

Mount Desert Island YMCA Sharks Swim Team



October 17, 2019

Dear Swimmers and Parents,

Welcome to the 2019-20 swim season, which begins on Monday, October 21. Last year we finished third at the Maine YMCA State Championship and were the runners-up while winning the Boys title at Maine USA Winter Swimming Championships. 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 4 – 8.

The swim team program fees for 2019-20 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 program' 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 - \$500 or \$200 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$75

1st year members on Sharks \$420 or \$200 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$55

Green Team - \$375 or \$200 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$43.75

1st year members on Sharks \$320 or \$200 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$30

Senior Team - \$250 or \$130 at registration and 4 monthly drafts @ \$30

This year the Maine Y League will offer 5 dual meets (2 home and 3 away) plus 1 home tri-meet. We request that all the Shark swimmers swim at the YMCA Dual/Tri Meets. We will be home on November 16 against the Penobscot Bay (Camden) Sailfish, away on December 7 at Kennebec Valley (Augusta) Stingrays, away at Downeast Family (Ellsworth) Dolphins on December 21, home against Long Reach (Bath) Snaildarters on January 4, away at Bangor Barracudas on January 18 and at home for our 1st tri-meet with Waldo County (Belfast) Blue Fish and Canoe City (Old Town) on Feb 1. We will also be hosting the 36th Annual MDI Y Sprint meet on November 17 and the Lenny DeMuro Invitational on February 9.

The Maine State YMCA Championships (our team's big meet) will be held February 28 – March 1 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 on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Beginning in November, we will offer an AM practice each weekday. Swimmers should arrive at either 6:00 or 6:30am and expect a 1-hour workout.

On **Thursday, November 14** a swim team parents' informational meeting will be held from **5:30 – 7:30 pm in at the YMCA**. All new parents will meet from 5:45 – 6:30pm to learn about the swim team and returning parents will meet from 6:30 – 7:30pm. We really need to see all families represented at this meeting, it is the only required meeting during the season. Topics at the meeting will include the program goals & philosophies; swim meets and travel; timers & concessions signups; USA Swimming; the fee structure; volunteers; Aqua-thon; and the Sharks handbook.

Any parents interested in timing should come to Green practice on Wednesday, November 13. We will be running a quick mini-meet to get the swimmers ready for their 1st set of meets that weekend.

The Sharks are always in need of a few good (Great) officials. There will be an YMCA & High School Official's clinic (both Level 1 & Level 2) on Sunday, October 27 at Husson University in Bangor at 8:00am. The Sharks will reimburse all fees for officials training. We also need volunteers to officiate at USA-S meets, if interested please contact Jim.

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 nineteenth season as MDI YMCA Sharks Head Coach and my 36th year of coaching. Tony DeMuro, has moved on to coach at the Maine Maritime Academy. Rob Benson and Tony will be helping out from time to time when they get a chance to get to the pool. More information on additions to the coaching staff will be announced early next week.

The WeeSharks will swim during the Holiday Session (October 29 – December 19). 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 4:45 – 5:30pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Member's fees for once per week (\$60/session) or twice per week (\$90/session) while non-member's 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 21st or begin swimming as soon as their sport/activity is completed. For your convenience, I have enclosed/attached the registration form. The 2019-2020 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