



SETON SWIMMING

GRATITUDE • EXCELLENCE • MEEKNESS • SACRIFICE

2021 – 2022



Parents' Handbook

Seton School
9314 Maple Street
Manassas, Virginia 20110
(703) 368-3220

October 1, 2021

Dear Team Members and Parents:

Welcome to another season of Seton Swimming – no virus is going to stop Seton Swimming! We are very pleased that you have decided to be part of our program. I am confident we will continue the tradition of excellence established by the Seton teams before us. Since the team’s founding in 1995, no other Seton sport can match the championship record of the Swimming Team. To date, we have won eight (8) state championships, our girls have won 27 straight conference titles and our boys have won 24 conference championships, streaks that we plan to extend this season.

But competition in the pool is just a vehicle for what we are really about – teaching kids the importance of getting the most out of their God-given gifts. The Seton Swim Team is a coed team, open to all Seton students in grades 7 through 12. We encourage students of nearly all ability levels to participate. If you are willing to work hard and always do your best, there is a place for you on this team. In swimming, your most difficult competition is always your previous “personal record” or “PR”. Whether that time was a State Record or your first try at an event, if you improve, you win.

We value four (4) GEMS:

- **Gratitude**
 - “Who has it better than us? Nobody!”
- **Excellence**
 - We focus on better. Good takes care of itself.
- **Meekness**
 - We help our opponents over the bar that we raised by winning
- **Sacrifice**
 - We offer it up, We love all of our teammates

Seton’s New Athletic Conference Affiliation

I am very excited about our inaugural season in our new athletic conference, the Virginia Christian Athletic Conference (VCAC). Co-founded by Seton School, Trinity Christian School, and Fredericksburg Christian School, the VCAC has already added Saint John Paul the Great. We hope to add other schools that share our values over the next year. It’s a new day for Seton Athletics for sure.

Practice and Schedule

Despite the restrictions, there is no place better for us to practice than the **Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center**. It is a wonderful facility that is now the home of Nation’s Capital Swimming, a USA swimming team where several of our kids have competed in the past. We will have fourteen practice lanes now - we are very lucky to be able to swim there.

As in the past, we will practice only on Monday starting at 6:19 a.m. and Tuesday/ Thursday starting at 6:04 a.m. Each day, practice will begin with some stretching and will proceed directly to the water. If you want to get better, be on deck and stretching no later than 6:04 a.m. (15 minutes later on Mondays) Come ready to learn and work. If you aren’t ready until 6:05, you are late.

Because of the number of kids on the team last year (106 swimmers and managers!), we were forced to add practice

sessions on Wednesday and Friday to accommodate a new Group 5 of swimmers. I am hopeful that will not be required this season, but if we get more than 84 kids on the team, we may have no choice but to move some swimmers to a Wednesday/Friday practice schedule. Unfortunately, that is likely to be a game-time decision.

Practices will start on Election Day, Tuesday, November 2nd, and end at various points depending on each swimmer's competitive level. For Junior Varsity Swimmers, the season will end with our Annual State-wide Junior Varsity invitational on January 29th in Warrenton. JV swimmers are swimmers that do not generally score in our regular season meets. The Varsity team will end at the DAC Conference Championship Meet on February 12th, and swimmers that qualify for the **State Championship Meet** will practice right up to that meet on **February 18-19th** at the **Claude Moore Recreation and Community Center** in Loudoun.

Other highlights of this year's season:

1. Qualifying swimmers will also be returning to the Loyola University in Baltimore for the **National Catholic HS Swim Championships** once again this year on January 22-23rd.
2. We're hosting the **12th Annual Northern Virginia Catholic High School Champs** at the Freedom Center on January 15th. The meet will include all of the Catholic Schools in northern Virginia including Bishop Ireton, Paul VI, John Paul the Great and Bishop O'Connell
3. We're bringing back our **annual Homecoming Meet** at the Freedom Center on Saturday, December 18th. The calendar is very friendly this year to get a lot of recently alumni back we hope.
4. And we'll have our 7th annual **New Year's Eve swim-a-thon for Cystic-Fibrosis** at the Freedom Center on December 31st. We'll have music, food, and fun while raising money to help combat a disease that afflicts at least two swimmers on our team.

Diving

Last year, for the first time in 2012 when Maureen Duran coached, we had a Seton Diving Team. I'm excited to say that Seton Diving is back. Thank you to **former Collegiate diver and Junior National Coach Ashley Keapproth**, an attorney from Nokesville who has young children and a passion for the sport, who will handle Head Coaching duties. Once again, Ashley will be assisted by **Catholic University diver and former Seton Swimming Captain Seamus Koehr**. **Diving practice** will be on **Wednesday** and **Fridays** starting at 6:04 a.m. with Board time from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

In a high school swim meet, diving counts as one of the events, just like the 50 Free or 100 Backstroke. That means that Seton Divers will be eligible to compete with us at the State Championship meet also.

Training Philosophy

A big part of the fun in swimming is watching improvement. There are three things you can do in swimming to improve. In priority order, they are: 1) Improve the efficiency of your strokes, 2) Improve your endurance, 3) Increase your strength. As with previous seasons, we will spend a great deal of time on stroke efficiency up until Christmas, and then we will focus more on endurance after Christmas. Once the mask requirement is lifted, we plan to resume our dryland training program before practice which should help increase strength.

