

FAQ's

TEAMS

1. Why does the York YMCA have two Swim Teams?

ANS: Youth competitive swimming is a large and varied sports arena. From the simplest of "for fun" summer leagues to the USA Swimming Jr and Sr Nationals there are many ways for young people to develop their love of swimming and all venues do not suit all swimmers' and their families' needs. The York YMCA Coaching Staff created a program that offers top quality training and stroke instruction to fit the needs of a wide variety of swim families.

The York YMCA Tidal Waves is for beginners who are still exploring the sport and for experienced swimmers who desire to have time for other activities and sports in addition to swimming, or who simply prefer to compete locally.

The York YMCA Competitive Team is for new and experienced swimmers who want to commit more of their time toward swimming and desire to compete at a higher level in the larger USA and Y Invitationals throughout the Middle Atlantic, Eastern Zone and even across the Country.

2. Who decides which team my swimmer will be on?

ANS: Beginning swimmers and some with limited swim experience will usually (but not always) be placed in the Novice practice group. Once the swimmer has shown proficiency in swimming to warrant advancement, the Coaches will contact the family and recommend a path of advancement for the swimmer, either onto the Advanced group of the Tidal Wave Team or into the Junior practice group of the Competitive team. It is up to the swimmer and their family ultimately to choose the team and their commitment level to swimming.

More experienced swimmers joining the York YMCA will meet with the Coaches, again a recommendation will be made to the swimmer and family as to a starting practice group, but ultimately it is the choice of the family which team they will join. The Coaches will then place the swimmer in the appropriate practice group for that team. Swimmers and families do not have the choice of practice groups.

3. What is "Novice" and how is that group associated with both Tidal waves and YYST?

ANS: The Novice group in the entry level swim practice group for both the Tidal Waves and York YMCA Swim team. It is primarily (but not always) composed of younger swimmers who have recently completed swim lessons and are starting to explore competitive swimming. Because of the average age and competition readiness level of this group they will compete as Tidal Waves and follow the Tidal Waves practice and competition Calendar. As stated in Question 2 however, once the swimmer has sufficiently developed in the Novice group that they are ready for a higher level of training, they have the option of staying with the Tidal Wave team and moving to the Advanced practice group or moving into the Junior B practice group of the YYST.

4. Can my swimmer switch from one team to the other?

ANS: Yes, but the York YMCA Coaches will choose the swimmer's practice group within that team. As family needs and swimmer interests change, swimmers may choose to move from the Tidal Waves to the Competitive Team for the additional training time and competition level, or conversely move from the Competitive Team to the Tidal Waves for a reduction of training time, etc. In either case, the swimmer and their family should contact their current team Coach and discuss the move and all the concerns and reasons for it.

5. Can my swimmer compete with both teams?

ANS: To a limited extent. Each team, YY and TW will have their own meet schedule for a given season. Some Y meets will be attended by both Tidal Wave and YY swimmers. Tidal Waves swimmers can choose to have USA swimming registration and thus compete in some USA meets with the York Y Competitive Team. Conversely, YY Swimmers in the Junior practice group can choose to be registered for league meets with the Tidal Wave team. However, it is **NOT** recommended that any swimmer attend all meets available to both teams. Swimmers that would like to attend a meet with the York YMCA team other than the one they are registered with should discuss this with the Coach.

NOTE: When swimmers do choose to participate with the other York YMCA team at one of that Team's scheduled meets, all swimmers must wear the same swim cap, ie Tidal Wave swimmers competing at a USA meet with the Competitive Team must wear the Black YORK cap, conversely YY Swimmers competing in Tidal Wave league meets must wear the Red Tidal Wave cap.

6. Must my swimmer participate in all his/her team meets?

ANS: No, but swimmers are expected to attend as many of the meets on their team's schedule as possible. If due to family or other commitments, a swimmer cannot attend a team meet, the family should make the Coach aware immediately.

7. Is there a minimum (or maximum) number of required practices per week that my swimmer must attend?

ANS: As with anything in life the more work is put in the more reward will be reaped, the maximum number of practices per week is that amount allotted to the practice group level in which the swimmer has been placed. There will be a minimum **recommended** number of practices which will vary depending upon the swimmers age and practice group. Swimmers that cannot attend the minimum recommended practices can expect that their development may occur more slowly than those attending more practices.

8. Can my swimmer attend a different team or group practice if they cannot attend their own?

ANS: This can only be addressed on an individual swimmer by swimmer basis. If the situation should arise, the swimmer and/or swim family should contact their Coach to determine the best solution. Practice groups are determined by the Coaches based on the swimmers' development level, it will not always be possible to accommodate swimmers from another practice level.