

Frequently Asked Questions: Eligibility

What are the eligibility requirements to join the Fins?

Registration is open to dependents of Fairfield residents less than 19 years old as of June 1 of the season, who can swim 25 yards (1 length of the pool). The Fins do not have a minimum age requirement, so if your child can demonstrate swimming 25 yards, they will likely be on the team.

How can I determine whether my child has the proficiency to be eligible to join the Fins?

Many parents are unsure whether their child will be able to complete the requirement to join the Fins after a long winter away from the pool. Therefore, the Swim Committee, Coaching Staff, and Parent Representatives will be holding Evaluations on May 10th and 11th to determine whether children have the proficiency to swim the required distance and join the team. In the event that your child isn't able to swim the full 25 yards at the Evaluation, we will offer a second evaluation on June 1st. It is the hope of the committee that parents can gain valuable insight on what their child can work on and practice over those three weeks. After the initial Evaluations, the Fins can provide several options to interested families on venues and swim teachers to provide lessons, if requested.

Swimming proficiency takes a lot of time, and should not be rushed. It is not uncommon for a child to work on putting their face in the water, floating on their back and swimming a few yards for 2-3 years before mastering them. However, once mastered, a child usually makes great progress quickly.

My child does not meet the minimum skills requirement to join the Fins. What are my options?

Children who possess limited proficiency in the water can be unpredictable, as they are working on both a physical and mental mastery of the water. Unlike swim lessons geared to the child's skill level, the swim team environment is not the best place for developing confidence in the novice swimmer. The swim team can be scary for a swimmer without basic skills, as the kids are often asked to swim in deep water, dive, and swim unassisted in rough waters. For this reason, it is vitally important to match a child with the right environment. The last thing we want is for a child to "get in over their head" and end-up having a bad experience in the water, or witness another child have a bad experience. These experiences can be difficult reminders of how dangerous learning to swim can be, and how vigilant we must be regarding safety for all the kids on the team.

If you feel that your child may not meet the criteria described above, or if after the Evaluation it is determined that your child would be better served by learning to swim in a more controlled environment, we recommend enrolling them in swimming lessons at the YMCA or with Durham Parks and Recreation.

Why do the Fins not have an age requirement for joining the team?

Most teams in the league have a minimum age requirement of either 5 or 6. However, the Fins have not yet set a minimum age requirement for children who can swim the length of the pool. Presumably, children who have mastered basic swim skills and can swim the length of the pool have the ability to "roll over" and float on their back in the event of an emergency. This requirement may be revised in future years, as our focus will remain on safety.

Fairfield Fins Registration

Swimmer Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____ Home phone: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number _____

	Swimmers First Name	Date Of Birth	Age as of June 1st this year	Sex	10 Year Swimmer	Grad Senior
1						
2						
3						
4						

	Parent /Guardian Names	Email address	Cell Phone
1			
2			

Fee Category	Fee/Child	Total Fees
First Child	\$75.00	\$
Second-Fourth Child	\$70.00	\$
	TOTAL	

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: FAIRFIELD FINS

I am a fairfield resident and own the property at _____
or my lease conveys use of the pool and recreation facilities.

_____ (Parent signature and date here)

FAIRFIELD FINS MEDICAL RELEASE & NOTICE OF DATA PRACTICES

I certify that my child (ren) is (are) in good health and can participate in the activities of the Fairfield Fins swim team. In case of any injury I grant Fairfield Fins staff permission to administer standard first aid treatment onsite. If I cannot be reached and the injury is deemed serious, I grant Fairfield Fins staff permission to transport my child to the nearest medical facility equipped to handle the injury. I accept full responsibility for any medical expenses incurred as a result of these injuries.

I understand the information I submit will be maintained in electronic format. The Fins privacy policy can be reviewed at www.fairfieldfins.com/downloads/privacy.policy.docx.

By registering I acknowledge that my child(ren) meet the eligibility requirements for the Fins. Upon evaluation, if it is determined that my child does not meet these requirements, a refund of the registration cost will be returned to me.

Name of Swimmer(s):

Parent: _____

Guardian Signature

Date

Print name:



FOUR STEP DISCIPLINE POLICY

Swimmers and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that shall bring credit to themselves, the team, the community, coaches, and families. They shall refrain from any conduct that degrades, baits, intimidates, or otherwise discredits team members, coaches, parents, opponents, and meet officials. If a swimmer or parent is found exhibiting un-sportsmanlike conduct, they may be asked to leave practice or a meet. Any further misconduct, and the family may be asked to leave the swim team with no monetary refund.

All swimmers and parents are expected to treat the coaches, parents, and fellow swimmers with respect at all times. This includes, but is not limited to...

- Following the coaches' directions at all times.
- Refraining from using inappropriate language, screaming, and engaging in negative attention-seeking behavior.
- Refraining from inappropriate touching or gestures.
- Respecting other swimmers, coaches, parents, opponents, and officials.
- Providing other swimmers with encouragement.
- Refraining from un-sportsmanlike conduct, as defined by the Durham Summer Swim League. "Unsportsmanlike conduct" includes the taunting of swimmers, coaches, and meet officials, and any other conduct that adversely affects the traditional spirit of fair competition, including a swimmer's refusal to give his or her name, coach's name and team affiliation when a meet official asks for this information. "Unsportsmanlike conduct" will also include any device that disrupts or interferes with the meet or swimmer such as laser pointing devices and artificial noisemakers including but not limited to whistles, cowbells, kazoos, drums, etc. These devices may not be used once a meet starts.

The Fairfield Fins are committed to providing a safe environment for everyone. Swimmers who choose to behave in an inappropriate manner will be disciplined in the following manner:

STEP ONE: The swimmer will receive a verbal warning.

STEP TWO: The swimmer will be required to sit out in a designated area for a period of time or required to perform additional dry land exercise (i.e. push-up, lunges, sit-ups).

STEP THREE: The swimmer is removed from practice to have a discussion with the coach(es), and the parent is notified of the objectionable behavior.

STEP FOUR: If the undesirable behavior persists, or occurs again at a subsequent practice, the swimmer will be removed for the remainder of the practice, and a meeting will be held with the coach(es), swimmer, that swimmer's parent(s) and a parent representative. The swimmer, parent(s), coach(es), and parent representative will discuss the discipline problems, how to curb this behavior, and future options for the swimmer. These options may include, but are not limited to cleaning detail during practice(s), missing practices and/or meets, or being removed from the team entirely.

If a situation occurs where a swimmer is endangering themselves or other swimmers, swimmers may be escalated up to and including STEP FOUR, with the agreement of the Coaching Staff and Parent Reps.

_____/_____ Swimmer Name (date) _____/_____ Parent Name (date)

**AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION
IN
DURHAM SUMMER SWIM LEAGUE**

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the Durham Summer Swim League, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

1. The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injuries does exist; and,
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or other, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS DURHAM SUMMER SWIM LEAGUE, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("Releasees"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Printed Name of Participant _____

Participant's Signature (18 and over) _____

Date _____

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINOR AGE (UNDER 18 AT TIME OF CHAMPIONSHIP)

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above, of all Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in those programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR OWN NEGLIGENCE.

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____