

JAWS FAQs

JAWS?

What does JAWS stand for?

Jenison Area Wildcat Swimming → we are a community swim team that invites and welcomes swimmers from all of the surrounding cities, but we are based out of Jenison and call Jenison home base.

What is the best progression my child should follow to be best prepared to join the JAWS team?

We recommend starting with our American Red Cross Swim Lessons, followed by swimming a season or two on our age group swim team, and then joining our JAWS program. Swim lessons will prepare a child for our age group team and our age group team will prepare a child for JAWS

What is the difference between JAG and JAWS?

JAWS and JAG are both excellent swimming teams with excellent and well trained coaches. The only difference is that the JAWS season is longer, there are more practices offered, the practices are longer, there are more meets offered, there are travel meets offered, and therefore JAWS costs more money. JAWS is by no means elite, just offers more of everything.

What are good reasons my child should swim JAWS over JAG?

If your child LOVES swimming and has decided swimming will be 'their' sport, JAWS is for them. With more practices, a longer season, and more meets, they will be able to do what they love more!

Another reason people select JAWS over JAG is that their child is involved in numerous other activities and simply need more practice options. Both summer and winter JAWS has more practices and longer practices than JAG does.

Coach Questions:

Who is the head coach, how would I contact her?

Who are the assistant coaches, how would I contact them?

The coaching staff fluctuates from season to season, but Caroline Clement is the head coach and has been since the inception of the JAWS swim team in 2003. You can contact her at clementc717@aol.com. Jennifer Coffey has been an assistant for Caroline since the inception of the team as well, and you can contact her at jennifer_crisman@hotmail.com. Both of these coaches will gladly answer any

questions via email, or will set up a meeting time to meet with parents, *but are not able to talk with parents during practice*. The times established for practice are for the kids and should be 100% focused on the kids. If a different parent came down on deck to talk to the coach everyday, we would never be able to focus on the children and that is why the coaches are there.

How will the coaches communicate with me?

After registration, Coach Caroline will create a mass email list of every family who is on the JAWS roster. Anything worth knowing she will email out to the team. We try to keep the team very aware of what is going on, so please write an email address that you check frequently on your registration form!

Meet Questions:

Does my child have to swim JAWS meets?

Of course not! We would love for them to swim meets, but it is not mandatory. Also, most USA meets are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Your child, if he/she does eventually want to swim meets could swim one day, two days, or all three days. You do not need to swim all three days if you choose to swim meets!

If my child does not swim meets, do I need to pay the MI Swimming Registration fee?

No

What is the MI Swimming Registration fee for?

The money and paperwork goes to Michigan Swimming Main Office and it is basically a number, like a social security number, that gives you an ID for the state of Michigan. Every USA swimmer (in the country) has an ID and it helps fund all the committees that allow Michigan Swimming to exist and be successful. It also identifies the swimmer and every time they swim a race that time will go into a database. You can access this database either on our webpage, www.jenisonaquatics.org, click on JAWS logo, click on:



Check Entries & Results

Or on the Michigan Swimming Webpage.

If my child first thought he/she didn't want to swim meets, and then changed their mind after hearing how much fun they were☺, can I now pay and get my child registered?

Definitely! This is not an overnight procedure, though, and we ask that you turn in your MI Swimming Registration and money four weeks prior to the meet you want to swim so that we have sufficient time to get your child registered.

When are the meets? How do I sign up for meets?

You can find the meet schedule on the JAWS link and on the calendar (under CATEGORY: JAWS). ALWAYS be aware of the due dates and make sure to sign up in advance of the due date. We try to keep the due dates all on Mondays, but sometimes there is a problem with having it on a Monday. You will also get email reminders of the due date from Caroline, but be aware of the dates by utilizing the JAWS webpage (ie. Don't rely on only Monday due dates and Caroline's email, be proactive, not reactive).

You can find the meet packet (with pages of pertinent information) on the JAWS webpage. CLICK on the Info link and read through the packet. At the bottom of every packet is a listing of events by days, you should have this handy when you go to do your online sign-up.