COVID Impacts

If we want the opportunity to swim this season, then some sacrifices and flexibility are going to be required. It won't be as onerous as last season – the Freedom Center locker rooms are open, and an in-person State Championship is planned, for instance. But unfortunately, I had to include a section to the manual for this season that describes some of the accommodations we are going to have to make if we desire to swim at the Freedom Center.

I will control all that I can control, but the COVID policies of an aquatic facility owned by a public university is not on that list. This past summer, the Freedom Center lifted their requirement for masks while on deck, but they reinstated it in September. I am hopeful that, sometime during the season, they will return to their summer policy of normalcy for all of us.

Since we desire to swim at the Freedom Center, we are just going to make it happen, no matter what we think about the necessity of it. I assure you that we will do what is required to keep us in the water at the Freedom Center – but nothing more.

Registration and Fees

This year, the fee for the first child will remain at \$150 and the fee for additional swimmers will remain at \$75. In spite of these fees, we will still need significant donations to make ends meet. We generally require over \$16,000 in donations to meet the financial needs of the team. Our registrations fees basically cover the cost of the pool rentals for practice only. Everything else you see that is required to run the program is either provided by volunteers or donors. The donations also allow us to have annual bus trip meets (most seasons), to use the Colorado timing system at our meets, to purchase an embroidered Speedo backpack for every member of the team, to provide uniforms for all teammembers, coaches and officials, and to offer pizza after many of our meets.

If you like what you see happening with your kids in Seton Swimming, feel free to send a tax-deductible donation to:

Seton Swim Team
P.O. Box 1247
Warrenton, VA 20188

While shorts, a t-shirt, a cap are included with the registration fee, other apparel, such as a team racing suit or a Hoodie Sweatshirt are available for an extra cost. If the fees are an issue for your family, you can talk to me confidentially. We will exclude no one because the fee is too high.

Starting Friday, October 1st, you will be able to go to www.setonswimming.org to register for the team. You may also use the Apparel menu on the site to order team apparel that is not included with the registration. During the season, anything you need to know about Seton Swimming can be found on this site.

Final Thought on Volunteers

This team has been successful through the dedicated participation of parent volunteers. From the Board of Directors and the coaches to lane timers and deck assistants, everyone is a volunteer. Please do your part to help perpetuate the outstanding program we have at Seton.

We are very fortunate to have all last year's coaches returning to the pool deck this season – and more – this season, we will have seven (7) coaches on deck! Coach **Pat Mulhern** was a former college swimmer and helped me coach the Seton team for several years during the 2000s. Coach **Ross Palazzo**, a December 2019 graduate of the University of Florida where he was a top collegiate swimmer, coached with us for the first-time last season. Coach **DD Ross** is a veteran USA swimming coach who has coached for Seton for many years. I am also pleased that **Kimberly Dalrymple and Jerry Zadnik**, have agreed to come back. Finally, I am very excited to announce that former Coach **Adam Irving** will be back on deck. You can always count on Adam to bring his great joy and humor to the pool deck.

With this level of additional assistance, we should be in an excellent position to provide plenty of individualized attention during practices and meets. With the number of kids we typically have on the team though, we could always use more help on deck. If you think you might be interested in coaching, please let me know. We'll teach you everything you need to know so don't worry about a lack of knowledge about swimming. If you have a passion for sports and kids, we can help you with the rest.

I hope to see all new families at our **new family orientation meeting on Wednesday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Aquinas**. If you ever feel the need to talk to me, please do not hesitate to call me at (540) 379-8328 or e-mail me at Coach@KoehrFamily.com.

Coach Jim Koehr

SST Parent Resource Organization

Seton students have the opportunity to participate on an excellent swim team because you and many other parents volunteer. The swim team could not exist without you. Swim meets require a large trained force of volunteers. When you are asked to help it is because you are truly needed. Your swimmers and you will enjoy the sport even more if you get involved. Please consider the volunteer positions listed below.

Volunteer Positions

Board Members: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, Past President, and the Head Coach. As a 501-C3 non-profit organization, the Seton Swim Team maintains a Board of Directors to oversee all aspects of the operation of the team and to raise and distribute necessary funds for that operation. The Board of Seton Swimming consists of:

Jim Koehr, Head Swimming Coach	
Kimberly Dalrymple	Pat Haggerty
Bill Dealey	Katie Lynch
Jerry Zadnik	DD Ross
Pat Mulhern	John Halisky
Katie Condon	

Captains: The captains are appointed by the coaches based on input from the team at the end of each season for the next season. They are responsible for making sure the team lives our core values and that being on the team feels warm, welcoming and fun

Girls	Boys	Diving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy Garvey • Teresa Bingham • Isabelle Luevano • Lily Byers • Mary O'Malley • Céilí Koehr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joey Dealey • JJ Brox • Nathan Luevano • Joe Wilson • Kevin Orellana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Clare Waldon • Emma Catabui

Coaches: The coaches deliver the program to the kids. Led by Head Coach Jim Koehr, now in his 20th season, the coaching staff welcomes new members who can learn their trade from the head coaches and from each other. The coaching staff this season is:

Swimming – M, T, Thurs	Swimming – W, F	Diving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Koehr, Head Coach • Pat Mulhern • Ross Palazzo • DD Ross • Patrick Heiny • Kimberly Dalrymple • Jerry Zadnik • Anne Judge • Joe Hurley • Vanessa Oswald • Sandy Osilka • Bill Dealey, Substitute • Katie Condon, Substitute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Koehr • Jerry Zadnik • Joanne Pretz • Adam Irving • Joe Hurley • Patrick Heiny • Katie Lynch • Madelyn Zadnik 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Keapproth, Head Coach • Seamus Koehr

