



PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES / CODE OF ETHICS

1. Parents should support and encourage good practice attendance. Consistent attendance at practice supports the individual swimmer's learning as well as the progress of the team. Ensure that your child attends and is on time for all practices. Parents should be aware of the Training Participation Policy that governs practice attendance for swimmers. Support and encourage your swimmer to follow the home training program the coach designs. This will include stretching and land drilling and may include occasional group training (e.g. dance sessions, gym sessions, pilates) as deemed appropriate by the coach.
2. All fees (club and meet) and travel costs must be paid on time or your daughter may not be allowed to participate in practice or competitions until outstanding balances are cleared. Please contact the club treasurer to discuss any payment issues.
3. Be aware of the volunteer hour requirements and fulfill your quota of hours. Parent participation is crucial to the success of the Club and helps to keep costs down for families. If you have particular skills please share them with the Club. Your visible support conveys the message to your swimmer that you value their efforts and support their success.
4. Be respectful of other parents, swimmers, coaches and Club volunteers. Recognize that each swimmer is an individual who matures and learns at a different pace. Address concerns respectfully to the coach and/or head coach first to work with the coach to resolve any concerns. If a resolution cannot be met with the coach, please contact a member of the executive with any questions or concerns. A positive attitude toward practice, attendance and problem solving sends a strong message to swimmers that problems can be worked out. Recognize that part of team sports is learning to work together with a variety of personalities and skill sets and help your swimmer to see this.

Parents are **NOT** allowed on deck during practices but may consult with their coach prior to or following practices, or contact the coach by e-mail if there are questions or concerns.

Please remember that parents are **NEVER** allowed on deck at meets and the Club will be fined for any contravention of this rule. The rule is to facilitate crowd control and ensure swimmer safety by limiting on-deck access to coaches, officials and swimmers.

Swim meet host clubs must comply with any fire and safety regulations set forth by the facility at which the meet is held.

5. Parents are encouraged to watch part or all of practice throughout the season. Although it is absolutely not necessary to attend and watch all practices it is helpful for parents to see the structure of the practice, assess their swimmers compliance with coach's instruction and show their support for their swimmer.
6. It is the parent's responsibility to communicate to the coach any health or other concerns that might affect a swimmer's safety or performance. Medical documentation may be required if ongoing training accommodation is required or if questions of swimmer safety need to be addressed.
7. Be supportive and encouraging of your child:
 - Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports,
 - Remember that children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment and not yours,
 - Encourage your child to play by the rules,
 - Ensure your child is available and on time for practice, meetings and swim meets.
8. Be supportive and encouraging of your child's coach:
 - Concerns or questions should be respectfully addressed to your child's coach. If questions and concerns remain, contact either the head coach or president (or both) to address outstanding issues.
 - Your child's coach is qualified to coach synchronized swimming ... she does know what she is doing and training should be adhered to
 - Do not publicly question/criticize your child's coach.
9. Inform your child's coach if your daughter is unable to attend practice for any reason:
 - Inform your child's coach if, due to an injury/illness, your child must modify their training. Provide a doctor's note, if possible, if the injury will cause interruption or modification in training,
 - Messages may be left at the coach's home prior to practice via email or phone.
Please do not send messages to the coach via other parents/swimmers.
10. Make a commitment for the entire competitive year:
 - Your swimmer's commitment includes practice, meetings and swim meets.

Practice Commitments:

- Always have your swimmer be on time and ready to begin,
- Unless your swimmer is **very** sick (fever/vomiting) she should attend practice, not necessarily swimming, but be available to learn new elements in the routine,

- If your swimmer is ill, ensure you or your daughter informs the coach prior to practice (please do not send messages via other parents/swimmers)
- Participation in training is mandatory and not selective (i.e. endurance versus routine). Long-term absence from training will require certification from Doctor and a plan put in place to address.

Swim Meet Commitments:

- Attend the “Meet” meeting when called by coach/executive. This meeting is intended to provide information regarding the swim meet. Meetings may be held separately ... the executive is more interested in providing general information and the coach is interested in determining times for team commitments. Guidelines set by coaches, and agreed to by parents/swimmers at meeting held prior to meet, are to be adhered to.
- **Competitions are not family vacations. The swimmer’s responsibility is to her team.** There will be time available for non-team related activities. Please plan accordingly.
- Support all other members of the Guelph Synchronized Swim Club
- Positive attitudes towards all other clubs
- All swimmers are responsible to their coach and their team rules for competition (i.e. nutrition, curfew, sleeping arrangements, team time).
- Parents are responsible for their children outside of designated team activity times. Coaches are not required to be responsible for transportation or supervision of swimmers outside of team and swim meet related activity times, but need to know where their swimmers are at all times.

Meeting Commitments:

- Meetings called should be attended. If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to get information,
- Information/commitment requests passed out, discussed, and agreed to at meetings, will be adhered to,
- It is mandatory that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) be attended.