After you are registered with JAWS and all paid up, Direct Athletics (a company we use and pay for their online services) will send you an email via the email address you write on your registration form. With this email, you need to go to www.jenisonaquatics.org, click on the JAWS link, and go to the link that says

[FOR ONLINE HELP](#)

[Click Here](#)

Follow these instructions to sign up for whatever meets we have available at the time. Signing up for meets looks more 'daunting' than it really is. Read through the directions and you will be a pro. Be sure to save your username and password in a safe place as you will need it every time you sign up.

- Sign up early so that you are not put in a position where you have to pay \$8.00 per event to sign up your child to swim. Do not wait until the last day to sign up in case you are unable to for whatever reason... (read below)
- Relays are determined by the coaching staff and we try our best to put each child in at least one relay at a weekend meet (we must have a multiple of four to do this).
 - Relays will be billed \$3.00 per relay leg to your BuMa after each meet.
 - Only the lead off leg of each relay counts toward actual times.

What do I do if I miss an entry sign up deadline?

Direct Athletics closes at 8:59pm on the entry due date. If you miss this due date and time, you will need to go to the JAWS page and click on

[LATE
ENTRY
FORM](#)

You need to fill this out within 48 hours of the deadline and submit it to the black pool mailbox. *You must send an email to Julie and Jen letting them know to look for your late entry form and payment (JAWS@jenisonaquatics.org).*

The Late Entry form is a paper entry for the meet and each event is \$8.00 plus the \$1.00 Michigan Swimming Surcharge and \$5.00 JAWS Admin fee. Sign up early so that you are not put in a position where you have to pay \$8.00 per event to sign up your child to swim.

How do I pay for meets?

We try to keep the due dates all on Mondays, and all pay dates on the Tuesday immediately following the Monday due date. If the due date is not on a Monday, the pay date will be one day later.

The packet clearly states how much each event is for each meet (usually \$4 or \$5/event). Determine how many events your child is swimming, how much per event, and on top of that add a \$1.00 Michigan Swimming Surcharge and \$5.00 JAWS Admin fee to each child and submit a copy of your entries and payment to the black pool mailbox. The mailbox is located between the women's and men's locker rooms near the Aquatic Office Hallway.

If you prefer to mail in your money, please mail in your payment to:

Jennifer Coffey

2140 Bauer Rd.

Jenison, MI 49428 (Payment must be received by the payment due date)

What do I do if I miss the entry fee deadline?

A 10% late fee will be added to what you owe. If you owe \$22 for the meet, \$2.20 will be added to your account and you will be emailed a BuMa statement. A 10% late fee will be added every Wednesday (Monday entries are due, Tuesday monies are due, and Wednesdays begin the late fee assessments for any nonpayments).

What is BuMa?

BuMa stands for Business Manager. BuMa is a financial software package that is sold with Team Manager (TM - the software we use to submit entries) that is emailed out weekly as a statement, before payment plans are due, and when money is owed/late. BuMa will keep track of Entries, Dues, Apparel, and other

miscellaneous fees that are incurred during a season. BuMa is not sent out prior to money being due because we need final entries (including late entries, added events, sometimes relays, etc.) compiled prior to importing in the entry fees into the accounts. You can only import entry fees once without having to go in and individually delete your prior import account by account. This is why we cannot send it to you prior to the entry fee deadline and it is crucial to determine what you owe via the packet and submit payment prior to the deadline.

Practice Questions:

Does my child need to attend every practice?

We hope that your child attends as many practices as possible, but practice is not mandatory and there is no attendance taken.

What are the practice times?

Practice times vary in accordance with all of the high school and junior high swim/dive meets, polo games/tournaments, and other events going on at the pool. Our practice and meet schedules can always be found at www.jenisonaquatics.org. CLICK on the green calendar and CATEGORY JAWS to find the schedule. We ask that you always check the calendar every Sunday for any changes to that week. If there is a change past Sunday we will email the team.

Who will my child practice with?

Your child will be placed in the appropriate ability level group as well as the appropriate peer group. Swimming with peers is extremely important to proper development, almost as much as swimming with the proper ability groups. We will place children with their ability groups within their peer groups. We have years of experience of individualizing training sets to maximize each swimmer's abilities and talents, but in a way where they can still be near their peers. Give the coaches some time to place the children and if you have questions or concerns you may always email/call the coach.

