



# HARTFORD SWIMMING

PETE MEINBERG - Head Coach

Hartford Union High School  
805 Cedar Street  
Hartford, Wisconsin 53027-2399

phone: (262)670-3346  
fax: (262)673-8943  
[pete.meinberg@huhs.org](mailto:pete.meinberg@huhs.org)

## 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** (it would be unwise to compete with God)

"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. Bowling leagues. Rec softball. ...Not the hilarious screaming crowds you experience in high school.

"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 football 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.

THE COACHING STAFF WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK UP ORDINARY ABSENCES ON SKYWARD. NONETHELESS, PLEASE FEEL ENCOURAGED TO COMMUNICATE ABSENCES AHEAD OF TIME TO US THROUGH [PETE.MEINBERG@HUHS.ORG](mailto:PETE.MEINBERG@HUHS.ORG) OR [MARCIE.NORTON@HUHS.ORG](mailto:MARCIE.NORTON@HUHS.ORG). IT SAVES US THE GUESS-WORK WHEN CONTEMPLATING THE ATHLETE'S LOCATION AND WELL-BEING.

### LETTERING REQUIREMENTS-

Score varsity points in four meets,  
or score in the WLT Varsity Conference Meet,  
or participate in the Sectionals Meet.  
or put up with this insane sport for four years.