Team Manager: The Team Managers assist the Head Coach in every way they possibly can to make his life easier. Their primary functions are to track practice attendance, set up the pool area for the meets that we host, take attendance at meets, and help Coach Koehr adjust relay cards for slackers who miss the meet without prior notification

Wystan Byers
Ellie Moore
Matt Block

Officials: Referees, Starters, and Stroke and Turn Judges. These officials are absolutely necessary to run a swim meet. They attend a yearly training session and take a multiple-choice test that is submitted to the NFHS Association for certification. No prior training is required. Training sessions are offered during the pre-season months at various locations. Please contact Pat Haggerty (haggertypg@gmail.com) for additional information. Our officials (so far!) are as follows:

Pat Haggerty, Officials Coordinator and Stroke and Turn Judge
Charles Seltman, Head Referee, Godfather of Seton Swimming
David Wilson, Stroke and Turn Judge
Eric Beltran, Stroke and Turn Judge
Rosanne Garvey, Stroke and Turn Judge
Rich Borneman, Stroke and Turn Judge
Bea Pennefather, Stroke and Turn Judge
Melissa Sokban, Stroke and Turn Judge
Mel Hawley, Stroke and Turn Judge
Mike Rohan, Stroke and Turn Judge
Tommy Reynolds, Stroke and Turn Judge
New Parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer

Head Timer: The head timer stores, maintains, and brings to every meet the team's stopwatches, clipboards, pencils, and lane counters. He or she recruits cheerful lane timers for each meet, reviews timing procedures with all the lane timers before the first event and operates two stopwatches as backup for each heat. Our Head Timer for this season will be:

Will Waldron

Head Timer Recruiter (HTR or "Heater"): This position, originally made famous by Mr. Minarik and then Mrs. Bennett, is responsible for lining up enough timers from Seton to, not only meet our team's obligation, but fill in for the teams that do not provide their fair share of volunteers. It's a key job that requires the perfect Choleric (as Mrs. Bennett would recommend). The Heater for this season will once again be:

Will Waldron

Lane Timers: 12 — 16 lane timers are needed at each meet to operate the stopwatches for each heat. The team provides the watches. Lane timers receive instructions before each meet. Our timers for this season will be:

At least one representative from each family who does not already have a volunteer assignment

Head Dry-Deck Official: Responsible for all of the dry-deck officials including the Scorers (i.e. Meet Manager and Colorado Timing System Operators) as well as the Head Timer and the Runners.

Bill Dealey

The Seton Scorers (Dry Deck Officials): Using the latest Hy-tek Meet Manager software the scorers oversee all the meet entries and the results of every swimmer in every heat through the magic of our laptop computer. The Meet Manager software is connected to the Colorado Timing system, which requires two operators also. The CTS controls the touch pads in the water the big display board that shows everyone's name and times, including splits. Our Dry Deck crew this year is:

Bill Dealey
Paul Fifield

Hank Konstanty
Anne O'Malley

Runners: These able-bodied souls collect the timecards from the timers in each lane after each heat and run them to the scorer's table.

Matt Block

Apparel Coordinators: Fashion forward minded people oversee the selection, purchase, storage, and distribution of team competition suits, T-shirts, warm-ups suits, caps, and athletic bags. This is a big job, but the results are readily apparent when our team hits the deck. Our apparel coordinators this year are:

Katie Lynch
Maria Hartung

Meet Hospitality Coordinator: As the gracious meet hosts that we are, we will provide a simple spread of snacks with lots of drinks for the coaches and officials. We will also provide water for the timers and officials on deck during our meets. Our hospitality coordinator this year will be:

We Need a Volunteer(s)

Team Mom: With a gracious mix of kindness and discipline the Team Mom maintain order in the team area during meets. They are always ready with an extra T-shirt, goggles, caps, first-aid, and sometimes, even snacks. Our calm and gentle Team Mom (unless you're not doing what you are supposed to ;-)) this year will be:

Mary Pat Blanchette
Kimberly Dalrymple

Announcers: Our meets have become major sporting events, complete with talented and energetic announcers. Our veteran announcers this season are once again

John Kleb

Sound System Manager/DJ: One way we maintain the energy of our Meets is with a huge sound system and loads of pump up music. The Sound System/DJ ensures that the Sound System is maintained and set up in time for warm-up at all of our meets. He also works with the Announcer to ensure that Seton-approved pump-up music is playing during warm-up and during any other lulls in the meet. Our Sound System Manager/DJ will once again be

Jim Koehr
Another volunteer would be sincerely appreciated

Photographer: The photo gallery on our web site will be populated by:

Alexandra Luevano

Pizza Mom: Depending on the generosity of our traditional donors, we often have pizza after our meets. The

team Pizza Mom, and the one now feared by every area Domino's Pizza franchise owner, is:

Cancelled unless we get a volunteer(s)

Team Doctors/Nurses: This year the team would like to have a nurse on deck at every meet. The nurses would put together a first aid kit and use their talents as needed.

Dr. Nikki Testani
Dr. Matt Testani
Dr. Christine Wilson
Ellen Gibbons

Hospitality Coordinators: Party planners, cooks, and bakers have a place on this team. The main event is the end of season Awards Celebration. I am assuming that we'll have the one who always seem to step in to handle such things, handle it again:

State Meet Mothers

Awards Banquet Coordinators: Plans the season ending banquet including set-up, clean-up, food and ice cream and a slide show with pictures of each swimmer individually:

Kimberly Dalrymple
Jessica Morales
We Need a Volunteer(s)

Bookkeeper: Seton Swimming is a 501(c)3 Corporation with a season budget of over \$40,000 per year.

