

**Welcome to the Burbank YMCA Bluefins
Spring/Summer 2009**

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Bluefins and welcome to all families. We are looking forward to an exciting summer season.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE:

All swimmers should arrive on deck at 5:45 pm.

Monday thru Friday -

12 and under practice: 6 pm to 7:30 pm.

13 and over practice: 6 pm to 8 pm.

Sunday -

7 am to 9 am for all.

There may be slight adjustments to the practice schedule once the team has been determined.

PRACTICE BEGINS ON MONDAY APRIL 27th!

You should plan to arrive at practice at 5:45 pm.

Please change and immediately report to the deck. Please take your bags on deck with you. NOTHING is to be left on the floor of the locker rooms. On deck place your bags in the 3rd set of bleachers. (the ones farthest away from the windows) Make sure you have your suit, cap, goggles, fins and pull buoy, and towel and water with you. All should be ready to go at 6 pm.

NOTE: It is the Burbank YMCA policy that all swimmers with shoulder length or longer hair wear a bathing cap.

FEES:

All fees must be paid (or arrangements for payment) before you begin practice. The following fees are due:

- 1) YMCA membership current thru the summer season**
- 2) YMCA swim team program fee**
12 and under \$430

13 and over \$515

In addition you must pay any outstanding fees associated with the swim team.

FORMS:

- 1) Front Desk registration form – This is your payment form. Should you wish to pay by credit card OR join USA swimming you MUST fill out**
- 2) AUTO-PAY Form – this form will automatically take out your fees.**
- 3) BYB registration form – This form MUST be filled out by all new swimmers and those who have changed their information since the fall. This form goes to the BYB Registration chair.**
- 4) USA swimming membership form – Please contact the registration chair for this form. You MUST be a member of USA swimming to compete in meets this summer.**

USA Swimming/Long Course Season

What is Long Course season? Swimmers compete at the 50 meter distance as opposed to the Short Course season where swimmers compete at the 25 yard distance. The Burbank YMCA is a 25 yard course. For information regarding USA swimming please visit the website and use the links button to the USA site and the New England Swimming site.

**BYB LONG COURSE SEASON
PROPOSED MEET SCHEDULE**

**May 16-17, 2009 Specialty Meet – Hanscom AFB
Opt in by May 2nd**

May 17, 2009 Distance Meet - Hanscom AFB

Opt in by May 2nd

June 6-7, 2009 Specialty Meet - Hanscom AFB

June 7, 2009 Distance Meet - Hanscom AFB

June 20-21, 2009 Specialty Meet – MIT

July 10-12, 2009 Specialty Meet – MIT

***Swimmers must be members of USA swimming to compete in the above meets. All families should be aware that there are extra fees associated with each meet and event. These fees are collected via the AUTO-PAY system.**

After an entry is sent to the host team, it is posted on the team bulletin board outside the aquatic office. You may also find the entry posted on the website on the Swim Meet info link. Once the entry is finalized and posted the procedure is as follows:

Swim Team Auto-Pay Billing Procedure:

- 1) event entry finalized: billing and entry check request submitted to the YMCA.**
- 2) Automatic billing set for 1-7 days prior to meet date (depending on type of draft – credit card or checking account)**
- 3) As soon as billing is set, charge receipt is mailed to all participants so it is received a minimum of 1 week prior to debit**
- 4) Parents review this charge immediately so that errors can hopefully be caught PRIOR to billing**
- 5) If there is an error, please use the Billing Correction form in the file folders and attach your email sent to the Coach.**
Return the Billing Correction form to Coach Taffe for review.

HOW TO ENTER MEETS:

AT BYB we use the “OPT IN” procedure for entering meets. Please go to the Swim Meet information area of the website. (www.swimbyb.com) There you will find a column with an “opt in” button. This button directly sets up an email to Coach Taffe. Send your email with specific information. (For example: Alex will swim on June 6th morning session. Please do not enter her in breaststroke events due to knee issues OR Please enter Alex in any and all sessions for MIT meet scheduled July 10 – 12). Please send information as it relates to a specific meet. Therefore, if you wish to enter all meets you will need 4-5 separate emails. You will also note an “opt in” DATE. This is the very last day to enter this particular meet! Do not send emails after 5 pm on the last day as they will not be received in time for entry. Try to plan ahead as much as possible. It is virtually impossible to add an entry to a meet once the deadline has passed. Please also be aware that once you have entered a meet or session you are responsible for the associated fees, whether you swim or not.

Navigating the BYB website for USA/NE SWIM Information

Information regarding USS swim meets can be found in the USS section of the file folders and also on the team bulletin board. However, it will be helpful to you to be able to look up swim meet information yourself via the BYB website.

