

Dear Riptide Families,

I hope this finds you well and looking forward to another great swimming summer! This summer will be unique in Riptide history. With the closing of the St. Andrew's pool Riptide will run more like other swim teams in our league. We will not have double practices this year, and face some challenges with pool space.

The Frog Hollow Swim Club is cooperating with us and we hope to make the best of the situation. Practice times and schedules will not be published until we know how many swimmers and their age and ability. We have the pool up to six mornings per week and will evaluate the necessity of Saturday practices.

The coaches have decided to limit the number of swimmers 8 and under to no more than five per lane. If registration exceeds 25 swimmers under age 8 we will implement a MW/TTH group with Fridays reserved for all swimmers and practice will be a clinic format. In anticipation of this the board has decreased the fee for our youngest swimmers. This group will practice 45 minutes per day.

For more experienced swimmers practice will be either 1.5 or 2.0 hours. Once again, if our numbers warrant, we may have to make two groups, a MWF group and a TThS group. For older swimmers the groups would alternate between an "A" week and a "B" week.

Since we have limited pool space, we are offering an "Early" Registration period for returning swimmers. Previous Riptide members may register by mail beginning April 1st. regular registration begins on April 15th. All registration forms are available online and should be mailed to Delaware Riptide Aquatics, PO Box 48, Middletown, DE 19709

Riptide is now on Facebook. Please consider joining our group Delaware Riptide Aquatics. We have decided to use a "closed" format so anyone requesting membership will need to be "approved" by an administrator. Members will be allowed to post to the group page. This will be an easy way to post lost items, get a ride to a meet or practice or find someone to cover your t-shirt obligation. We will continue to use email, but are excited about the possibilities Facebook offers.

I am sorry that we don't have all the answers. Once we find out how many swimmers are returning this will help the coaches develop a practice schedule.

Thank you for your patience.

Denise Christiansen