Coach Jim Koehr

COVID Mom: Coordinates the COVID screening process before practice and meets.

Sandy Osilka

Pro Points for Seton Swim Team Volunteers

Parents who volunteer in any capacity for SST earn five (5) PRO points per hour. This includes all of the volunteer positions listed above as well as any training time and providing transportation to and from meets.

Registration

The registration fee is \$150.00 for the first swimmer, \$75.00 for each additional swimmer. You can register your swimmers by going to our website at www.setonswimming.org. If for some reason you are experiencing financial hardship please contact Coach Koehr at Coach@KoehrFamily.com to work out other payment arrangements.

E-mail and www.setonswimming.org

E-mail and our web site are the primary means of communication. Information regarding schedule changes and team news throughout the year are sent by email and posted on the web site. It is essential to give at least one email address that is checked regularly on your registration form. Inform the coach of any changes immediately please.

Also, Coach Koehr is ADD (or so his wife says), so **if you want to tell him something** that you want him to remember, **send him an e-mail**. If you tell him something on deck, please do not assume he'll remember.

Eligibility

Seton Swimming is open to all Seton students who meet the following criteria:

1. Be in good standing with the school including enrollment as a full-time student (at least 5 classes) with grades that meet Athletic Department minimums.
2. Demonstrate the ability to swim 50 yards freestyle in any amount of time.
4. Have a high level of commitment to the team and the sport. Students and parents should consider other commitments they have undertaken, practical matters such as time involved, transportation, and availability for meets.
5. Commit to volunteer in some capacity during the season

Apparel

Swimsuit: Swimmers may wear any suit, except two-piece girls suits **or boy's speedos**, for practice. There are not-so-new rules for competition suits. All suits must be made of a textile fabric. For boys, the suit cannot go above the waist or below the knees. For girls, the suit cannot go below the knees or cover the shoulders. **Boys do not wear Speedos while representing Seton Swimming.**

Team caps: One team cap is included with registration. Silicone caps can be ordered with other apparel on the Seton Swimming web site.

Team T-Shirt and shorts: This is a required uniform item, which must be worn at meets whenever the swimmer is not in the water. One team t-shirt, shorts and swim bag will be included with registration. Additional shirts cost \$10 each and can be ordered through the Apparel Coordinator.

Team Hoodies: are optional but highly encouraged, particularly for swimmers anticipating that they will qualify for States. Unfortunately, the Seton Swimming sweatshirt *cannot* be worn in school with the school uniform, but it is highly useful on those cold winter swim mornings and at meets.

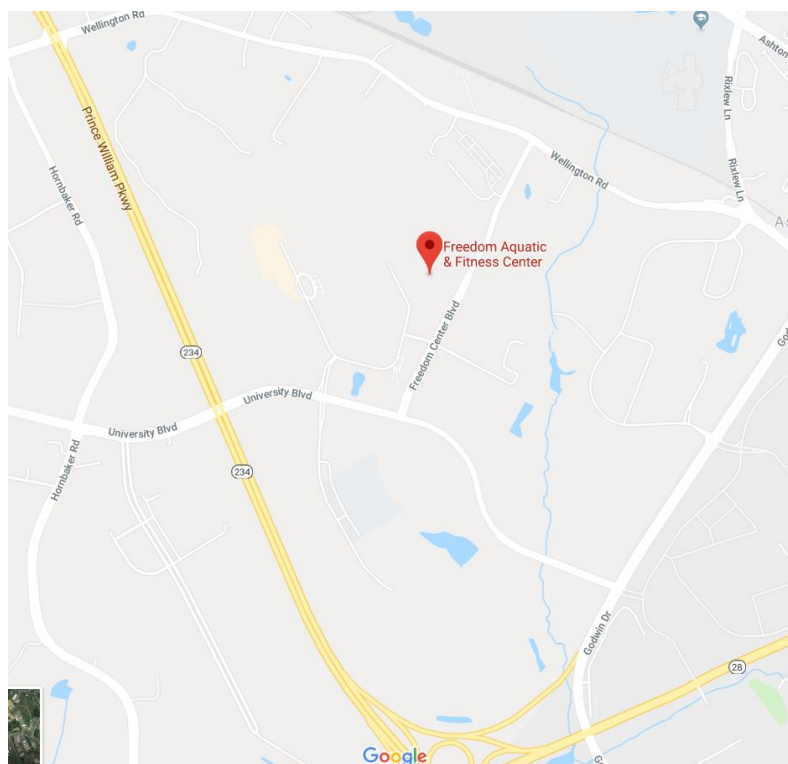
Practice

1. Swimmers should have registered on www.setonswimming.org.
2. 1st Practice is **Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021**.
3. **To allow for extra time to get ready for school, we are adjusting our practice schedule this season:**
 - a. **Mondays: 6:19 a.m.** ready to swim at **the Freedom Center**. Practice ends at 7:20 a.m.
 - i. Monday practices will start 15 minutes later than the other days
 - ii. Stretching starts at precisely at 6:19 a.m.
 - iii. Hit the water at 6:45 a.m.
 - iv. Exit the water at 7:45 a.m. every day
 - b. **Tuesday & Thursdays: 6:04 a.m.** ready to swim at **the Freedom Center**. Practice ends at 7:30 a.m.
 - i. Dryland starts at 6:04 a.m.
 - ii. Hit the water at 6:30 a.m.
 - iii. Exit the water at 7:30 a.m.
 - c. **Diving Practices on Wednesday & Fridays** will follow the Tuesday & Thursday swim times.
 - d. The final practice for swimmers not eligible for the championship meets (i.e. Junior Varsity) will be Thursday, January 27th

