

DICKINSON GATOR SWIM CLUB

2022 Handbook

www.dickinsongatorswim.org



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WELCOME

The Dickinson Gator Swim Club would like to extend a special “Welcome” to all new team members and parents. We hope you find this program an enjoyable way to spend a part of your summer. To our returning team members and parents, we wish you an extra special “Welcome Back”! We are glad you decided to join us again for another great summer of swim team fun.

This handbook provides both new and returning members with important information about the Gators to make your participation with the team both enjoyable and satisfying. We ask all team members and parents to please read through this handbook. When you have questions, please ask any board member or coach. We want your involvement with the Gators to be as fulfilling and fun for you as it is for each of us.

Coaches and Board of Directors

Gator Swim Coaches

Head Coach	Jay Godfrey - jaygodfrey3640@gmail.com
Assistant Head Coach	Jason Lind-Olson

Gator Board of Directors

A Board of Directors, consisting of elected volunteers manages the swim team. Board Members serve two-year terms and generally have multiple responsibilities for swim meet and practice operations. For your convenience, the Board of Directors and their offices are listed below:

President:	Callie Harmon – dkgatorspresident@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Rilee Born – dkgatorstreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary:	Lisa Volk
CCSL Representative:	Tonya Walker
CCSL Representative:	Chanel John
Fundraising Coordinator:	Kelley Trahan
Sponsorship Coordinator:	Melissa Fragia - missyab1979@gmail.com
Member At Large:	Taylor Ester
Member At Large:	Kyle Born
*Clerk of Course:	Rilee Born – dkgatorsclerk@gmail.com
*Lead Official:	John Harmon

Meetings & Elections:

The Board of Directors is elected at the annual member meeting which is held in conjunction with the end of the season pool party. The pool party date will be announced later in the season. All swim parents are encouraged to attend and vote.

The board members dedicate many hours of volunteer time to ensure the success of the program. Planning and organizational meetings are held throughout the calendar year. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the 2023 swim season, please let one of the current board members know, so your name can be added to the ballot.

All general questions can be submitted via email to dkgatorsclerk@gmail.com or to a board member during practice. Questions or issues with the website can be directed to the same email as above.

General Information

Objective:

The Dickinson Gator Swim Club's primary objective is to provide a competitive summer swim program for youth 18 and younger residing in Galveston County. Secondly, but no less important, the objective is to maintain and operate this organization and team at the highest possible level of *FUN!* We guarantee your children will come away from this experience with improved self-esteem and fond memories of good times for the summer.

The Fastest 60 Days of the Year!

The Gator swim season begins on the first Monday in May and ends July with the CCSL Champ Series meet.

Swim Meet Duration:

(How long does it last?) Assume the mindset that these events are routine Saturday picnics. Make them fun outings for the whole family. Regular CCSL swim meets, held on Saturdays, are from 6:45 AM until around 12:00 noon. Some meets may last longer depending on the size of the teams and their attendance.

Items to Take to Swim Meets:

Don't forget these items: water, lawn chairs, sunscreen, EZ-up shade-tents, blankets, pillows, umbrellas, games, books, coolers and healthy snacks. Concessions will also be available at all home meets, and most away meets.

Eligibility:

Swimmers are eligible to join the Gators if they 6-18 years of age on May 1, 2022 and can swim 25 yards. To join the team for the first time, a swimmer must be able to swim one length of a 25-yard pool independently.

Registration Fees:

It costs a lot of money to run a swim team. Part of belonging to any organization includes the responsibility to raise the money necessary for the group to operate. Income to meet these expenses comes from registration, voluntary fundraising events and corporate sponsorships. Each year, the Gator Board of Directors evaluates the teams projected budget and sets the registration fees.