Address: <http://www.swimbyb.com>

I suggest you either bookmark this address or add to favorites.

Once you have reached the BYB website, you should do the following:

- 1) Note the BLUE header at the top of the page and click on LINKS.
- 2) Scroll to New England Swimming (<http://www.neswim.com>)
- 3) Once you have reached New England Swimming (this is our Local Swim Committee) you will find a menu on the left side.
- 4) For meet information for this season go to 2009 LCM Calendar. You should now see a list of all meets on the NE Swim Calendar.
- 5) Find the meet (by date and name) for which you need Information. The information will say meet info and will be underlined and BLUE. (if it is not then the meet info is unavailable at this time)
- 6) Once you have clicked on the meet info you will find all the information you require including directions, warm-up times, events lists, fees, etc.

NOTE: It is a good idea to check the meet information the night before a meet in case there have been any updates or changes.

PRACTICES AT MIT:

Directions to the Zeisger (MIT) Pool:

There are a variety of ways to get to MIT. You can avoid much of the city traffic by taking the Sullivan Square exit off of RT. 93S. Continue past Sullivan Station, straight through the light, past the Hood plant, to Bunker Hill Community College. Turn right at BHCC at the signal light and continue over the Prison Point Bridge. Go straight at the next light and follow signs for Memorial Drive. Travel on Memorial Drive until Mass. Ave. You will have passed a number of MIT buildings. Turn right onto Mass. Ave. The Zesiger Sports Complex will be on your left at the corner of Mass. Ave and Vasser St. Turn left onto Vasser St. The Vasser Street parking lot is open to the public at 5:00 pm, barring any MIT special events. Car pools are recommended. Set your GPS system to 120 Vasser St, Cambridge.

MIT PRACTICE PROCEDURES – 5 pm to 6:30 pm

MIT has established the following procedures and guidelines for our use of the facility. Please read them carefully so that we can maintain our positive relationship with MIT.

Remember, we are guests at MIT.

ARRIVAL:

Swimmers should arrive at the Zesiger Center at 4:45 pm. The Vasser Street outdoor lot will be available free of charge to parents at 5:00 pm. Please do not arrive early! Swimmers must be supervised by the coaching staff at all times. Enter the Vasser St. door and walk down the hall past the pool to the customer service desk. The team will meet there and proceed upstairs as a group. Please be considerate of all MIT staff.

MIT RULES:

No swimmers are allowed on deck until a coach arrives.

All swimmers must shower before using the pool. You will be given time after your dryland training to shower.

It is recommended that you bring your bag on deck and leave it on the bleachers.

PARENTS:

No parents are allowed on deck.

Parents are free to leave the pool area during practice but the door will be locked so make sure there is someone available to let you in when you return. It is warm in the pool area – dress appropriately and bring water!

SWIMMERS:

BRING WATER! Bring your fins, 2 pairs of goggles, swim suit, towels etc. Put your name on everything and check to make sure you have all of your belongings before you leave the deck.

PICKUP:

Practice ends sharply at 6:30 pm. Please be on time to pick up your swimmer/carpool.

EQUIPMENT: Please be advised that you need to bring your own fins and pull buoys to MIT. There will be none available to us there.

CARPOOL LIST:

Within the first two weeks of practice you will receive a BYB telephone list so that you can arrange for carpools to MIT practices and meets.

PRACTICE DATES AT MIT:

Tuesday May 19	Thursday May 21
Tuesday May 26	Thursday May 28
Tuesday June 2	Thursday June 4
Tuesday June 9	Thursday June 11
Tuesday June 16	Thursday June 18
Tuesday June 23	Thursday June 25

TEAM UNIFORMS:

The team uniform consists of the BYB cap, suit and t- shirt. Please be advised that we will now order our uniforms (except for the t shirt) on -line at Team Gateway thru Varsity Swim Shop.

The team order deadline is May 4th.

Team Bags – an order for bags will not be placed unless we have 6 orders.

Please note that your team suit should be worn for meets only. Suits tend to stretch and fade and your suit should be tight for competition.

Visit Varsity Swim Shop in person at 157 Main Street in North Reading (Rt 28) or call 978-276-0070.



Welcome to your new Varsity Swim Shop Team Page. The private Team Page allows Varsity Swim Shop to offer specials that are unique to your team.

Access your Team Page through the Team Gateway at varsityswim.com.

Your team login is: **BURBANK** (case sensitive)

Your team password is: **BYB** (case sensitive)

The login will direct you to a page where you must create a personal login and password. Because you initially reached this page through the Team Gateway using your team password, you will always be linked to your team. Do **not** use your **team** login name (**BURBANK**) as your **personal** login.

Once you have created your own personal login and password you may proceed to order items.

