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# **KNOX COUNTY YMCA**

## **Krocodile Swim Team Swimmer/ Parent Handbook 2026-2027**



# **WELCOME!**

Welcome to the Knox County YMCA Krocodile Swim Team and thank you for your interest in and support of the Swim Team. When a child joins a swim team, the whole family becomes part of the team as well. The time and energy required by the swimmer and family is considerable. However, the lessons and rewards can be priceless and lifelong. This handbook is designed to review coaching, swimmer and parent expectations throughout the season.

## **Knox County YMCA Swim Team**

Krocs Swim Team is a both a YMCA and USA competitive program offered by the Knox County YMCA. The team incorporates all YMCA philosophies promoting the four core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, while developing a healthy spirit, mind and body. The program is offered to children up to 21 years of age. Eligible swimmers must be able to swim both front crawl and back crawl for the length of a 25-yard pool without stopping. The team is run out of Vitale Aquatics Center at the Knox County YMCA.

The coaching staff strives to provide opportunities for young athletes to learn life skills, to develop his or her character, and to learn as much about the sport of swimming as he or she wishes. Our coaching philosophy can be summarized as follows:

### **COACHES STRIVE TO:**

- Provide a fun and enjoyable environment. Demonstrate that competition and being part of a team can be fun.
- Teach swimmers to be respectful of their coaches, teammates, other competitors, and themselves.
- Provide an opportunity for personal and social development.
- Teach and expect responsible behavior.
- Meet each child at his/her level of commitment and ability.
- Be honest with our swimmers.
- Provide an opportunity for swimmers to excel in the sport.
- Properly orient young people to competition in the sport and keep winning in perspective.
- Encourage lifetime involvement in sports and physical activity.

## **SWIMMER EXPECTATIONS:**

- Respect coaches, fellow teammates and parents.
- Be at practice on time and be prepared– Bring your own goggles, cap, towel and a good attitude!
- Attendance: swimmers are required to attend at least two practices each week but are encouraged to attend as many as possible. This is one of the best ways to progress in your skill and endurance.
- Swim the workout that is posted with an enthusiastic attitude.
- Be courteous when coaches are helping other swimmers– your turn will come.
- Stay at practice and in the water until it is time to go or until you are otherwise dismissed.
- Always put forth your best effort during practice and at meets.
- Each swimmer should display good sportsmanship toward opposing teams, as well as their own.
- Follow all rules: pool rules, swim team rules and facility rules. The lifeguards and other YMCA staff have authority.
- Encourage and support your fellow teammates; build each other up!

The following behaviors **WILL NOT** be tolerated:

- Inappropriate language anywhere in the building or during team events.
- Excessive horseplay or noise in locker rooms and/or other areas of any facility used by the team.
- Inappropriate touching/roughhousing.
- Disrespect of coaches, teammates, competitors, meet supervisors, YMCA staff or members.
- Intentional damage of facility or equipment.
- Violent behavior.
- Theft.

The CEO, Director or Head Coach reserves the right to remove any swimmer or family from the team at any point during the season for behavior that is deemed inappropriate and/or harmful to the team or YMCA staff.

# PARENT/ GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS

(indicated areas must be initialed and page 6 must be signed)

- Initial Here: • *Leave the coaching to the coaches:* please be respectful by doing your part to forge a good relationship with each of them.
- Initial Here: • *Parents are not allowed on the pool deck during practices,* except in the event of an emergency. Viewing area for practices is the Multi-purpose Room, if available, and Lobby at the Family Branch.
- Initial Here: • *Understand that proper nutrition is essential for all levels of swimmers.* A balanced diet and hydration are both needed to help the body perform at optimal levels.
- Initial Here: • *All swim team participants must be Knox County YMCA members at all times.* If you choose to cancel membership during the off season, you will be expected to pay the full amount of the membership at registration. Having a membership entitles you to pay member rates on all other YMCA programs.
- Initial Here: • Pay the swimmer registration fee in full or set up an installment plan by each payment deadline.
- Initial Here: • All swimmers must pay for event fees for swim meets.  
Any optional fundraiser your swimmer participates in will be added as a credit on your account to be used towards entry fees and coaching fees. The Head Coach must be notified by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the draft date, if you would like to apply credits to monthly program fees. All money raised through optional fundraisers must be used during the current season and any overages at the end of the season will be considered a donation to the Knox County Krocodile Swim Team.
- Initial Here: • *Be courteous and respond to Head Coach RSVP emails by the deadline to guarantee your child's spot in a meet.*
- Initial Here: • Swimmers must arrive *on time* for warm-ups at both home and away meets.
- Initial Here: • Volunteer at all home meets; Sign-up Genius will be used to sign up for officiating and timing shifts in advance. Involvement from all families is necessary in order to run a successful meet.
- Initial Here: • Volunteer at all away meets your swimmer(s) are participating in.
- Initial Here: • The one big fundraiser that your family is expected to participate in is the Trivia Night. If you do not want to participate in this activity, then you will be allowed to buy out for \$200 a family.

- Initial Here: • Please be respectful by volunteering to time or officiate at away meets.
- Initial Here: • All families are required to volunteer at our annual Krocs Invite on Saturday, December 5, 2026.
- Initial Here: • The Knox County YMCA facilitates the YMCA Krocs Swim Team. The cost, fundraisers and all other means to generate revenue from YMCA Krocs Swim Team pays for all direct costs. Things not included are the gas and electric, chlorine, administrative fees, heating and cooling fees, maintenance, capital admirative fees, finance fees, maintenance, capital and associations fees.
- Initial Here: • Please stay up to date via our team Facebook page, website and emails. We use the Remind App to send out some information. Search for @kncykrocs in the Remind App.
- Initial Here: • Follow this link to review the rules and policies for USA swimming.  
<https://www.usaswimming.org/about-usas/governance/rules-policies>
- Initial Here: • SafeSport for Parents: The link below has information on keeping your athlete safe. <https://www.usaswimming.org/swimmers-parents/parents/safe-sport-for-parents>



## SWIMMER/ PARENT AGREEMENT

By signing, we have read the Krocodile Swim Team Swimmer/ Parent Handbook and agree to abide by the policies of the Knox County YMCA Swim Team.

Swimmer's Name (printed):

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Swimmer's Signature:

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Parent/Guardian Name (printed):

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Parent/Guardian Signature:

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Date:

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Please return this signed page to Coach Kristen Warren @ [kwarren@knoxyymca.org](mailto:kwarren@knoxyymca.org) before you begin season practices. Thank you!