

## Pit Parent Check List

**Responsibilities:** Your primary responsibility is to ensure that swimmers are at the ready bench ready to go when it is their turn to swim. Here are some important tips to help the day run smoothly.

Using the event sheet and markers provided, swimmers need to be marked on the upper arm with their events. 6 & unders are sometime easier to mark on their foot. Keep it consistent among all the swimmers in your group (same arm or foot) in order to help when lining them up for events.

Example: Event sheet says:

Name	Age	Team	12	32	44	46
Smith, John	6	PFP-CI	4/1	3/2		1/2

They will be marked with their name followed by each event listed under their name:

John

12-4-1 (this means event 12, heat 4, lane 1)

32-3-2 (event 3, heat 3, lane 2)

46-1-2 (event 46, heat 1, lane 2)

For Relay event markings, look on the heat sheet to determine the event number, heat and lane and also to mark on swimmers.

You will also need to make a notation by each swimmer's name to keep up with who is present. Coach Allie will check with each pit (usually right after warm ups) to determine which swimmers didn't show up in order to make adjustments for relay teams. Any swimmer who is not present will be scratched from all relays and teams re-aligned as all changes are due to the computer reps prior to the start of the meet.

Try to keep swimmers corralled in pits so that lining up is time efficient. Swimmers are expected to remain in the pits for the duration of the meet. If they need to leave the pit area, make sure they notify you of where they are going and confirm that they have time to leave before their next event. It is ultimately the swimmer's responsibility to be where they are supposed to be when it's their time to swim. It is not the pit parent's responsibility to hunt all over the pool area to round up swimmers.

When you hear first call for your age group's event, start lining up your swimmers. Watching for the pit before you to get ready is helpful. When you see them start to get ready, it's a good time to have your swimmers find their caps & goggles and get ready to go. Events always flow youngest to oldest. Use the heat sheet to line up swimmers in order. Also watch the crowd level at ready bench so that your kids don't have to stand in the sun waiting, but also be careful not to leave ready bench workers waiting on swimmers.

For younger swimmers, wait for them by the pool at each event to help them get back safely to the pit. Please do not let younger children go unassisted to the restrooms, and try to take multiple kids at one time, not too close to the event time. Lines in restrooms get long!

Make sure swimmers check with you when they are leaving – especially if they are leaving before the end of the meet.

At the end of the meet, please make sure that trash is picked up and the pit bag is returned to the volunteer station. Also turn in lost and found items. Thank you for volunteering for this position and enjoy getting to know and cheer on our Piranha swimmers!

**Helpful Tips:**

During regular season meets, it is still dark when swimmers arrive at the pool. Bringing a small portable light/flashlight can be very helpful.

Keep horseplay and rowdy behavior to a minimum. Swimmers in your pit should not be disturbing other pit areas and should show good behavior and sportsmanship at all times. Any swimmer who will not follow directions and/or is causing disruption should be reported to the meet director.

During “halftime” of every meet (between events 45 and 46), there will typically be a parent/coach relay. This is one of the highlights of the meet for the kids as they cheer on their coaches to beat the opposing team. Because swimmers will gather around the pool to watch the races, our 6 & under and 7 & 8 pit parents need to have your kiddos who will be swimming breaststroke take their caps and goggles with them to watch the relay. A 6 & under pit parent will need to be there with their group to watch the relay and immediately escort them over to the ready bench after the relay. 7 & 8 pit parents, make sure your breaststroke swimmers know they need to meet you immediately after the races in a designated area so you can line them up and head right to ready bench.

Our pits have just enough room for our swimmers and our pit parents. Additional family members joining you at the meet will need to set up outside of the pit where other families are gathering. Parents not volunteering as a pit parent will need to set up outside of the pits as well.