- e. Over **Christmas break**, we will practice on Monday and Tuesday, December 20th and 21st, and Monday and Tuesday, December 27th and 28th – plus our Cystic Fibrosis Swim-a-thon on December 31st

- i. All swimmers who are in town and who normally score in our meets (i.e. Varsity) are expected to attend
- ii. Christmas practices are tentatively scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

- f. The Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center is at 9100 Freedom Center Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110. The pool is between Wellington Dr and University Dr not too far from the Hylton Center.



4. **Attendance policy:** To be eligible for a Varsity letter, a swimmer normally cannot miss more than six (6) scheduled practices. **For this season once again, I am extending that to ten (10) – DO NOT come to practice if you are feeling any symptoms of anything whatsoever.** There are opportunities for extra credit. See Varsity Letter criteria below for more details.
5. **Absences:** Contact Coach Koehr by email at Coach@KoehrFamily.com.
6. **6:04 a.m.:** Be in the bleachers ready to work before 6:04 am. Late arrivals may lose practice points.
7. **USA Swimmers:** USA Swimmers who are practicing 3 times a week with their USA team may submit verification to receive credit toward a varsity letter.
- a. *It is strongly recommended that all USA swimmers try and attend at least 1 Seton Swimming practice each week. Coach Koehr recommends Monday morning practice because that is when the most stroke work is done.*
 - b. *We have many years of positive experiences for USA Swimmers at the Senior Elite levels who serve as Assistant Coaches*
8. **Attire:** Competition style suits **except two-piece styles or boys Speedos** are suitable for practice. Caps and goggles are essential. Please bring shorts and t-shirt on deck to wear during dry-land exercises immediately after practice
9. **Cancellation because of Snow:** If Prince William County Schools are canceled or delayed in opening, no practice. Seton Swimming follows Prince William County, **Seton School does not.**
10. **Christmas vacation practices** will be scheduled but are optional. All Varsity swimmers (those who normally score in the meets) who are in town are expected to be at these practices. Once a pool time is finalized, Coach Koehr will publish the practice time, but anticipate that these practices will be at the Freedom Center around 10:00 a.m.
11. **Safety:** Freedom Center rules and regulations apply in locker rooms, on deck and in the water. We are their guests and need to do everything possible to respect their facility
12. **Locker Rooms:** The regular patrons of the Freedom Center are very sensitive to a large number of high school age kids descending on the locker rooms after practice.

- a. **For Boys:** Stay in the first three bays of lockers closest to the pool and only use the gang showers
- b. **For Girls:** Stay in the first three bays of lockers closest to the pool and only use one side of the stall showers.
- c. **For everyone:** Do not change in the bathroom stalls.

Breakfast After Practice

1. With the retirement of the Van de Voorde's, we will not be able to offer any sort of breakfast after practice. If anyone would like to step up and help by providing bagels or the like 1-3 times per week, that would be wonderful.
2. It is always a good idea to have a bottle of water and something to eat after practice.

Meets

Attendance policy: Except for a last-minute sickness or injury, there is no excuse for telling Coach Koehr that you cannot attend a swim meet less than a week before the meet. Preparing meet entries can take several hours so it is simply not fair to Coach Koehr to make him rework the entries because you failed to inform him of a known event that precludes you from attending the meet.

1. You can e-mail Coach Koehr at any point to inform him of any meet that you know you will have to miss. Please **do not tell him – e-mail him**.
2. Swimmers will remain eligible for a Varsity, as long as they have no more than two (2) unexcused absences from swim meets, including championship meets for which they are eligible.
3. To be eligible for the State Championship meet, in addition to meeting a qualifying standard, swimmers must have attended at least one-half of Seton's scheduled meets. This is a VISAA rule.

Attire

1. A team competition suit or another competition style suit without a different team's logo
2. A Seton team cap – every time you are in the water for competition, including warm-up.
3. One pair of goggles
4. Team T-shirt and team shorts must be worn whenever the swimmer is not in the water
5. A team hoodie is also acceptable on deck.

No I-Pods, CD players, or any other personal music players are allowed at practices or during meets. Also no cell phones during the meets – we should be cheering each other not texting

Meet Conduct and Procedures

1. Swimmers report to the Captains on deck and on time before warm-ups.
2. Swimmers demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship. We should compete in a way that makes our competitors better too (i.e. Meekness).
3. Obey all safety and procedure rules.
4. Swimmers remain in the team area. Notify an assistant coach if you need to leave for even a short time.
5. It is the swimmer's responsibility to:
 1. **Check the event posting for his or her events**
 2. **Be on time behind the lane starting blocks for his/her heat. This not summer swimming and there is no Clerk of the Course.**
 3. **Check in with his/her designated coach after each swim.**
 4. **Cheer for your teammates when you are not swimming**

VISAA and National Catholic High School Championship Meets

These meets, known as "States" and "National Catholics," are highly competitive meet requiring individual qualifying times to enter. Both are held over a weekend and usually require one or two nights in a hotel near the meet site. When a swimmer qualifies in an event for one of these meets, he/she will be notified by the coach, usually via a web site posting. Information about the meet, permission slips, hotel and other related events will be sent to those who qualify. It is the responsibility of the parents of each participating swimmer to ensure that adult supervision is provided for their swimmer at the hotel.

