

# Houston Mustang Swimming FAQ's

## ***How are the swim teams "different" from other school sponsored sports?***

Swimming is not a TSSAA sanctioned sport. ALL school swim teams in Tennessee are governed by TISCA (Tennessee Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association). Our local organization is the Shelby County Swim League. Both of these organizations have websites which can be accessed from our team website: [www.mustangswimming.com](http://www.mustangswimming.com)

## ***What do the team membership fees pay for? What is the pool rental fee?***

Since swimming is not school sponsored we receive NO funds from GMSD to run our team. We must hire and pay our own coaches, pay a small stipend to a faculty sponsor, pay local and state membership fees, meet fees, t-shirts and caps for every swimmer, and other expenses. Our membership fees cover these items for everyone. The pool rental fee is to cover the rental of lanes at Germantown Athletic Club for our seasonal swimmers and a separate liability insurance fee we must maintain since our events are not associated with GMSD.

## ***What is stroke clinic? What is the practice schedule once the season starts?***

The stroke clinic is where our coaches will focus on each of the four specific swim strokes along with breathing techniques, turns, and starts. They will also evaluate each swimmer so that they can create productive drills and instruction for similar level swimmers once practices begin. We STRONGLY encourage swimmers to attend EVERYDAY of the stroke clinic. We offer practice every weekday after school throughout the swim season.

## ***What are the expectations of the swimmers?***

We understand that every swimmer will not be able to attend every practice, but you will not see any improvement without regular participation. We recommend that middle school swimmers attend 2-3 practices each week and high school swimmers 3-4 practices each week, but of course they can come every day if that fits your schedule. Swimming in the meets is STRONGLY encouraged. A swimmer WILL NOT be able to swim at the county championship meet if he/she has not participated in regular meets throughout the season.

## ***Does everyone get to participate?***

Our coaches DO require that a swimmer can swim freestyle with their face in the water for 25 yards (1 pool length). If this is an issue, they can offer recommendations for swimming lessons (The Pool School, GAC, YMCA, etc.)

YES!! Every swimmer has the opportunity to participate at all practices and meets. Once a swimmer has an officially recorded time at a swim meet, they will be grouped in heats with other swimmers with similar times. We also field relay teams at most swim meets. We do challenge our swimmers to try and swim a variety of strokes and distances.

## ***What equipment/uniforms are needed?***

Your membership fee includes a team swim cap and team t-shirt. Every swimmer will need goggles. We will have additional apparel available on our website and suggestions for a team swimsuit. Many swimmers have caps and suits that they practice in and save the team cap and suits for meets.

***What about the swim meets that are held during the season?***

Swim meets are set up and run by the Shelby County Swim League. They generally begin the last week of October or early November. In the past, high school meets have been on Thursdays and middle school meets have been on Saturday mornings. Most meets are at the pool at St. George's. Last season the county championships were held at the aquatics center at the University of Memphis. We also cover meet fees for any swimmer that would like to swim at invitational meets. These are usually sponsored by other swim clubs (Bartlett Rec., Germantown Gator Swimming, Tiger Swimming, etc.) The TN State Swim Meet is open to any high school student who records a qualifying time during the current season. It will be in Nashville in 2019 and swimmers must cover travel/hotel/meal expenses to attend, but participation is considered an excused absence from school.

***How do you determine who is a Varsity/Junior Varsity swimmer?***

Letters are for high school swimmers only. The requirements for earning a letter are linked on our website. Please speak with a coach if you have any questions.

***Are there meets/practices during Fall Break/ Thanksgiving/ Winter Break/ school holidays?***

Yes, we will have some practices on school holidays. Please check the calendar on our website for those times. At times, GAC has had to cancel our practice due to inclement weather, maintenance issues, or special events. We will try to give everyone as much notice as possible. Please sign up for our Remind account to receive last minute updates or changes.

***Is there a parent booster organization for Mustang Swimming?***

Since Mustang Swimming is separate from GMSD, when you enroll your swimmer and pay the membership fee you have joined our organization, Welcome! Our group is led by a board of volunteers that works closely with our coaches, sponsor, and swimmers to provide a positive swim team experience.

***Do require parent participation?***

Yes! We **NEED** your participation to help our club meet its obligations and run smoothly. As one of the largest swim teams in Shelby County, we are required to provide multiple timers for every swim meet. This is an easy job and you get one of the best views of the swimmers, just be sure to wear shoes you don't mind getting wet! We also have other opportunities to serve our organization that may include taking pictures, updating social media accounts, PR, cleaning our trophy cases at HHS and HMS, assisting with a social activity, organizing our middle school recognition and/or high school banquet, providing food or drinks, etc. We require every family to volunteer for at least ONE swim meet OR serve as a member of our board with a specific duty. Our greatest need is usually timers for the high school swim meets which are on Thursdays at the pool at St. George's.

We also have carpools for students to get to GAC after school, please consider helping other families with transportation issues.

***Where can I get more information?***

***Our website [www.mustangswimming.com](http://www.mustangswimming.com) is the BEST resource for EVERYONE!***