

Mount Desert Island YMCA Sharks Swim Team



October 15, 2018

Dear Swimmers and Parents,

Welcome to the 2018-19 swim season, which begins on Monday, October 22. Last year we finished fourth at the Maine YMCA State Championship and the sixth at Maine USA Winter Swimming Championships (formerly JO's). In order to succeed we are looking to have all the swimmers return from last year's team and for many new swimmers to join the Sharks. We will let anyone try the team for a week to see if this is something that they would like to continue, so help get the word out to all that swim team is for everyone. The annual 'Bring A Friend Week' will be from November 5 – 9.

The swim team program fees for 2018-19 swim season (which includes the entry fees into all YMCA Meets) are listed below. Swimmers are required by the YMCA league to be current annual members of the MDI YMCA. The Sharks and the YMCA have autodraft plans through one's checking account or credit card to spread out the payments. When registering at the member service desk you can ask about this program. The MDI Y offers the membership for all programs to those whose income levels fall below certain levels; you may inquire about the reduced fee program at the member service desk as well. The MDI Y hopes that all will be able to take part in the program and does offer some scholarships to those who qualify. Our highly successful program is a great bargain for the amount of pool time and the quality of our swim coaching staff.

MDI Sharks Program Fees

Gold Team - \$480 or \$180 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$75

1st year members on Sharks \$400 or \$180 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$55

Green Team - \$360 or \$180 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$45

1st year members on Sharks \$300 or \$180 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$30

Senior Team - \$240 or \$120 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$30

This year the Maine Y League will offer 5 dual meets (3 home and 2 away). We request that all the Shark swimmers swim at the YMCA Dual Meets. Our first 2 dual meets will be away, on November 17 we will be swimming at the Northern York County Y in Biddeford with the Manta Rays and on December 1 we will be swimming at the Long Reach Swim Club in Bath. Our home meets will be with Downeast Family Y on December 15, Bangor Y on January 5 and Kennebec Valley Y on January 19. We will also be hosting the 35th Annual MDI Y Sprint meet on November 18 and the Lenny DeMuro Invitational on February 10.

The Maine State YMCA Championships (our team's big meet) will be held on March 1 – 3 at the University of Maine. The format for the Y State meet is; on Friday night, the 13-14 and Senior Girls will swim in session 1. On Saturday, session 2 will be 9-10 & 11-12 Boys, session 3 will be 9-10 Girls, and Session 4 will be 13-14 and Senior Boys. On Sunday, session 5 will be the 8 & under Girls & Boys and Session 6 will be the 11-12 Girls. As usual, we will need all of the swimmers on the team to compete at the State Meet but they must first make sure that they compete in 3 Y meets. The complete MDI Y Sharks meet schedule is attached and can be found on our website at www.mdiysharks.com

Morning practices have begun. We offer a 6:00 – 7:00am practice Monday – Friday for High School/Middle School swimmers and a 6:30 – 7:30am for Middle School swimmers. Saturday morning practice w/breakfast will begin on November 3.

On **Wednesday, November 14** a swim team parents' informational meeting & pot luck dinner will be held from **5:15 – 7:15 pm in at the YMCA**. We will also have a practice meet during Green team that evening for the younger swimmers and for parents to try timing for the 1st time. All new parents will meet from 5:30 – 6:15pm to learn about the swim team and returning parents will meet from 6:30 – 7:15pm. We will post a list of items needed the week before, both on the team website and on the pool bulletin board needed for the dinner. We really need to see all families represented at this meeting. Topics at the dinner/meeting will include the program goals & philosophies; swim meets and travel; USA Swimming; the fee structure; volunteers; Aqua-thon; and the Sharks handbook.

The Sharks are always in need of a few good (Great) officials. This year we are required to have at least 1 – but more would be better – USA Swim Officials to swim as a team at the Winter Champs (formerly JO's). There will be an YMCA & High School Official's clinic (both Level 1 & Level 2) on Sunday, October 21 at Husson University in Bangor at 8:00am. If you interested or have any questions about officials training, please contact me.

Communication is the cornerstone of any competitive swim team. The Sharks website (www.mdiysharks.com) contains valuable information on the Sharks Swim Team. Weekly newsletters and other updates are emailed to all families as well posted on the web. Postponements/cancellations/late breaking news are emailed to all as well as posted on Mount Desert Island YMCA Sharks Facebook page. We also maintain a presence on Instagram and Snap Chat. Newsupdates are available weekly via email along w/meet signups and other important information. Our swim team bulletin board is used for meet/concessions signups as posting meets results and other important information.

All swimmers should have the following pieces of equipment when they come to practice. Swimmers must have a **bathing suit** (does not have to be a team suit), **goggles**, and for those who need/like one, a **bathing cap**. From time to time, we do use fins at practice, swimmers may bring their own to practice or find a pair in the storage room. Please remember to put names on all of the above items, plus anything else (towels, clothes, bags) that you bring to the YMCA. We will be working with swimoutlet.com for all of our team needs. There is a link on our website to allow Shark families to order directly with swimoutlet.com. We do operate a team store a few nights each week selling caps, goggles, goggle straps and some suits.

This is my eighteenth season as MDI YMCA Sharks Head Coach and my 35th year of coaching. Tony DeMuro, the MDI High School coach, will be the Head Assistant Coach for the 17th year in a row. Rob Benson will be helping out from time to time when he is able to get to the pool. This the most experienced coaching staff on the island and within the sport of swimming in the state of Maine. We are always looking for one or more people to help with the team during practices. We could also use some help at the five home meets to round up the swimmers for their events.

The WeeSharks will swim during the Holiday Session (October 23 – December 21). This group is for new swimmers who would like an introduction to competitive swimming and for children that do not want to make the commitment to the Sharks team. Practices will be from 4:15 – 5:00pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Members can come once per week (\$60/session) or twice per week (\$90/session) and non-members fees are once per week (\$120) or twice per week (\$180). WeeSharks are not be offered in January for the Winter Session. We do offer the option for the WeeSharks to join the Sharks for the rest of the season in January at a discounted rate.

This should be another great swim season, and hope to see everyone in the water soon. For the swimmers that are still involved with the Fall Sport Season, they can begin on October 22nd or begin swimming as soon as their sport is completed. For your convenience, I have enclosed/attached the registration form. The 2018-2019 MDI YMCA Sharks registration form is necessary for emergency information while at swim practice and meets. The Program Registration Form should be completed and returned to the Member Service Desk or to the coaches as soon as possible.

I can be reached at 288-3511 or sharks@mdiyymca.org if you have any questions. Please check out our website www.mdiysharks.com for updated information and links to other swim sites on the web.

I look forward to seeing you,

Jim Willis
Sharks Head Coach