

West Springfield Torpedoes Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When does the season begin and end?

A: The season begins on Monday, April 29th with two weeks of tryouts for the team to assess the children's swimming abilities and families to determine if they want to commit to the team. The season tentatively ends the 4th weekend of July when League Champs will take place.

Q: Does my child need to have any specific experience level swimming in order to be on the team? **Proficiency Requirement******

A: In order to maintain a safe environment for everyone in the water, and to ensure that the coaches can focus on everyone equally, all swimmers **MUST** be able to do the following:

**** Swimmers who are 8 years old or younger **MUST** be able to swim 25 yards (one length of the pool) freestyle without touching the bottom of the pool, wall or lane line, along with 25 yards backstroke without touching the wall or lane line.**

**** Swimmers who are 9 years old or older **MUST** be able to meet the above requirements for 50 yards (two lengths of the pool).**

By the end of the tryout period, all swimmers must understand and be able to circle swim as part of a group, while using proper breathing techniques based on the stroke they are swimming. Please note the purpose of Torpedoes Swim Team is to enhance swimmers' existing swim techniques and is not formal, individualized swim lessons.

Q: How much time is involved?

A: Torpedoes Swim Team is a significant commitment for swimmers and their families. Swimmers must practice a minimum of 2 nights per week (practice time and level determined by coach) in order to swim in a meet that week and must compete in a minimum of 3 meets during the season. Per league rules, swimmers are allowed to swim in 2 individual events and 2 relays at each meet. Depending on their ability and how many children participate in the meet, your child may be placed into 1- 4 events per meet.

Q: What uniform/equipment does my child need to be on the team?

A: Swimmers need a competitive swim suit and goggles in order to swim in practice and meets; swim caps are also recommended. Competitive swimsuits/swim caps are available for purchase during the registration process for an additional fee. No two-piece suits or boys' swim trunks are allowed.

Q: Who coordinates the team's activities?

A: The team is sponsored by the Park & Recreation Department. An Executive Board comprised of parent volunteers coordinates the functions of the team. A Head Coach and 2-3 Assistant Coaches run practices, dryland exercises and set up the team for swim meets.

Q: What do parents need to commit to?

A: All children ages 8 & under must be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times (meets & practices). Swimmers ages 9 & 10 must be signed in and out by a parent/guardian. Each swimmer's family is also expected to volunteer for 2 halves of swim meets.