Registration fees for individuals and families for the 2022 season for are as follows:

1st Swimmer:	\$140.00
2nd Swimmer:	\$120.00
Additional Swimmers:	\$70.00/ea.
Verified High School Swimmers:	\$70.00

Your registration fee includes the following:

- ✓ Team t-shirt
- ✓ Team swim cap
- ✓ End of season team party
- ✓ Ribbons and Awards
- ✓ Website access for meet results, swimmer stats, and online meet signup

In addition to the above, registration fees help off-set the following overhead expenses:

- ✓ DCA Pool rental
- ✓ CCSL League fees
- ✓ Team/Pool Insurance for the Year
- ✓ Coaches' Salaries
- ✓ Website, software, and team administrative fees
- ✓ Senior scholarships

Registration fees must be paid and registration forms completed prior to practicing. Two (2) test practices will be allowed before registration, upon approval by the Board. A \$5.00/day non-refundable fee will be due before each additional practice, if a longer test period is needed.

CCSL (Clear Creek Swim League) rules require swimmers to register by the Monday preceding a Saturday swim meet to be eligible to compete in the swim meet. Registration is opened each year on March 20th and will close on June 15th. Full fees are required for late registrants.

Refund Policy:

A \$20 per swimmer registration fee will be assessed on all requested refunds before June 1st. After the first meet, the maximum registration refund will be \$70.

Team Membership:

Upon full payment of registration fees, families become eligible to vote for members nominated to the Board of Directors at the annual end of season party.

Each family will be allotted one (1) vote.

Family Service Requirement:

It takes 75+ parents to “run” a swim meet. One parent or child over the age of 15 from each family will be required to work at each swim meet a child is participating in this year. Do not worry if you do not have experience; we will train you! Please refer to the Parent Participation section of this handbook and our team website to find a list of jobs.

Voluntary Fundraising Activities:

Any fundraising activities held throughout the season are completely voluntary. We try to make these events fun for both our swimmers and their families.

This year we will be selling “World’s Finest Chocolate” - Chocolate Covered Almonds. The almonds will be distributed by the case (2 boxes) to each swimmer; a single case for one swimmer families and two cases for multi-swimmer families. Each individual box of almonds is \$2, and each case will collect \$120. Fundraiser money is due by June 15th. Swimmers have the option to sell more than one case if they wish and will be entered into a drawing for each additional case sold! The drawing will take place at the end of the season pool party.

If you wish to buy-out of the fundraiser, you may do so. The buy-out fee is \$60 and is due by May 15th.

Related Organizations:

The Dickinson Gator Swim Club is part of the Clear Creek Swimming League, Inc. (CCSL). For details on CCSL see www.ccslswim.org .

2022 Practice Schedule & Rules

Splash-In Day Pool Party:

Parents and swimmers are invited to a pool party, meet & greet and parent meeting on the first day of practice. The League allows every team to “Splash-In” on the first Monday in May of each year, so let’s start the year off with some fun!

Full Team Practice: Begins the first Monday in May 2022

Swimmers will be grouped according to age groups and/or ability as determined by the coach. These guidelines are to provide your swimmer(s) with the optimum opportunity for practices. Swimmers may be asked to join a different practice group, depending on skill-level, once the season begins.

Practice Schedule:

Group:	Days:	Times:
A - Ages 6-8	Mon-Thurs	5:30-6:15 PM
B - Ages 9-12	Mon-Thurs	6:15-7:00 PM
C - Ages 13-18	Mon-Thurs	7:00-8:00 PM

Practice Rules:

1. Arrive 5-10 minutes before your designated practice session. Starting practice late or in the middle of a session is distracting to other swimmers and the coaches. Latecomers may not be able to swim.
2. Absolutely no horseplay, such as running, diving, or pushing people in the pool, etc.
3. Absolutely no use of profanity or other vulgar expressions.
4. Absolutely no fighting or hitting.
5. Listen to and obey all instructions given by coaches or board members.
6. Perform the practice workout routine (sets) instructed by the coaches.
7. Obey all rules and regulations of the DCA.
8. Discipline in the form of “sitting out of practice” will be enforced by coaches or board members if there are persistent behavior problems.

Swim Meet Procedures (CCSL Regular Meets)

Sign Up (Mandatory & No Exceptions):

A swimmer or parent must “enter” each swim meet. Meets will be signed up for online and should be entered before by 11:59 PM the Monday prior to the meet. Meet sign up is for the entire meet, including the relays. Swimmers will be placed in relay events at the discretion of the coaches.

