

## Guidelines for Age Group Tents

A critical part of making sure the meet runs smoothly is understanding the age group tent areas. Each tent provided by the JCC will be set up by parent volunteers about 30 minutes before warm-up begins. Each tent will be labeled by gender and age group: *6 and under girls, 9/10 boys, etc.*

### CHECK IN PROCEDURE:

1. Locate your tent(s) and check in with the age group parent. Age group parents are volunteers who help your child throughout the meet. They are your child's "go to" person if you are volunteering elsewhere at the meet.
2. Check in your youngest child first since the events start with the youngest swimmers.
3. For swimmers 10 and under, sign in your child with the age group parent. Indicate on their clipboard where you will be during the meet (timing, concessions, with another child's age group). Provide your cell phone number in case you need to be contacted.
4. Help your child understand that they **MUST** stay with their age group tent at all times unless they are escorted to swim their events or to the restroom by an age group parent.
5. If you think your child may have difficulty with some aspect of the meet, please stay on hand to assist the age group parents.
6. Swimmers **MUST** sign out on the clipboard if they need to leave the tent for any reason without an age group parent. There are usually 2 age group parents at each tent.
7. **RELAYS** are at the beginning and end of each meet. It is imperative that any swimmer who has indicated on Swimtopia that they are available for a relay **ARRIVE ON TIME!** It is difficult to re-seed relays once they have been set. **WHEN SWIMMERS DON'T ARRIVE ON TIME FOR RELAYS, IT AFFECTS 3 OTHER TEAMMATES WHO MAY GET BUMPED FROM PARTICIPATING!**
8. Coaches send out an email the night before the meet with your child's events, heat and lane. Please mark your child with their **LAST NAME, EVENT, HEAT** and **LANE** with a sharpie. Age group parents can assist with this.

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### **ILLNESS:**

In the event that your child is ill the morning of a meet, text Coach Laura (512-673-3175) or a friend at the meet so Coach Aurora and Coach Laura may quickly find a replacement for the relays.

### **RELAYS:**

Freestyle relays for 6 and under swimmers and medley relays for 7 and up swimmers are at the beginning of each meet. Freestyle relays for ages 7 and up are at the end of each meet. The six and under age group does not swim medley relays. Swimmers will be placed in order at the tent. They may be paired swimmers 1 and 3, swimmers 2 and 4 since those pairs start on the same end of the pool. Swimmers stay in that order as they walk to the ready bench. The ready bench volunteers will tell your swimmer where to sit as they wait for their heat. If you decide to leave before the end of the meet, be sure to let the age group parent know. There are often changes to the end of the meet relays and the coaches may need your swimmers!

### **AFTER A SWIMMER SWIMS:**

After swimming his or her event, the swimmer will go back to the age group tent. If your child needs assistance getting back to the tent, they should find an age group parent after they exit the pool.

### **CHEERING:**

Encourage your child to watch their teammates swim and cheer for them. Spontaneous Piranhas cheering is highly recommended!

### **RESTROOM AND CONCESSION BREAKS:**

Swimmers should use the restroom upon arriving at the pool or after warm ups. The age group parents can escort swimmers to the restroom and/or the concessions after they have swum their event. Please do not go to the concessions with your child when we are lining up for relays! Relays line up about 15 minutes before the event begins!

### **HEADING TO THE READY BENCH:**

Announcements are made when groups should head to the ready bench. If you are unable to hear the announcement, the parent volunteer coordinator will come to each tent to let us know that it is almost our turn to swim. Swimmers should quickly find their cap and goggles and get ready to swim.

### **SEATING AND EXTRA TENTS**

Space is limited under each tent. Swimmers may lay out blankets and towels. They may bring books or toys to occupy time between events. Electronics are discouraged. If parents have extra tents, shaded seating or chairs, they may bring those. There is limited space for coolers, but a small cooler with cold beverages and snacks is recommended.