Seton Invitational Championship Meets

This season the Seton Swim Team will host several Invitational Championship Meets at the Freedom Center. This is always an exciting and competitive meet. Teams from all over the state will be invited to participate. Every parent will be needed in some capacity to work at this meet.

VCAC Championship Meet

Will be held on Saturday, February 12th, 2021 at the Fitch WARF in Warrenton, VA.

VISAA State Championship Meet

On February 18th and 19th, 2022, Seton Swimming will attend the VISAA State Championship Meet at the Claude Moore Recreation and Community Center in Loudoun.

Procedures for the Flow of Swimmers During Practice 2021/2022

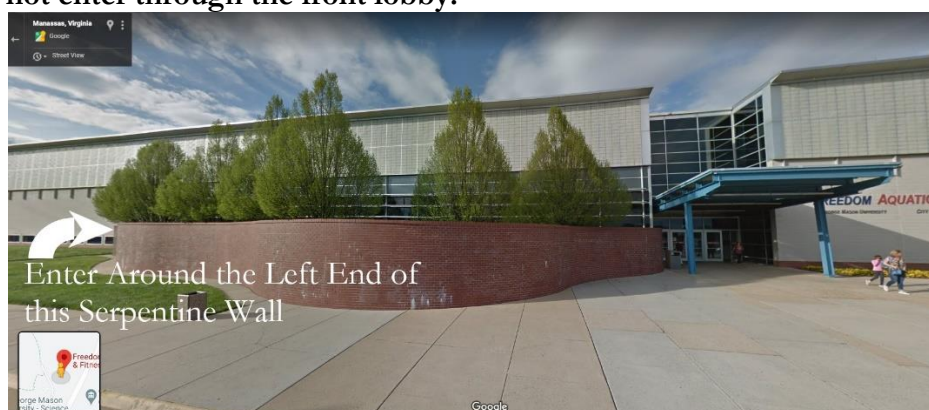
In order to be allowed to swim at the Freedom Center, we have been required to agree to follow their policies.

It will not always be an easy or convenient thing, but since the alternative is to not swim at all, we are going to do what we have to do – no matter what we think about the necessity of these procedures. I am hopeful that these procedures will not be required for the entire season.

If we want to swim, we need to follow the Freedom Center's procedures or just not swim at all – and we all want to swim.

Practice

- We will enter the facility from the door that leads into the leisure pool.
 - **Do not enter through the front lobby.**



- We will all be **wearing a mask with swimsuits on under our clothes** when we enter the facility
- Once inside the door, Mrs. Sandy Osilka and the Team Managers will do a **quick screening process** that includes a temperature check.
 - Each swimmer will **immediately proceed to one of four (4) bleacher sections** to which they have been assigned (see Practice Lane Assignments at the end of the Team Roster, <https://setonswimming.org/team-roster/>)
 - For the first day, we will have a team meeting in the bleachers.
 - For every other day of practice, we will proceed as follows:
 - After leaving your swim bag in the bleachers, each swimmer will go through the far doors near the diving boards and proceed to their assigned racquetball court.
 - Each group will complete a **20-minute set of dryland exercises** focused on stretching, core body strength, injury prevention. These exercises will be **led by Captains** assigned to each group.
 - After dryland, each swimmer will return to the bleachers, **leave their clothes and bags in their assigned bleacher section** and **proceed to their assigned lanes with only their mask, swimsuit, swim cap, google and a towel.**
- The plan is to get into the water by 6:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays (plus Wednesdays and Fridays for Diving) and by 6:45 a.m. on Mondays – shortly after NCAP exits the water.
 - Masks will not be removed until immediately before entering the water.
 - Swimmers should **wrap their mask around their towel** so it can be readily identified when they exit the pool.

- We will practice in fourteen lanes on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and we will practice in seven swim lanes plus four diving lanes on Wednesday and Friday.
 - **Practice groups** will normally have two coaches so that we can **start each set with half the group at each end of the pool** simultaneously.
- **The locker rooms are open!** At the conclusion of practice, all swimmers may shower and change in the locker room.

Meets

- Teams will enter the pool by the leisure pool and perform the screening process just like we do for practice
- It is my hope that the Freedom Center will return to the policies they had in place over the summer, but for now:
 - With masks on, each team will proceed as a group to their team area, which will be substantially larger than normal to accommodate social distancing.
 - Seton will be in the bleachers, taking up the entire length of the pool
 - The limited number of other teams will have large team areas on the far side of the pool
- Whenever swimmers are not in the water, including when they are waiting to swim behind the blocks, they will be wearing their masks.
- As with practice, locker rooms will be available this season.

Seton Swimming Varsity Letter Criteria 2021/2022

The Varsity letter criteria are designed to ensure that a moderately talented, yet hardworking sophomore, junior or senior can reasonably earn a letter. In some circumstances, by virtue of exceptional talent or hard work, freshmen or 8th Graders may be able to meet the criteria.

Seton Swimming is a Varsity Sport. All swimmers in the Seton Community are eligible and encouraged to participate. Unlike recreational sports, however, varsity sports are competitive. Like all good competitive organizations, the Seton swimming team does not seek equality of outcome, but rather equality of opportunity. Committed participation, while a prerequisite, does not guarantee performance worthy of a Varsity Letter. Therefore, committed participation is not enough to earn a Varsity Letter.

