

November 24, 2008

Dear Member,

As you know, our pool is shared by many parties. As a not-for-profit, it is our mission to serve the community. We try to create a balanced schedule for our lap swimming members, swim school, free community programs and obligated space to private schools and other organizations by long-term contract.

As a membership club, we value your business. It is our intention to make as much swim time and space available for you that we can. However, there is a balance that must be struck between programming and membership. To this end, please note that it is necessary for members to share lanes with one another and respect Asphalt Green lap swim etiquette.

Lap Swim Etiquette

Circle swimming is required at all times. Splitting the lane is strictly prohibited, regardless of the number of swimmers in the lane. Please swim on the right side of the lane to allow the incumbent swimmers to continue their workout without disruption from entering swimmers.

One 25-yard lane can comfortably accommodate six to eight swimmers when everyone practices circle swimming.

Before entering the pool...

- Make note of “Fast, Medium and Slow” lane designations.
- Spend a few minutes observing and roughly timing the per-lap pace of swimmers already in the pool.
- Select a lane with swimmers moving as closely as possible to the pace that one *realistically* expects to swim *throughout* his/her entire workout.

Incumbent swimmers have the *initial* right of way, but not a right to ‘own’ the lane indefinitely or to not follow pool rules.

When passing...

- An overtaking swimmer should gently but distinctly touch the feet of the swimmer being overtaken. It may take two or three touches, but overtaking swimmers should not need to repeatedly slap or grab at the legs of a slower swimmer to make their presence known.
- Swimmers enjoying a draft behind a strong lead swimmer, but who are just barely able to hold that pace should think twice before tagging their leader’s toes. This can lead to repeated “leap-frogging” and unnecessary contact, which can be annoying and disruptive to everyone in the lane.
- Drafting swimmers *not* wishing to pass should swim far enough back from a lead swimmer that they don’t inadvertently touch the lead swimmer’s toes.
- Overtaking swimmers should not attempt to swim ‘wide’ past a slower swimmer.

When being passed...

- A lead swimmer who feels a touch of the feet from an overtaking swimmer, should *continue to the next wall, then stop in the corner of the lane* to let the faster swimmer(s) pass.
- A swimmer who has been touched on the feet should move to a *corner* of the lane as soon as they get to the next wall.
- Swimmers being overtaken should *never* stop in the middle of the pool, nor should they continue beyond the next wall.
- Swimmers being overtaken should not attempt to speed up once “tagged”.
- If two or more swimmers are closely matched in pace they should position themselves at opposite ends of a lane or agree on how to share the lead.

All swimmers should...

- Keep toenails and fingernails closely trimmed and not wear a watch or protruding jewelry.
- Be aware of how 'wide' stroke mechanics may impact adjacent swimmers.
- Carefully check for the position and speed of other swimmers in the lane before entering a lane.
- Do not 'water-run' or 'aqua-jog' in lap lanes – unless the pool is nearly empty.

As you know, there are no lanes designated to member lap swim from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. However, we recognize that there are times when lanes go unused beyond 3:30pm or become available before 5:30pm. In such cases, swimmers will be allowed to continue beyond 3:30pm and will be expected to exit the pool immediately when instructed, to allow the next group to enter. Additionally, swimmers will be allowed to enter the pool early and use empty space that school groups leave vacant with permission of the Aquatics Manager.

The new pool schedule is attached and will be effective December 1st. We've made some changes to lane allocation in an effort to maintain a safe swimming environment and provide a balance between member and program use. Specifically, we have allocated an additional lane to our AGUA Swimming Team from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Monday through Friday and one additional lane to AGUA/Swim School from 10:00am to 2:30pm on Saturday. This change was made as a result of a detailed lane use analysis. We will continue to monitor lane use and will revisit the schedule as needed.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Questions/comments/concerns? Contact Karlee Darby, Aquatics Director, at 212-369-8890 ext 2242 or, Kdarby@asphaltgreen.org

Sincerely,

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