

INFORMATION PACKET
Regional YMCA of Western CT Mako Swim Team
2009 – 2010 Swim Season

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August 19, 2009

Dear Mako Swimmer(s) and Family,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 Mako Swim season; practice begins September 14, 2009. This Information Packet explains the registration process for the 2009 – 2010 swim year. Another packet, the **Registration Form Packet**, contains all of the forms that you need to return with your registration. These forms will not be mailed to you; you must print them, fill them out and return them with your payment to complete your registration.

First of all we ask that you please read the Mako Handbook which contains useful information on the team; the refund policy is the last paragraph on the last page (see makoswim.org and go to "RESOURCES").

Again this year, we are encouraging an annual registration process. This allows swimmers to register for just short course (Sept – March) or just long course (April – July), but for the majority of the team who swim with the team year-round, the annual registration will simplify the registration process and allow us to be organized earlier in the season, especially during long course (LC). This will allow us to register for meets earlier as well. We are again offering a "Large Family Discount" for families with 3 or more swimmers enrolled concurrently. See the Payment Worksheet Form in the Registration Form Packet for the discount structure that applies depending on family size and practice group assignment.

During the registration process you will have the option to pay for each season before the beginning of each season, or you may pay for the full annual payment and take advantage of the "Full Annual Payment Discount" (see the Registration Form Packet / Payment Worksheet for the discount structure). In addition to this discount, paying the full amount offers these advantages 1) your LC fee will not be subject to any potential price increase, 2) if your swimmer is promoted to the next practice group for LC, you will

not have to pay the higher fee associated with the new group assignment, and 3) you help the team simplify the payment process. If you choose to pay for each season separately, you will pay for short course with your fall registration as usual and the long course payment is due March 12, 2010. Meet account statements will be sent at the end of short course so that accounts can be replenished as needed at that point, or during the season if needed.

As in the past we will have a limited in-house priority enrollment period during which returnees from LC09 or short course (SC) 09-10 will be enrolled. During this period we will also place any new siblings of returning swimmers. The **in-house enrollment period will end on August 28, 2009** and all of your forms and payments should be completed and returned to the YMCA by that date. *After this date, registration will be open to new team members and returning swimmers/families on a first come first-served basis until the team is full.*

The Mako Swim Team encourages members to participate in USA Swimming (USA-S); keep in mind there are NO time standards required to participate (Age Group Championships have standards that are of a similar caliber as Y New England's). The main decision is the time and financial commitment; those swimmers who sign up for USA-S will be competing in both YMCA and USA-S meets. By participating in USA-S, swimmers will have more chances to compete and qualify for championships. More information about USA-S is provided in the attached "USA Swimming and Meet Information" handout. If you have questions about whether or not USA-S is appropriate for your swimmer(s) please feel free to contact me.

If this will be your first year signing up for USA-S please include a copy of your child's birth certificate. Birth certificates are not needed for those who have been registered USA swimmers with the Mako team in the past. The Meet Account Deposit on the Payment Worksheet form should be included if you will be registering for USA Swimming.

Practice Group Assignments: For returnees, the practice group assignments will be or have been emailed to you along with your meet account balances. Practice groups for short course are determined based on a swimmer's age on December 1, 2009 as well as their skill level and training needs. The goal is to group swimmers of similar age and ability to allow for an efficient and appropriate workout experience. As the season progresses swimmers may be reevaluated and placement may change at the coaches' discretion. All placements will be re-evaluated again before the beginning of LC and the placement age date will change to late July 2010. If you are a newcomer or have a new sibling who has not received a practice group assignment please contact me to obtain these assignments.

The Mako Parent Committee and the coaches will be hosting a general parent meeting; each family must attend one of these meetings at the Brookfield Town Hall on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 (room 133) or Thursday, September 24, 2009 (room 135), both run from 7-8:30pm. The first hour of the meeting will be geared towards new

families and the rest of the meeting will be “what’s new” for new and returning swim families.

Our initial meet schedule will be distributed in September. Meet signups will start early – watch the deadlines. Lastly, if you have money left in your meet account from last season you may reduce your Meet Account Deposit by that amount (see the payment worksheet). If you have a meet account balance due from last season the amount owed must be added onto the meet fees and paid with your registration (see the payment worksheet). All swimmers must maintain a positive balance.

Thank you for taking the time to read and fill out this packet. Please let me know if you have any questions. We hope to see you on the team this season.

Sincerely,

Roger Simmons
Head Coach - Mako Swim Team

Contact Information / Questions:

202-755-4444 X 124

Email: rsimmons@regionalyymca.org

Team Website: MakoSwim.org

Returns forms to:

Regional YMCA of Western CT

#2 Huckleberry Hill Rd.

Brookfield CT 06804

Attention: Swim Team Registration

If you wish to hand deliver your registration to the YMCA, please put the forms and your payment in an envelope labeled “Swim Team Registration” and ask the person behind the desk to write the date and time on it and place it in the swim team mail slot behind the desk.