In order to earn a Varsity letter for this Swimming season, a swimmer must achieve the following milestones:

1. **8th Grade or Above** – VISAA restricts swimmers eligible to score in a VISAA sanctioned meet to those in 8th grade or above. 7th graders will swim in all our meets as exhibition (i.e. non-scoring)
2. **Practice Attendance** – Normally a swimmer must not miss more than six (6) schedule practices during the season. **For this season only, a swimmer may miss no more than ten (10) practices – please do not come to practice with any symptoms.** There are only two exceptions:
 - a. Swimmers who are attending an established practice at least three times per week with a USA Certified coach will be credited for practice provided they submit verification from their coach confirming practice attendance.
 - b. Swimmers who are competing in the conference or state championship for a Fall Seton Varsity sport will receive credit for practice attendance if they attend practice for that sport.
 - c. There are several opportunities to earn a bonus practice point to counteract a missed practice, including:
 - i. Christmas break practices
 - ii. The Cystic-Fibrosis Swim-a-thon
3. **Meet Attendance** – A swimmer must not miss more than two (2) schedule meets during the season. Any unexcused absence will disqualify a swimmer for a letter.
4. **Entries for VCAC Champs and the VISAA Division II Invitational** – Once we reach the championship season, there will be no more exhibition (i.e. non-scoring) entries allowed so Coach Koehr will publish a list of swimmer's eligible for the post-season prior to January 25th. All swimmers on that list will be eligible for a Varsity letter, provided they actually participate in the post-season meets and have achieved the other milestones required.

Eligibility for Championship Meets

Participation in the State Championship Meet is based on attainment of a qualification time standard. There are no limits to the number of swimmers who may be entered in a single event. Every swimmer who qualifies may swim, but only the top 4 entries may score. Relays at States also have a qualifying time. A swimmer is eligible for a relay if they swam on a relay that met the qualifying time during the regular season or if they have qualified for the State Championship individually. Teams may also enter one “B” exhibition relay for each relay event at States, but every swimmer on those relays must have qualified.

Eligibility for participation in the National Catholic High School Championship is also determined by attainment of a qualifying time standard, but there is a limit of four Seton Swimmers per event. Relays may participate in the meet if they attain the qualifying time standard, regardless of qualification status of the individual swimmers. National Catholics does not allow exhibition relays so only our “A” Relays may compete.

For the Conference Championship meet, the Head Coach will enter up to 4 swimmers per event. Determination of who swims in the meet will be based solely on the Head Coach’s judgment of who will swim the fastest on that day. In the vast majority of cases, this will be based on the personal best times for each swimmer, but often the Coach will use relay splits in this judgment.

Individual entries for all Championship meets are final when the meet sheet is submitted. However, **relay entries may be changed all the way up to the time when relay cards must be submitted during the actual meet.** Relay line-ups will be determined by the head coach based solely on the head coach’s judgment of who will swim the fastest on that given day.

Scoring for High School Swim Meets

Below is a brief explanation of the different formats we use for swim meets and how the format impacts scoring and eligibility.

There are two basic formats to a high school swim meet: 1) dual meets, and 2) championship meets

Dual Meets

All our regular season meets are dual meets, even if there is more than one other team in the pool. For example, if we had three teams in a meet, then everyone has a dual meet against everyone else. In other words, there are actually 3 meets going on simultaneously: Seton against each of the two teams separately and those two teams against each other.

Each team is allowed 4 scoring entries per individual event and 2 scoring entries per relay event. Those swimmers are designated as "varsity" for the meet. We can enter additional swimmers in an event, but they are designated "exhibition", which means they get a time and a place, but they do not score toward the team total. Exhibition swimmers appear on the meet sheet with an "x" before their seed time. All the meets hosted by Seton will allow for unlimited exhibition swimmers, but not all of the regular season meets will necessarily be so accommodating. This means that it is possible that not all the non-varsity swimmers will swim in every meet. At Seton we try to avoid this issue by hosting almost all of our own meets.

No swimmer can swim more than 2 individual events or more than 4 events total. That means that the most you can swim is 2 individual and 2 relays or 1 individual and 3 relays.

For each combination of teams, the 8 (two teams with 4 varsity swimmers) times for each event are sorted from fastest to slowest, or 1st to 8th place. The top 7 places score the following points for their team with 1st to 7th place scoring 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 point, respectively. So if you are the 4th fastest varsity swimmer this weekend for Seton and you beat one person from each of the other teams, you will have earned 7th place in each of the two dual meets, meaning that you scored 1 point in each meet.

Relays are scored in a similar manner, with the top three out of 4 scoring 10, 5 and 3 points, respectively.

Championship Meets

This season, we will compete in 5 championship meets: 1) The Northern Virginia Catholic HS Invitational 2) National Catholic High School Champs, 3) the VISAA Division II Invitational, 4) the DAC Conference Championship, and 5) the VISAA State Championship. Championship meets are scored as one big meet, with a varying number of places scoring. Typically, the top 12 or 16 individual finishers score. A swimmer's team gets the points for his/her team based on the place they finish.

There are a couple other differences between dual meets and championship meets. First, there is no such thing as exhibition swims in a championship meet (We will waive this rule for the Northern Virginia Catholic HS Invite). The qualification standards for participation vary for our championship meets this season. For National Catholics and States, if you hit a qualification time, you are eligible. For the Division II Invitational and the DAC Conference Champs, if you are one of the four (4) fastest entries from your team, you are eligible.