When returning to our website simply enter your **personal** login and password at the Team Gateway and that will take you directly to your Team Page.

If you have any questions or problems, please email us at: info@varsityswim.com.

Thank you for your business.

Sincerely,

Varsity Swim Shop, Inc.

FURTHER UNIFORM INFORMATION – 12 and under age group

Subject: Interpretation of USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Article 102.9.1 (Swimwear)
At its last meeting, the USA Swimming House of Delegates adopted an amendment to its rule on swimwear design. The amended rule, which will become effective May 15, 2009, reads as

follows:

102.9 Swimwear

.1 Design

A Swimsuits worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor past the knee.

B Swimsuits worn for competition must be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate.

C The Referee shall have the authority to bar offenders from the competition until they comply with the rule.

USA Swimming has always worked hard to be inclusive and to promote diversity within our sport.

Further, the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, the USOC Bylaws and USA Swimming's own Bylaws prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion.

Rule 102.9 was clearly not intended to be discriminatory. Rather, the purpose of the amendment was

to address the impact on the sport of requiring young athletes to buy very expensive high performance suits in order to feel like they are competing on a level playing field. While the rule

was never intended to discriminate, it could certainly be viewed as having a discriminatory effect on

swimmers whose religious beliefs require them to cover more of their bodies than is permitted by the

newly amended rule.

It has also come to our attention that there may be some athletes whose medical conditions require

them to avoid direct sunlight exposure to their skin. The amended rule was also not intended to

prohibit these athletes from competing because they cannot adequately cover their skin as a result of

the amended rule.

In order to rectify these unintended consequences, and pursuant to Article 506.4.4 of our Bylaws

which grants the Rules & Regulations Committee, or its designee, the sole authority to interpret Part

One of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, the following interpretation is being issued.

Interpretation of USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Article 102.9.1 (Swimwear)

January 19, 2009

Page Two

Any questions regarding this interpretation may be addressed to the Chair of the Rules & Regulations

Committee.

Bruce W. Stratton, Chair

USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee

An exemption to Article 102.9.1 may be granted, on a case by case basis, to a swimmer who:

1. Based upon the swimmer's stated religious beliefs, is required to wear a suit that covers more of the swimmer's body than is permitted under this Rule; or

2. Whose medical condition requires more of the swimmer's body to be covered than permitted under this Rule.

This exemption does not extend to the use of any swimwear that has ever been promoted by its

manufacturer as providing a performance advantage, or has otherwise been described as providing a technological advantage. This exemption applies to both USA Swimming's Rule and to any comparable rule adopted by any LSC and takes precedence over any determination by any member of an LSC.

All requests for any exemption must be submitted to the Chair of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee, or his/her designee. The request must be communicated in writing, including the use of e-mail, at least ten (10) days in advance of any competition for which the exemption is sought. The request must include:

1. The swimmer's name, registration number and the name of LSC in which the swimmer is registered;
2. A statement explaining that the exemption is made necessary by the swimmer's religious principles or for medical reasons;
3. A representation by the swimmer that the exemption is being sought for religious reasons and not to increase performance or, in the case of a medical reason, a written statement from a physician specifying the requirement to have parts of the body covered that are not permitted under this Article; and
4. A photo or description of the swimsuit the swimmer proposes to wear so the Rules Chair can evaluate whether any technological advantage has been advertised or documented for the suit.

The Rules Chair will then advise the swimmer and the appropriate LSC officials chair whether the exemption has been granted. The Rules Chair shall have the authority to grant the exemption on a permanent basis in his/her sole discretion. The decision of the Rules Chair can be appealed only to the entire Rules & Regulations Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SWIMMER TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE WAIVER TO THE REFEREE OF ANY MEET IN WHICH THE SWIMMER WISHES TO PARTICIPATE.

Communication:

There are a number of communication methods in place for the BYB swimming community. Information can be found in the following places:

BYB website www.swimbyb.com

Family File Folders

Team Bulletin Board outside the Aquatic Office

In addition, you will receive the Splash newsletter electronically.

Should you need further information you can contact:

Mark Taffe, head coach, at mtaffe@ymcaboston.org

Or

**Amy Vendt, Aquatics Director at avendt@ymcaboston.org
781-944-9622 x 225**

Parent Participation:

The first thing the parent can do is to make sure their swimmer is on time and prepared to practice.

For those of you who are USS officials, please officiate at sessions when you are available.

Some of the meets on the USS schedule will ask for parent volunteers to time. This should be done on a rotating schedule so that the same parents are not always working the meets.

In addition, assistance will be needed at any social gathering for the team.

The biggest event of the Summer team will be the Reach Out event on May 31st and we will need ALL team families participating with running the event and raising money for the project.