

FOREST AREA SWIM TEAM (FAST) REGISTRATION POLICY

The Forest Area Swim Team (FAST), with permission from the Forest Creek (FC), Lake Forest (LF) and Forest Creek III (FCIII) HOA's, uses the HOA pools in the participating neighborhoods for swim practices. According to the terms of the agreement, FC, LF and FCIII residents are given priority to all available open spots on the FAST Frogs, with new non-residents being given access to remaining spots not taken by returning swimmers – resident and non-resident - as of the end of the New Family Registration Event each season. Residents must be in good standing with their home HOA to register with FAST. **Non-residents – returning and new - must be sponsored by a resident family that has a swimmer registered with the team and submit the required paperwork at the time of registration.**

There are three levels of swimmers within FAST; Frogs, Pollywogs, and Tadpoles. Frogs are competitive swimmers who the coaches have determined are capable of participating in one or multiple strokes / events. Pollywogs are novice swimmers, who the coaches have determined that with additional training may be able to participate in one or more meets during the season. Tadpoles are beginner swimmers, who the coaches have determined require significant additional training before they are ready for competition. Placement as a Frog, Pollywog, or Tadpole will occur during swim assessments that are conducted prior to registration. Completing a swim evaluation is a required for returning Tadpoles, Pollywogs & new swimmers under 12, but it does not guarantee a spot on the team. If your swimmer does not meet our minimum safety requirements for instruction, we will not be able to complete their team registration for this season. The coaches have the final determination about a swimmer's placement as a Frog, Pollywog, or Tadpole.

FAST registration has traditionally occurred in March, with practices beginning in early May. FAST is a volunteer-run organization and requires families to fulfill a minimum number of volunteer shifts each season in order to retain returning family status. **Once a swimmer is registered as a team member, resident and non-resident families will retain returning family status as long as they continue to register for the team in consecutive seasons.**

Resident: Registrants must have closed on their FC, LF or FCIII home by the date of new family registration. During returning and new family registration, each registrant must provide proof of residency. If it is determined that the participants' family is not in good standing with their home HOA, their name will be removed from the team roster and they will not be able to participate in team activities. FAST swimmers must be registered by a parent or legal guardian residing in either FC, LF or FCIII.

Non-Residents: Non-resident families are families that live outside of the FC, LF or FCIII HOA boundaries, do not pay FC, LF or FCIII HOA dues and therefore are not residents of FC, LF or FCIII. Returning non-resident families may register during Returning Family Registration. New non-resident families may register for the swim team during New Family Registration. They will be automatically waitlisted until the end of the registration event and may obtain spots that remain after the event. These families will be notified after new family registration is complete as to their status for that season. **Non-residents – returning and new - must be sponsored by a resident family that has a swimmer registered with the team and submit the required paperwork at the time of registration.**

Frog, Pollywog, and Tadpole Registration Priority:

- Returning Family Registration
 - Returning resident and returning non-resident, returning swimmer*
 - Returning resident and returning non-resident, sibling(s)
- New Family Registration

- New family, resident
- New family, non-resident

Returning swimmer/families Registration – Resident and Non-Resident: A swimmer has the right of return, providing that the family is in good standing with the HOA, the swimmer participated in the previous swim season, and the family has met volunteering requirements during the previous season*. Siblings of a returning swimmer may be enrolled during the returning family registration period, providing that they are at least 5 years of age as of May 1 of that year and meet minimum swimming ability requirements.

New family Registration: New family registration event generally occurs two weeks following the completion of returning family registration. Any nonresidents that register during the new family registration period will be wait-listed until the end of the registration period and may obtain spots that remain at that time. If there are not sufficient spots available, new swimmers will be added based upon the time when their registration request was received. The number of open spots may vary by age group.

* Returning Pollywogs and Tadpoles are subject to swim evaluation requirements noted above