

2019 Brookstone II Barracuda Swim Team Information

Welcome to the 2019 Summer Swim Season! We have made some slight changes so please take the time to reach through the information below and reach out with any questions.

Team Contacts:

- Tracy Biolsi, Head Coordinator, 626-665-9141, tracy.biolsi@gmail.com
- Mary-Kathryn Bailey, Financial Coordinator, mkbailey78@hotmail.com
- Heather Nepple, Volunteer Coordinator, 678-332-9949, hnepple@bellsouth.net
- Ginny Rawls, Sponsorship and Spirit Coordinator, 757-749-9952, ginnyrawks@gmail.com

Important Dates:

- Registration: Sunday, March 24, 2019
- The last day for refunds is May 5, 2019
- Practice begins: Monday, May 13, 2019
- Mock Meet: Monday, May 20, 2019 (tentative)
- Team picture day: Friday, May 31, 2019
- VBS week practice schedule: week of June 10, 2019 (tentative)
- Spirit week: Week of June 17, 2019
- End-of-season party: Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 5 p.m.

Registration for returning swimmers AND new BKII resident swimmers: You may pre-register your swimmers by mail/mailbox drop off Friday, February 7 – Wednesday, March 20 to confirm your spot on the team. You must include the registration form, medical release form and registration to pre-register and guarantee your swimmer's spot. **Checks will not be deposited until after the in-person registration date of March 24.** Please pre-register if you know you plan on returning this season so that we have a good idea of how many, if any, open slots we will have for the in-person registration.

**Please note if you reside in the Brookstone II community you MUST be a current S&T member, and all HOA and S&T dues must be current to participate on the Brookstone II Barracuda Swim Team.*

Registration for new non-resident swimmers: Registration for new swimmers not living in Brookstone II must take place in-person at the BKII clubhouse on Sunday, March 24 at 2:30 p.m. To adhere to West Georgia Summer Swim Association guidelines, the size of the team is limited. The allotted slots will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis as needed by age group and priority is given to Brookstone II residents and then returning Barracuda swimmers before we are able to accept new swimmers.

In person registration at BKII clubhouse on Sunday, March 24 from 1 – 3 p.m.

- **1 – 1:30 p.m.** BKII residents new to swim team
- **1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** Returning Barracuda swimmers
- **2:30 – 3 p.m.** Open registration for new swimmers. Space will be limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

What's Happening at the In-Person Registration?

- Register swimmers if you have not done so already
- Sign-up for required volunteer slots and drop off volunteer deposit check
- Order spirit wear
- Try-on and order swim suits (we will use the same suit as last year but our vendor will still be in attendance for those that want additional suits, new practice suits, goggles, etc.)

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR NEW AND YOUNGER SWIMMERS:

The safety of our swimmers is of the utmost importance. With that in mind, please note that we will not place swimmers in a meet if they have not demonstrated the ability to confidently swim the length of the pool without assistance. In addition, there is a league rule that states swimmers can assistance of any swimmers.

With this in mind, we have created a new **“Rookie”** category for our new swimmers.

Rookie 5-year-old swimmers: This category covers our newest team members including Jr. Barracudas aging up, essentially anyone that has never been on and team nor participated in a competition meet. If this covers your child, please register him/her as a Rookie. This group offers a slight registration rate discount and is designed for our newer swimmers who will need to be cleared for meets due to our safety rules stated above. Our coaching staff works hard to get every young swimmer meet ready. It may happen before the first meet or it may not happen until the end of the season. Most rookies will be able to swim the length of the pool and be cleared for meets before the end of the season and we will do our best to get them into as many meets as possible, but safety is always our top priority. We will reach out to Rookie parents approved for meets by Coach Diana no later than Wednesday morning before the meet. If you agree to your child’s participation in the meet you may also be asked to volunteer for that meet, likely as a bullpen parent (see below for meet volunteer roles).

Jr. Barracudas: The Jr. Barracuda program is for 3.5 to 4-year-old “pre-swimmers” to get the kids comfortable in the water and give them basic swim instruction so that they become confident, strong swimmers as an early age and a read to join the team when they turn five.

Practice Only: This registration option is open to all swimmers for those that want to get in the pool regularly and work on their strokes and technique but do not want to participate in meets and offers a discounted registration fee.

Parent Volunteer Responsibilities: Parents please be certain that you and your child want to participate in the Summer Swim League Program. Parent Volunteers are “vital” to the operation of all swim meets, both home and away. Please fulfill your volunteer obligations; failure to do so will result in the loss of your \$125.00 deposit. The volunteer positions are not difficult, but are critical in running a meet for our children. Our team continues to remain successful due to the overwhelming support of our Barracuda Parents!