Can I watch practice?

We have no problem with parents watching practice from the pool balcony.

Can my child go back and forth to whichever JAWS practice accommodates our schedule, or even a JAG practice?

Unfortunately we cannot have kids going back and forth from our two regular JAWS practice groups. They must attend the one they are assigned. They may not attend a JAG practice either.

What if my child misses a practice?

If they rarely miss a practice and miss just one, let them enjoy the night off ☺!
If they miss a certain night regularly each week, or are set on making up the yards, they may attend an open or lap swim at Jenison. We write workouts and tape them to the pool office windows for open and lap swim use for our JAWS swimmers. Your child will have to pay the open swim fee, but they can grab a workout and go to a lane and swim.

In the case of inclement weather, how will I know if practice is cancelled?

Always check the webpage (www.jenisonaquatics.org) and you should receive an email from Coach Caroline.

If Jenison Public Schools closes, is JAWS automatically cancelled?

JAWS is NOT automatically cancelled if JPS closes. If JPS closes school early in the morning, and the weather clears up by the afternoon or evening, we *may* have practice. Always check the webpage (www.jenisonaquatics.org) and you should receive an email from Coach Caroline. NOTE: If the weather is bad where you are, or you do not feel safe driving, do not come to practice! Just because we have a practice does not mean you need to come. Safety is always first and if you are unable to make it to the pool on a questionable day, do not come!

Volunteer/Donation Questions:

Do I have to volunteer and why?

Like many programs, schools, clubs, and the like, we cannot run a successful team without parent volunteers. We host very large meets at Jenison in order to keep our price down. You may think our club registration is high, but we are swimming in a 9+million dollar pool and get prime swim practice times, and none of that comes cheap. We host meets to help pay for the pool time and space we use and we cannot host a meet without plenty of parent support. We figure we need, on average, around 40 volunteers per session, and that is for a 'normal' meet, not a state meet.

We require each family to volunteer two times per JAWS meet. If there are two or more children the volunteer requirement goes to four times. If there is an

extenuating circumstance email the coaches to determine the next step. If you are unable to give time you will be billed \$25.00 per session that you do not volunteer.

We are proud to say that JAWS is known for hosting the best, most hospitable meets in the state of Michigan. Officials, coaches, and swimmers all love coming to our meets and it is because of our volunteers. In addition to volunteering for meets, there are often other things we ask for help on such as team shirts, suits, labeling items, etc.

What do I have to donate/give?

For our USA meets, we have to have a fully stocked concession stand (where all the profits go directly back into the program) and a full service hospitality room for the coaches, officials, and workers. We used to ask that all JAWS families donated a specific item to the concession stand and to the hospitality room. We found in the past couple seasons that by requiring a \$10 fee for hospitality and \$10 fee for concessions we are saving you time and the annoyance of going to purchase a specific item and delivering it at a specific time on a specific day during the meet. When we all give our part, we alleviate a huge expense for the team. We also raise a lot of money from the concession stand to help pay for various needs we have as a team through out the year.

Residency/Nonresidency Questions:

We have residency rates and nonresidency rates for our swim team. The residents of the Jenison Public School District have a portion of their taxes go to JPS and therefore pay a slightly lower fee than nonresidents. Those who attend Jenison as a "School-of-Choice" student also have money that goes toward our school system and also receive a residency rate.

To determine if you pay need to pay the residency or nonresidency rate, please see below:

You will pay residency rate:

- ✓ If you own your residence in the Jenison School District (Mailing address is different than school district... you must live within the JPS School district.)
- ✓ If you live outside of the Jenison School District, but School-Of-Choice your kids to Jenison Public Schools (not Jenison Christian).
- ✓ If you rent in the Jenison School District and send your kids to JPS.
- ✓ If you own a business in the Jenison School District and own the property that it is on and pay property taxes

You will pay nonresidency rates:

- ✓ If you do not live in the Jenison School District and do not send your kids to JPS.
- ✓ If you rent (apartment or duplex) in the Jenison School District and do not send your kids to JPS (ie. Jenison Christian or Hudsonville, etc.)
- ✓ If you own a business in the Jenison School District and do not own the property or pay property taxes, but rent the space from someone else.