



Parents On Deck During Practice, Why It's Not A Good Idea

The SEAY coaching staff encourages parents to watch practice from time to time. It's probably not best to watch practice everyday nor is it healthy to never come to the pool. The reality of carpools and transporting young swimmers is that many parents are present everyday, though you don't necessarily need to watch every minute of practice. Here are some important guidelines to keep in mind when observing a practice.

First, young swimmers want their parents' approval more than anything. If they know you are watching practice, it's only natural for some of their attention to be directed to you. However, for the swimmers to learn as much as possible, it's imperative coaches have your child's undivided attention during practice. We ask that you not communicate with your child during practice thus competing with a coach for his/her attention.

Second, we insist that parents do not interrupt the coaches on deck while they are coaching. If you need to communicate with a coach, please do so 15 minutes before or 15 minutes after practice or arrange some other meeting time that works for your family as well as the coach.

Third, our coaches spend a considerable amount of time planning weekly training sessions for each of their practice groups. Each training set or instructional drill has a purpose and one practice and/or practice set often builds on another throughout the week and/or season. If you have not attended all practice sessions, you may not understand the purpose of what the swimmers are doing on any given day.

Finally, please do not try to coach your child based on what you see (or think you don't see) him/her do. Many times when teaching stroke skills, the coaches ask our swimmers to do things that might not look correct or might actually be illegal according to the rules, but does have important purpose in teaching skills (i.e. swimming one arm fly or swimming breaststroke with a flutter kick or dolphin kick).

With these various points in mind, we ask parents to stay off the pool deck during practice hours and not attempt to coach your child based on what you observe at practice.

Parents whose swimmers practice at the Case, Park, or Carthage pools should watch practice from the balcony area in the seating area, at Horlick parents are expected to observe sessions from the bleachers, when at the Racine Family YMCA ground level in the lobby, and when at Meadowbrook Country Club from the upper deck or the chairs located around the pool.

We do request that parents drop their swimmers off no more than 15 minutes before practice is scheduled to start and pick them up no more than 15 minutes after practice is scheduled to end. Many of the coaches have responsibilities outside of practice times and may not be available to "watch" swimmers before and/or after scheduled practices.

Swimmers who arrive early are to be out on deck. We do not want swimmers outside of any of the facilities at anytime during a practice unless they are under the direct supervision of a coach at that time. Swimmers who arrive early to practice should sit quietly on the deck, talk with teammates, do their homework, or read a book until practice begins.

Thanks for your cooperation and support. Please contact Coach Neil if you have any questions.