Parent Meetings: We will conduct brief parent meetings the first week of practice for our Jr. Barracudas, Rookies and anyone new to the team. Date and time are TBD.

Practice and Fun Fridays: Practice Monday, May 13 – Friday, May 17 AND Tuesday, May 21 will take place in the evenings. There will be no practice on Monday, May 20 as that will be our mock meet or on Wednesday, May 22, the last day of school. Morning practice times will begin Thursday, May 23. Evening and morning practice times remain the same as last season.

For Fun Friday, please be sure to bring your child to the time for their age group and note that we cannot have siblings that are not on the team in the pool on Fun Friday.

Unaccompanied children: If you plan to drop off and pick up your swimmer please make sure that a coordinator or coach has placed your child in a lane before you leave the pool area and be sure to return and pick-up your child prior to the end of practice.

We are not responsible for unsupervised younger siblings waiting on older siblings to finish practice. Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult if they are not in the pool practicing.

Swim Meets: There are 5 regular season meets and a team “mock” meet. Each swimmer may swim in a maximum of 3 individual events and 2 relay events at each meet. Generally swimmers compete in heats with swimmers of similar skill levels, which will be determined by the coaches. Each swimmer earns a ribbon for completed events and end of season trophy.

The season schedule will be available, posted and emailed Sunday, March 3 after the league coordinators meeting. In the past meets have taken place on Thursday evenings but that is subject to change based on league scheduling.

Year-round swimmers: We know that many of our summer swimmers swim with other year-round teams (ACE, Tidal Waves, etc.). We support your dedication to the sport but please note that in order to compete in meets with our team you will need to regularly participate in our team practices. In other words, you cannot practice with your full-time team all week and then compete with our team on Thursdays. If you have questions about this, please contact Tracy Biolsi at tracy.biolsi@gmail.com

Sponsorships: Sponsorships help support our team. If you own a business or know of a business that would be interested in supporting our team with a cash or in-kind donation, please reach out to our sponsorship coordinator, Ginny Rawls (contact information below). If you bring in a sponsorship of more than \$100 we will take \$25 off your family's registration.

Spirit Wear: Team apparel will be offered for sale at registration. We are working on new items for 2019 so if there is anything that you'd be interested in seeing, please let Tracy Biolsi and/or Ginny Rawls know (contact information below).

Swimsuits, Caps and T-Shirts: We will be using the same suit as last season. All swimmers will need to purchase the new suit and wear for all the meets. We will have our suit vendor at registration so that you can try on and place orders. There will also be a link on the team website to place your swimsuit order. All swimmers will be provided a latex swim cap. Personalized silicone swim caps can be ordered from our vendor at registration.

Meet Line-Up: Our meet line-up is generated 24 hours prior to the meet, and we then pass that information to our opponent. At that time, we combine heats and lanes with the opposing swim team. After the line-ups are combined, we can share with the team. We will share swimmer entries and heat sheets as soon as we are able, but it will usually be shared the late morning the day of the meet.

Missing Swimmer List: A missing swimmer list is our running tab of swimmers unable to make a meet. We will send out a "Call for Missing Swimmers" email every Friday. Please check that list every week to ensure your swimmer has not been left off or put on the list by mistake. If you know in advance that your swimmer will need to miss a meet, please let us know as soon as possible. It is very difficult for both teams to re-build relay teams, and re-create the entire meet schedule at the very last minute. All swimmers are required to give 24 hours' notice prior to our "meet morning" in the event you will miss a meet. We know that swimmers will miss meets due to vacations, bible school, etc., and prior notification will allow us to give every swimmer an opportunity to swim as many events as possible. If you already know your child will miss a meet, you can let us know now. Please email those dates to Tracy Biolsi at tracy.biolsi@gmail.com

Communication: The primary mode of communication will be via email and the REMIND App. Please be sure to note your email address clearly on the registration form. If you have not already downloaded the REMIND App we encourage you to do so as it will be the best way for us to share information on rain delays and any last-minute changes. We do also have a Facebook Page for team updates and communication.

REMIND App team code: @bkiicudas

Private Swim Lessons: Many of our coaches also offer private lessons to swimmers, if you would like to schedule a private lesson please see a Coordinator during team practice. Private lessons are available to all children wanting to learn to swim and/or interested in additional coaching, not just Barracuda team members.

Swim Fast. Have Fun. GO CUDAS!