



Welcome to all our new swimming families. You are about to enter a whole "New World" in competitive swimming! If you have not come from a swimming background, many things about our program may seem confusing and overwhelming, but trust me, a year from now, you will be passing on info to the next batch of "newcomers" like an old pro!

My name is Cindy Budnik, and I am the SWAT Office/Team Manager. I am the person to connect with on billing, registration, and meet entry procedures that pertain to you and your swimmer. No question is a "dumb question" we have all asked them at one time or another! The SWAT office hours are M-Th from 10:30am-2:30 pm. Phone (262)679-7928 All other times the answering machine is on. Please leave a message and I will get back to you with answer or direct you to the proper contacts. I am also available via email, [swatswimteam@wi.rr.com](mailto:swatswimteam@wi.rr.com). Our SWAT Website homepage under the Team Info icon also has a list of Team Contacts from each level that will also be a useful resource when you have questions that don't fall into coaching or office categories. Each parent on the list has been where you are right now and are happy to help you.

Tryouts and all the paperwork included for registration and information purposes were probably quite overwhelming. Most everything is 2 sided copies, and with all the paperwork that is sent home throughout the school year, sitting down to look at more "stuff" probably won't be high on your priority list! I promise you though; if you take some time to read everything over, those first weeks will be a little less confusing. Saving these copies in a special swimming folder, may also save you a phone call a few months from now as you get more involved in the swim meets, team gear, and fundraising. Be sure to take a minute to check all that is on the SWAT website-start by clicking on Team Info on the home page for lots info about our program and what to expect.

Depending on your swimmers level, coaches will encourage your swimmer to attend 2-3 times per week for optimal improvement. In the starting weeks of a new season, swimmers are very excited, attendance is high at all practices, and may appear to be very crowded. Be patient, soon families will settle into a routine that works around music, sports, jobs and other activities, and practices will become less crowded. An optimum practice would have 5-8 swimmers per lane. If practices remain higher after the initial few weeks, adjustments may be made to the schedule.

New families are always interested to know about competitive meets. Meet reservations are made before the start of each season, but every effort will be made to accommodate our new swimmers. Your swimmer has moved beyond a lessons program and has joined a "competitive" program and as such will be expected to participate in meets selected for his/her age group and level. Meet readiness is determined more by the eagerness and personality of each particular swimmer, rather than on how fast or how well they are swimming the strokes. Swimmers from our Swim America program are generally capable of swimming a "legal" 25/50 freestyle or backstroke in a meet. Meets are meant to help your coach, you and your swimmer set goals, measure their improvement and advancement readiness. It's not just about ribbons, medals and winning. Never swimming in a meet is like practicing soccer/basketball etc. all year and NEVER playing a game! Meet information and sign ups for a meet are usually available on our team website 2-4 weeks before the meet. SWAT does allow parents to sign up their swimmer for the meets and events they will swim. If you are unsure, check with your swimmer's coach. Directions for signing up for meets are available on line if you did not receive them during registration. You must use team unify to declare or decline every meet on your swimmers schedule. Be sure to set up an ESCROW account for all your meet fees. A \$50 (per swimmer) check made payable to "SWAT " and mailed to Cindy Budnik, W172 S7707 Lannon Drive, Muskego, WI 53150 is all you need to set up your account.

Our practice schedule requests that you call the **(414) 299-9428(WHAT)** "Hotline" to verify practices *everyday*. Currently we have over 240 swimmers practicing at several different pools. Most of the pools are older and routinely run into maintenance problems. Admittedly, calling everyday is bothersome, but we hope that a 2-second phone call will prevent 40 minutes of wasted driving time if a practice is changed or canceled. When schools cancel or close early due to weather, SWAT practices are also canceled. The HOTINE is also used as an "Information Center" advising you of upcoming events or meet sign-up deadlines. This line is a set up as Stand Alone Voice mail for out going messages only.

We ask that you DO NOT linger on the phone or leave messages on this line, as the line begins to record as soon as the message ends, leaving many un-intended messages to delete before the hotline can be set again the next day! All questions or messages should be called or left on (262) 679-7928 number only or email [www. swatswimteam@wi.rr.com](mailto:www.swatswimteam@wi.rr.com) To learn more about us, locate our SWAT website at: [www.swimswat.org](http://www.swimswat.org)

Welcome and Happy Swimming!