Secondly, championship meets are typically seeded, meaning lane assignments are done based on your time rather than your team (Because we generally host a large number of teams in our dual meets, we typically seed those also, but that may not be typical at meets not hosted by Seton).

Finally, if you miss an event during a championship meet, you are disqualified for the rest of the meet. (It has happened to a Seton swimmer before, and no one cares that you drove all the way to Hargrave).

Relay Eligibility

One final point of information on how I determine who swims and who doesn't. It is all based on time – the fastest times swim. For individual events, I always have to determine who swims in advance, but for relays, it is different. On the meet sheet, I publish who is going to swim, but I can actually change that line-up nearly right up to the actual race. That means that, if I publish an “A” 400 Freestyle Relay with the 4 swimmers who have the fastest times in 100 Freestyle, and then during meet, a new swimmer beats out someone scheduled to be on the relay, I can switch swimmers – and I will switch swimmers as long as that new swimmer hasn't already swum their 4 events for the meet.

This may seem like an unlikely occurrence, but it has happened a number of times for our team. If you are scheduled for an “A” relay, even if it is published on the meet sheet, and someone from the “B” relay beats you out, you are no longer on the “A” relay. To get back on the “A” relay, you have to earn your way back.

With all of this complexity, you still only have to worry about one thing – always do your personal best. If you always try to get the most from the gifts that God gave you, then the right thing will happen in the end, even if the end is a little farther away than you had hoped.

Team Captain Selection Process

At the completion of each season, Coach Koehr appoints team captains for the next season. He makes the appointments in consultation with the other coaches and after receiving as much input as possible from the members of the team.

Coach Koehr's selections for those who are "eligible" to be Team Captains are announced at the season-end Awards Banquet. At that time, in front of the entire team, Coach Koehr discusses what is expected from a Team Captain and asks them to commit in the form of an e-mail to doing their best to meet those expectations. With that written commitment, those selected to be eligible actually become appointed as Team Captains for the next season.

Below are some questions that Coach Koehr asks the team to think about when deciding who they think would be a great captain. He adapted these questions from the thoughts of Coach Lowell, and they are a great description of what Coach Koehr is looking for. After carefully considering the questions he poses, every member of the team is asked participate in an on-line survey.

The survey is not a vote. It is simply one input that Coach Koehr uses to make the decision on who will help him lead the team. Normally, Coach considers both Juniors and Seniors, but if the team feels that an underclassman would make a great captain, he will certainly consider that person.

Expectations of a Team Captain

Adapted from the Thoughts of Coach Richard Lowell

Those who want the title of "Captain" should expect to be held to a higher standard, first in their commitment to improve as swimmers, and then secondly to others in their actions for others.

You cannot lead something you are not willing to do yourself, so first ask this about how you approach the task at hand... swimming.

- *Am I really trying to improve my swimming to the point of being willing to submit to the discomfort associated with an assigned workout, or do I back off, just going through the motions?*
- *Do I have to get out of the pool during swim practice?*
- *Do I try to move to a harder lane, or is the risk of working harder too much for me to do so?*
- *When was the last time I did more than I was assigned?*

Leadership focuses on service. Everyone knows when you are doing something for yourself or for others. What are small, obvious, concrete examples of service for this team...

- *Have I stopped to talk to a team member that seems to be kinda by themselves and not really included, or do I just hang around those I am comfortable with?*
- *When was the last time I initiated the action, beginning the work ahead of being directed, not waiting for the coaches to ask for me to do the obvious?*
- *When did I last lead the movement into dryland so that all are ready for the exercises begin @ 6:04?*
- *Do I arrive late or just on time?*
- *Do I stay focused on others, encouraging the underclassmen during meets, cheering, offering swimming advice for improvement?*
- *Do I jump in the pool to lead the team into the water?*
- *Do I seek to help other, sometimes less capable, swimmers improve their strokes?*

Some really want the title of "Captain", but do they really want to be held to these standards?

Packing Lists for Practice

Below are packing lists for Boys and Girls for practice each day:

Boys	Girls
<p>In Swim Bag:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cap ▪ Goggles ▪ Water Bottle ▪ Towel (for dryland and shower) ▪ Shirt ▪ Pants ▪ Belt ▪ Tie ▪ Underwear ▪ Socks ▪ School Shoes ▪ Brush ▪ Deodorant ▪ Shampoo/Conditioner ▪ Glasses (If Applicable) 	<p>In Swim Bag:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cap ▪ Goggles ▪ Water Bottle ▪ Towel (for dryland and shower) ▪ Shirt ▪ Skirt ▪ Bra ▪ Underwear ▪ Socks/Stockings/shorts ▪ School Shoes ▪ Brush/hair ties ▪ Deodorant ▪ Scapular/Earrings/Bracelets ▪ Shampoo/Conditioner ▪ Chapstick/Lotion ▪ Feminine Products ▪ Glasses (if applicable)
<p>Wear to the Pool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swimsuit under clothes ▪ T-shirt and shorts suitable for dryland (short sleeved) ▪ Shoes suitable for dryland in the racquetball court ▪ Seton approved outerwear (so you can wear it to school) or a hoodie/jacket ▪ Sweatpants ▪ Warm socks (take off before dryland) 	<p>Wear to the Pool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swimsuit under clothes ▪ T-shirt and shorts suitable for dryland (short sleeved) ▪ Shoes suitable for dryland in the racquetball court ▪ Seton approved outerwear (so you can wear it to school) or a hoodie/jacket ▪ Sweatpants ▪ Warm socks (take off before dryland)