minute.

What should we expect at a swim meet?

Meets begin at 6:15 p.m. For home meets, swimmers should arrive at the pool at 5 p.m. The home team always warms up first. For dual meets, swimmers can be in no more than two individual events and two relays. Relays depend a lot on how many swimmers in a given age group are at the meet, and we try to have as many kids as possible participate in relays.

What should we bring to a meet?

Wear a suit (black if possible) to meets, bring goggles, cap, and towel/s. Bring water, a healthy snack, and a sharpie to write events on kid's hands. The events your child will be swimming at each meet will be taped up on a fence (or wall) somewhere at the swim meet.

Meets last 2 ½-3 hours depending on how many swimmers there are. The weather is usually warm at the start of the meet, but it may cool down closer to the end of the meet. Bringing a sweatshirt for the end of the meet and ride home is always a good idea. Make sure your child cleans up their area at the end of the meet, and do not leave the meet until your child has swum all of their events.

After home swim meets we have a social for families. Kids are able to swim and have ice cream sundaes (with Kellen's famous hot fudge sauce) for just \$1.00/child. Parents are encouraged to bring a dessert/appetizer to share and sit around to get to know each other.

Does everyone swim in the championship meet?

The championship meet is run a little differently than all the other meets. There are only so many swimmers allowed per event and one relay per team per relay event in championships. For this reason, not all swimmers are able to swim at championships. A lot depends on how many swimmers we have in a given age group and what swimmers are available for that meet. Regardless of whether your child swims in the championship meet, everyone is welcome to come to cheer on the team, and the swim team party the evening of champs is for all swimmers and their families.

Where can parents be during swim practices?

Parents can sit above the pool on the concrete area and grassy area during practices or go for a walk or run in the neighborhood. Parents are not to be on the pool deck during practices. It's very distracting for swimmers and difficult for coaches to maintain attention if parents are talking to coaches or their own swimmers during practices.

Is there a team suit?

There is no official team suit. We recommend black suits, but they are not absolutely necessary. Swimoutlet.com is a good place to find suits. If you want to go to a store to try some on, Aquatic Outfitters in Canton is the closest swim store. (7223 Whipple Ave NW, North Canton, OH 44720)

Recommended swim equipment

Goggles: We recommend a good pair of Speedo, Arena, or TYR goggles. Stay away from scuba style masks as goggles. Competitive swim goggles are recommended because they seal better around eyes, are much less likely to fall off, and allow for better peripheral vision than noncompetitive swim goggles. Swimoutlet.com is a good online site. If you want to go to a store to try some on Aquatic Outfitters in Canton is the closest swim store. (7223 Whipple Ave NW, North Canton, OH 44720) Swimmers should wear a swim cap at meets. If your child has long hair they should also wear a cap to practices.

Are there swim team caps?

We're working on purchasing new team caps this year, and we'll let everyone know when we have them.

How does communication work for the swim team?

Coaches send out weekly emails to parents with all the information for the upcoming week along with Google forms for you to sign your swimmer up for meets. If needed, parents can also email coaches or talk to them after practice. Please do not try to have a conversation with coaches during practices.

Are there volunteer requirements for the swim team?

For home swim meets and the championship meet we need many of volunteers for the meet to run. Each family is required to volunteer twice throughout the season. A Sign Up Genius will be sent out before each meet for you to choose which job you would like to do. We also sell concessions for at home meets and swim champs. Money earned from concessions helps to pay the officials and league fees. A Sign Up for concession donations will also be sent out before each home meet and the championship meet.

Are there team pictures?

Yes, team pictures will be scheduled, and a date emailed out and posted on the swim team page for Falling Oaks. Pictures will be in lieu of practice on a weekday morning