



HARTFORD SWIMMING

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ATTENDANCE AND LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

If you want to be a full-fledged member of this squad, you must make it to every practice. Obviously, there are situations which take precedence. These are:

- **ACADEMICS** (school work that absolutely must occur from 3:00-5:05pm)
- **FAMILY FUNCTIONS** (functions that absolutely must occur from 3:00-5:05pm. Truly important functions, not just "Uncle Bob's in town, so we're going out for fish." 5:05pm isn't that late.)
- **CHURCH**

"JOBS," you will notice, is not on this list. Athletes for decades have been able to hold jobs while still maintaining their training schedules. I am not understating the importance of earning money, but it is my hope that most parents and employers understand that high school is over before you know it, and it would be unfair for a parent or employer to compromise a teenager's ability to be involved with these extraordinarily healthy, character building, and fun activities. After all, unfortunately, the opportunities for team involvement are very limited once a student graduates.

"OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES" is also not on this list. This is where things get a bit hairy. These conflicts will be dealt with on an individual basis, and I think that I am reasonably flexible. Read on.

Here's my philosophy on the subject: Swimming, quite simply, is the toughest, yet most elegant sport there is. Swimmers work as hard, usually harder, than any other sports team. Unfortunately, the swimming team often doesn't receive as much respect as it ought to. My attendance policy simply holds swimming to the same level as football, basketball, etc. On any of those teams, you will not find anybody in games who miss practices because they are involved in other extracurricular activities. There is no way I can accept the notion that we are any less of a sport than, say, the wrestling team. No Way.

So - those of you involved in other activities have some tough decisions to make, I'm afraid. Our attendance policy is simple: If you miss practices for any reason besides academics, family, church, and of course, illness, you will not compete in the next meet. If that still seems unfair, please re-read this letter.

It all comes down to commitment. Nothing is worth doing if it's only done half-way. Every time we exit the pool, we, as a team, do so with the highest level of self-respect.

NOTIFY THE COACHING STAFF IF YOU WILL MISS OR BE LATE FOR PRACTICE FOR ANY REASON.

- When a parent calls attendance to excuse the student, please tell the attendance secretary to notify the swim coach.*
 - If a swimmer leaves school because of illness, please drop a note in my mailbox in the office.*
- *otherwise, a parent or swimmer can call the phone extension above or email me.

LETTERING REQUIREMENTS-

Score varsity points in four meets,
or score in the WLT Varsity Conference Meet, (you have to beat at least one varsity swimmer, though)
or participate in Sectionals Meet.
or put up with this insane sport for four years.