

CATY BARRACUDAS 2011-2012

USA SWIMMING REQUIREMENTS AND COMMITMENT

As some of you may know, a group of swimmers in the Junior-2-Senior level practice groups participate in USA swim meets in addition to the YMCA league meets. You also may have heard that in the past year the Catonsville Y has worked very hard to achieve Level 1 Recognition status within USA Swimming. However, what you may not know is what all of this means for the swimmers and the swim team overall.

So what does being a USA swimmer on this team mean? By being both a registered YMCA swimmer and a USA swimmer, your child will be competing in the 2 main winter swim leagues in this state. It will allow your child to see how they “stack up” against swimmers all over the state. In addition, the YMCA league in this area does not have a summer long course season. The only way for Y swimmers to compete in long course meets is to attend USA meets.

There is also a new level of commitment that is being required of all CATY USA registered swimmers. In addition to CATY's YMCA league meets, all USA registered swimmers will be required to compete in at least 6 USA meets per season. Also, all USA swimmers are required to complete their age level events for the IMX Challenge. The 13 and Over IMX Challenge Events are: 500 Free, 200 Back, 200 Fly, 200 Breast, 200 IM, 400 IM. The 11-12 IMX Events are: 500 Free, 100 Back, 100 Fly, 100 Breast, 200 IM. The 10 and Under IMX Events are: 200 Free, 100 Back, 100 Fly, 100 Breast, 200 IM. The IMX Challenge Events must be completed at USA meets and in the winter season or the summer season-there is no carry-over of events between seasons.

The requirements noted above are to insure that CATY will continue to be able to compete as a USA team in the state of Maryland. At the summer 2011 Maryland Swimming meeting, it was noted that all teams are required to progress through the various USA Levels of Recognition. Teams that do not progress to the next level or do not show significant progress toward this progression may not be allowed to participate the next season. Athlete participation in USA meets and the IMX Challenge are critical to our team achieving points to move to the next level. Athletes who register for USA swimming and then elect not to participate will have a negative impact on CATY's ability to achieve enough points to progress to the next level.

Please take the time to review these requirements and talk with your child and his/her coach to determine if being USA registered is something you are all willing to commit to. If you are willing to make this commitment, registration will be held after the parent meeting on September 18, 2011. The fee to register is \$70.00(an additional \$5.00 transfer fee applies to all swimmers who EVER swam for another USA team). For any swimmer registering for the first time, please bring a birth certificate to verify ages.

****NOTE:** USA registration will be open to Cuda, Junior 1 and Junior 2 groups along with the Seniors pending the swimmer is willing and able to fulfill the commitment as described above. Please remember before registering your swimmer, this commitment is not just for your swimmer, but for you as parents to ensure that your swimmer attends meets and works toward the IMX Challenge requirements.