**Welcome to the Berkeley Barracudas!**

Its time to start thinking about summer swimming!

This is a great opportunity to meet some of the fellow members of the Berkeley Swim Club and a perfect way to improve your swimming skills. We hope this letter will give you some information on the season and what is expected from each Swim Team family.

This will be Coach Al Ledgin’s 8th year leading the Barracudas. He is an amazing coach and your children will all benefit from swimming this summer. Our swim team parent coordinators are Melissa Curtis and Fiona Rouse.

Berkeley Swim Club participates in the **Town & Country Swim League** along withClearwater, Crestview, Fish & Game, Minisink, and Noe Pond. Swim Meets will run from June 24 to the July 29. Unless you have notified Coach Al, all swimmers are expected to be at the swim meets; we count on your participation. The championship **All-Team Meet** has a limited number of swimmers competing; Coach Al will be choosing swimmers a week or so before the meet date.

**Parent Meeting/Swim Suit Fitting – 7pm, May 9th at Berkeley Heights Public Library.**

If you need help with swimsuit sizing, there will be a vendor there who can help you choose the correct size.

**Daily Swim Practices** ***\*\*times may alter slightly\*\****

**Full time practice** schedule will start on June 21st (this is the first day of summer for Berkeley Heights Schools.) Prior to that, there may be practices scheduled after school and/or on weekends. We will notify you as soon as dates/times are determined.

**Monday – Friday schedule
9:00 – 10:30 am** Children 13 + or any 10yr + swimmer who qualifies by ability

 **10:30 – 11:30 am** Children age 9-12 and any 13 + who are not ready for the older group

 **11:30 – 12 noon** Children age 8 & under

**NOTE:** Final group placement will be at the discretion of the Head Coach.
Based on ability, swimmers may be moved to a different practice time.

**Meet Dates & Locations**

If your child cannot make a swim meet, you must notify Coach Al in writing at **least 4** **days** prior to the meet via e-mail.

**Saturday, June 24**
**Wednesday, June 28**
**Saturday, July 8**

**Saturday, July 15**
**Saturday, July 22** **Saturday, July 29 – All Team Meet**

(Only a limited number of swimmers can compete in this meet; selection will be made by Coach Al.)

**Meet Times**

*Saturday Meets - 9:30 am*

*Evening Meets - 6:00 pm*

Swimmers are to arrive **one hour** before scheduled start. This allows swimmers to warm-up; allows you review the Meet Lineup/Roster and to write down what events they are swimming in.

**Registration Fee**

Fee includes swim team registration and a team tee shirt that they should wear to the weekly meets. This booster fee helps offset the fee for joining the Town and Country League; pays for the coaching; and helps to buy supplies for the swim team.
Below are the fees per family:

*$80/one swimmer • $160/two swimmers • $220/three swimmers • $ 280/four+ swimmers*

**What will you need to buy?**

**- Team Swim Suit -** If you need a suit, and are not able to attend the Parent Meeting, please be sure to get your form to me ASAP, as the **swimsuit** **order deadline is June 1.**

**- Practice fins -** The fins required for practice are *Speedo Optimus Training Fin* (short fin). Cost is approximately $30. You can purchase them at the Parent Meeting or at Metro Swim. [If you have “out-grown” fins, please bring them to the Parent Meeting; we’d like to have a Used Fin Sale that evening—where you can sell them for $10]

**Family Commitment**

**Role for Parents during Swim Meets**
In order for the meets to take place, and run smoothly, we need each family to volunteer for one job, at a total of **three** meets. ***If you sign up and cannot attend, you will be responsible to find another parent to cover that role.***

**We always need additional people to learn the role of SCORER** at the meets, please let us know if you are interested in helping with this critical role.

**Concession Donations:** For each of our three Home Meets, we run a concession stand to further cover team expenses. We will need families to donate baked goods, fruit and beverages (water, Gatorade, soda).

**Sign-Ups:** We use the website Shutterfly for all our sign-ups for job assignments and food donations. You will need to “join” the website if you have not already. Please try your login codes prior to June to make sure you have access. The website is <http://berkeleybarracudas.shutterfly.com/>. There is helpful information, like descriptions of each job’s duties. Positions will be available on a first come first serve basis. Please go onto the meet date you would like to work and select the job. (It will work the same for concession stand donations based on items needed.)

**Spirit & Team Building!**

**KICK OFF Pizza Party** will be Friday June 23, the day before our first meet! This is a great way to bond as a team and get pumped up for the first meet. More details on this will follow. If you would like to help coordinate this event, please let me know!

**4th Annual BSC** **Team Bowling Event** for swimmers and their families. Details about the date and time will follow.

**We count on your participation to help the team run smoothly!**

We are super excited for this season! There is something very special about this team

* swimming skills develop
* friendships develop
* tremendous team spirit & camaraderie

It isn’t often that children can be a part of a team with athletes from age 6 to 18 years old! This is a team that supports, helps and cheers (very loudly!) for each swimmer—no matter their ability, no matter if they come in first or last place. The Berkeley Barracudas allows each swimmer the opportunity to learn to swim well, develop stamina and perseverance, and eventually, grow into the role of our older swimmers who encourage and lead on the rest!

See you poolside,

Kelly Dietzel

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Please call or email with any questions or concerns