

Del Norte Swim Team

January 31, 2012

Dear Del Norte Swim Team Parents –

Wow! Here we go again. Welcome to a new and exciting year. Registration is coming up soon and is scheduled for February 8th from 6:30-8:30 pm at Del Norte in the Junior Lounge. Forms and information are available on our website ready for you to print. Printed packets can also be picked up at the front office at Del Norte.

Coach Beth and her Assistant Coaches (Ethan, Greg, Allison, Joe, Sophie—**did I leave anyone out?**) are ready to hit the ground running again (or in this case the pool). After coming off a very successful year in 2011 we again will be looking forward to a positive and fun experience for the team. Hopefully no one has forgotten the thrill and excitement of last year after going undefeated in our Conference Dual Meets and then winning the Eureka Conference Championships!! I know I speak for the Coaches and the Board when I say this is starting to look like another great year!

The Del Norte Dolphins will continue to compete in the Northern California Swim League (NorCal). We will remain in the Eureka Division this year; the five teams in our Conference will be the following: Del Norte, Arden Park, Arden Hills, Sunrise and Fulton-El Camino. It will be fun to continue developing some rivalries with these local teams. Please check out our website: www.delnortedolphins.com to review our tentative meet and social schedule.

Hopefully your kids have not grown too much over the year as we plan on using the same suit as last year. If you need to order a new suit, Ann Donnell will be able to assist you at the front desk during Registration Night. Ann should have sample suits for the kids to try on in an attempt to get an accurate size. In these tough economic times, we are again committed to trying to keep the cost down which is why we will continue using the same suit. The updated suit is unique and “pretty cool” according to my kids. Comfort and performance were also important factors. The “uniqueness” of the suit also helps the kids stand out especially when they are standing on the blocks during swim meets. The board also wanted a suit that was affordable and could be reordered year after year.

I hate to be the “bearer of bad news,” but again it is my job to remind families that swim team is not a place for swim lessons. We will again enforce the policy of requiring every new 6 & under child to pass a basic swimming test before they are granted a position on the team. In the past the requirement has been for the swimmer to have the ability to swim at least half way across the pool unattended; kids will not be assessed based on their technique, but for their safety, it is important that they feel comfortable in the water. Imagine starting swim team for the first time and having to share a lane with 5-6 kids; it can be very intimidating initially because the water can get a little rough, so it is important that your child feel comfortable in the water. For those swimmers with little to no experience, Coach Beth will again be offering swim lessons prior to our start date which is April 2nd.

In the past few years our team has had some very large impacted age groups and we project that this year will be no different. With the large participation in our younger age groups, we will again have to cap the number of swimmers that we allow in each age group. We would love to allow everyone who wants to swim a spot on the team. Unfortunately, the size of our pool and

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the time we have set aside for practices restricts the number of swimmers we can have in each age group.

Again, our younger age groups are usually quite impacted, so make sure you get your child signed up during Registration Night to ensure a spot on the team. First priority will be given to returning swimmers, but we cannot guarantee a spot for returning swimmers if they register after February 8th. For families who register after February 8th, you will be placed on a waiting list. Once the “dust has settled,” those families will be notified as to whether their child has secured a spot. Also, we are always looking for older kids to participate. Last year, we were especially short-handed in the 11-12 boys. Both boys and girls in the 13-18 age groups are also usually needed. Please encourage your children’s friends and classmates to sign up if they are interested!

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to review our parent volunteer policies. No matter the sport, all youth programs require parent participation to guarantee the success and enjoyment for everyone. Swim team is no different. Del Norte requires all families to meet a minimum volunteer requirement. This year families will also need to volunteer during Championship weekend. In recent years we have required all families to provide a \$100 deposit to ensure that everyone meets their volunteer commitment. **This \$100 does not release you of your volunteer commitment. In other words, you cannot pay the \$100 to get out of volunteering!** The swim team needs your participation more than it needs your \$100. The deposit is to ensure that you show up to your assigned job. Understand that if you are assigned a job at a swim meet on any given weekend and you fail to show up to perform your assigned job, the swim meet may come to a standstill. The pace of the meet could also be slowed as we look for someone else to fill your spot. This is not fair to the parent that has to replace you or to the swimmers and parents who endure a delay in the meet; trust me, no one enjoys a delay during those long hot summer Saturdays. We understand there may be parents who cannot attend Saturday swim meets. There will be volunteer positions available that do not require you to attend swim meets, but may be limited. We will also work with families that have special circumstances to develop a fair volunteer program that meets your family’s special needs. So again remember to show up at Registration Night which will be the time to sign up for your volunteer positions for the season.

On behalf of the Del Norte Swim Team Parent’s Board I would like to welcome you all to the 2012 swim season. We are looking forward to a successful season. Please feel free to contact any one of the board members or myself if you have questions or comments that will help make swim team a more enjoyable experience for you and your family. GO DOLPHINS!!

Sincerely,

Nick Chaves
President
Del Norte Swim team Parent’s Board.
www.delnortedolphins.com