

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Thinking of Joining the Beavers?

*New swimmers and parents often have questions about the club.*

### What is the time commitment?

The summer swim season runs for eight weeks and starts at the beginning of July and ends with Provincials in late August. The team practices every weekday, typically broken up into age groups. On the weekends, there are one or two meets at locations from Halifax to Digby.

2011 Weekday practices are **expected** to be (subject to poll schedule negotiations with HRM)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>730-830AM</b>	9 & up optional	9 & up optional	9 & up optional	9 & up optional	13 & UP only
<b>4-5PM</b>	8 & Under	8 & Under	8 & Under	8 & Under	8 & Under
<b>5-6PM</b>	9 & 10	9 & 10	9 & 10	9 & 10	9 & 10
<b>6-7PM</b>	11 & 12	13 & UP	11 & 12	13 & UP	11 & 12
<b>7-8PM</b>	13 & UP	11 & 12	13 & UP	11 & 12	No Practice

Swimmers age 9 & up can attend optional morning training Monday – Thursday from 7:30-8:30am.

Friday morning practices are for the 13 & up age group only.

Time Trials will be held on a few (probably 3-4) Wednesday evenings throughout the season beginning at 4pm.

*We usually have a waiting list to join the Beavers, so a serious commitment is expected of those who join the team. The team is a competitive swim team and members are expected to attend meets on the weekends.*

### What is the expectation of parent involvement in the team?

The Beavers have social activities for the swimmers, run time trials, host a swim meet, look after administrative functions, and do some fundraising. The philosophy of the team is that swimmers benefit when parents/guardians become involved, so anytime a parent can help out, it is welcomed and encouraged. In order for the team to function effectively and for the swimmers to enjoy the meets, parental involvement is necessary.

### Will my swimmer have to try-out to join?

Try-outs are not required. If the swimmer can swim a length of the pool they can apply to join the club. Applications from swimmers whose families had one or more swimmers in the club have first priority. The second priority is to address gender equality in the age groups. Our next stage of consideration is for new swimmers who would be considered for an age grouping that has one or more vacancies. A lottery system would be used amongst new applicants for any age grouping that is determined to have one or more openings, again with consideration first to move towards gender equity in the particular age grouping. Applications must be tendered to the Beavers Registrar by the registration deadline for consideration. Information on registration protocol and the registration form itself is posted on the website.

### **What if we are away on vacation or can't come every single day?**

Coaches realize summer is short, and families take vacation so it is understandable that swimmers will be away from time to time. Daily swimming is encouraged, of course. Vacations do count as absences under the attendance policy.

### **How many meets should each swimmer attend?**

Meets are open to all members, regardless of ability. (Only provincial championships require time standard qualification). Swimmers can attend as many meets as they like, however, in order to attend Provincials it is expected that the swimmer attend at least one half of the meets and time trials as well as one half of regular practices.

In order to qualify for a guaranteed spot on the team the following year, a swimmer must attend a minimum of 1/3 of the practices and 2 meets. Meet attendance is definitely encouraged by coaches so the swimmer can gain confidence and experience and will be considered when selecting the provincial team. Regular practices at Lions Park pool usually commence on or about July 1. This is the date when practice attendance commences to be officially recorded.

### **Do the Beavers host a swim meet?**

Yes. The swim meet is usually the last weekend of July at the Bedford Lions Pool. Parent volunteers are requested to help with set-up of grounds, canteen, timing, and on deck assistance if available. Many hands make light work, and our meet is one of the most successful of the season, due to the dedicated parents who help out.

### **Who chaperones the swimmers at the meets?**

The Coaches are very busy at the meets and are not able to chaperone children. Parents are responsible for monitoring their swimmers.

### **How much does it cost to join the team?**

Registration fees for 2011 are \$220 for the first swimmer, \$210 for the second swimmer, \$200 for the third and free after that.

### **How much fundraising is involved?**

The Beavers hold a raffle and run a canteen at the Bedford Meet. In some years other fundraising may also be required. For Provincials significant fundraising will be required.

### **What is the money used for?**

The money raised is used primarily to pay for the pool rental, coaches' salaries, and registration with Swim Nova Scotia. In some years we have been fortunate to have corporate sponsors come forward with significant cash donations. This has helped our financial situation immensely.

### **How do I apply for my child to join the team?**

Registration forms and information is posted on the website. To be considered for any potential openings, a registration form and appropriate payment by cheque must be submitted to the Beavers Registrar by the registration deadline. Acceptance of any received applications for new member registration depends on availability per age group and gender. Check the website for information.

### **What if my child joins but does not enjoy the team?**

The club has an intro spring training session to introduce the swimmer to the coaches, and take them through some typical activities. These sessions are held in April and May and should give your child an idea of what the team is like. The team has a no-refund policy after the end of May.

### **Is it mandatory to purchase Beaver Bathing Suits or clothing?**

No. Beaver clothing is optional. Swimmers need a bathing suit, goggles and swim cap. The Beaver bathing suits are Speedo brand, and will be of high quality, therefore will stand-up better to the chlorine. Girls' suits are usually around \$60 and boys' jammers are around \$50. Beaver Hoodies are also very popular.

### **Is there someone I can call if I have other questions?**

You can always email the website [admin@bedfordbeavers.com](mailto:admin@bedfordbeavers.com) or contact a member of the executive. If you wish to speak to someone, let us know and we will get in touch with you.

### **How do parents keep informed?**

The Beavers use email as the primary means of communication, and each Monday our newsletter, the Beaver Buzz is distributed. We also have a website [www.bedfordbeavers.com](http://www.bedfordbeavers.com) that has up-to-date information on activities.

**Also see our Beavers Handbook which is posted on the website.**