

The Aces Swim Club requires its members to participate in an average of one meet/month. Below is some information to help you get started registering for meets.

1. Keep an eye out for the meet information posted on the ACES website. The info will include the dates, site, relevant rules, fees, entry deadline and meet event schedule. It is useful to print the info because you will need it when doing entries.
2. Nearly all of our meets require you to sign up for events well in advance of the actual meet. When you sign up for a meet, the team processes the entry and then we send an entry file and payment to the host team. The host team has an entry deadline and we try and get our entries in early so that there is space for us to swim. The ACES entry deadline may be as much as one month prior to the start of the meet!
3. Registering for meets is easy. You can do it online through your registration account, or with paper entry forms available at your practice pool. Online registration requires a credit card for payment. Paper entries require a check, and the check must be included with the entry and it must be dropped off at your practice pool by the deadline. Whichever method you use, you will need the appropriate meet event numbers that correspond to the events your child wishes to swim. Most every meet has different event numbers. Also, keep in mind that your child's age group is determined by your child's age as of the first day of the meet.
4. When picking events for a meet, there are a few things to consider. First, since most of our meets are spread over an entire weekend, check your schedule to see if one day or multiple days are appropriate. Most meets are divided into sessions that involve specific age groups and specific events. For sessions that involve 12 & under events, there is a "four hour rule" which means that sessions involving 12 under events must be planned for a maximum of four hours, excluding warm-up. Second, the ACES recommend swimming at least three events/day at any given meet. Most meets allow four events. Remember to check the rules portion of the meet info for specifics. The ACES also recommend swimming a variety of strokes and distances. Swimmers may have favorite events, but versatility is important, as is an appreciation for all strokes and distances. This simple formula might help early in the season. Three "comfortable" events, plus one event that presents a new challenge. Later in the season it could be two "comfortable" events, and two "different" events, with an overall goal of swimming all applicable events at least once each season.
5. When looking at "uncomfortable" or new events, there are several things to consider. Some very capable "freestylers" may shy away from, for example, breaststroke, because they are not as competitive in that stroke, but still competent. Try getting out of the comfort zone! Entering multiple events can provide motivation for swimmers to listen better or try harder in practice on the weaker strokes.

6. Some meets will have qualifying times. When this happens, swimmers must have achieved the qual time at a USA Swimming sanctioned meet. Summer club times do not count. Several meets require a time to be submitted with the entry. Usually the ACES coaches will make up a time that is on the slow side. Once swimmers have been in a meet, their best time is automatically entered in future events. The ACES coaches discourage using converted times.
7. Do not sign up for relays. The ACES pays for and determines relays.
8. It's OK to ask coaches questions about events before or after practice. It's also a good idea to talk with other parents with experience entering meets. They'll also be able to fill you in on what to expect at meets.