How to Sign Up for the Meets:

To register for a meet, go to the team website and click on the Parent Portal tab. Here you will be directed to Swim Manager. It may take a minute for the page to load, and you may be required to sign in with your username and password. Once in this system, you will see Meets across the top. Click that tab and work your way through the registration process for each meet. Please accept or decline attending each meet. This enables them to create meet entries knowing that your swimmer(s) will or will not be able to attend.

For your swimmer to participate in a meet, you must register your swimmer online by 11:59 PM the Monday before the Saturday swim meet. If you miss the sign up deadline, please let a board member or coach know, sooner rather than later. You will not be able to register online after the Monday deadline.

You may choose the individual races for your swimmer. Relays will be chosen by the coaches. Please know that the decision of what a swimmer swims in the relay is ultimately up to the coaches. We have complete confidence in our coaches, and know that they will put each child in the stroke for which they are best suited.

Scratch Fee:

After a swimmer is entered (signed up) in a swim meet, the swimmer should not miss the swim meet except for sudden illness or family emergency. A Scratch Fee of \$20.00 per swimmer will be assessed if you do not contact a coach by 8:00pm on the Friday before the meet. A swimmer who is entered in a meet, but fails to show up creates confusion and unnecessary extra work for the host team, clerk of course, and our coaches. If your child is scratched from a meet, she/he will not be able to swim in the next meet until the \$20.00 no-show fee has been paid.

Meet Check-In:

Arrive at meets by 6:45AM for check-in and warm-ups. If you do not check in, we

do not know you are there. The Meet Check-In Coordinator will have people at the meet to check off swimmers on the meet entry list and write the swimmer's event numbers and strokes on their arms. The coaches will also arrive at this time to handle our team's warm up practice. It is extremely important for all swimmers to warm-up, count their strokes from the backstroke flags (pools may be slightly different), and be ready to swim when their events are called. If a swimmer fails to show-up by 7:00 AM, the coaches and team clerk must work to revise our meet entry lists, relays, etc. prior to starting the swim meet, which can be very time consuming. If you know you will be running late, please let us know as soon as possible.

Team/Tent Area:

All swimmers are responsible to report to the "Ready Area" on time. For this reason, all swimmers should be in the Gator team area during the meet. Event numbers will be posted, and it is the swimmer's responsibility to watch for their event number and report to the ready area. All events will start on schedule whether or not all swimmers are present in the ready area or on the starting blocks.

Ribbons/Awards:

The ribbons will be placed into the swimmer's file by Wednesday evening following the meet. Swimmers and parents may collect the ribbons from the swimmer's envelope each week. If there is a problem with a ribbon, please let the parent liaison know via email (in writing) as soon as possible.

Questions or Complaints:

CCSL rules prohibit parents or swimmers from direct discussions with the referee, officials, or judges. During swim meets, any and all questions or complaints about the actions of the opposing teams or officials must be directed to the Gator's team Meet Representative or a Board Member.

Permission to Leave the Meet Early:

Leaving a meet early, without prior notice is only acceptable for sudden illness or family emergencies. A single swimmer leaving the meet early will most likely cause three (3) other swimmers and their families to be disappointed since we cannot swim a relay without all four (4) swimmers. If sudden illness or a family emergency occurs, please contact the head coach or a board member before leaving.

If you know in advance that your swimmer will be unable to attend the entire meet, please let the coaches know the Monday before the meet. This will ensure that your swimmer is not placed in relay events they cannot attend.

Bad Weather:

A meet will not generally be cancelled because of bad weather. Please attend the meets regardless of the weather forecast. In cases of consistent bad weather, the decision to cancel will be made by the host team and will be made by 5:00AM the morning of the meet.

Waivers & Agreements

These waivers and consents were agreed to during registration.

Digital Media Waiver:

I consent for myself, my family members, and my child to be photographed or any have any other digital images taken and to be used for any media (team website, brochures, social media sites).

Fundraiser Agreement:

I agree that if I choose to participate in the team fundraiser and choose not to “buy out”; I will be responsible for the full amount due by the due date whether or not I have sold all of the fundraiser. I agree that I will not return any unsold fundraiser to the Dickinson Gator Swim team. Once I have received my fundraiser, I will no longer have the option to “buy out”.

Volunteer Agreement:

I understand that swim meets are run entirely by parent volunteers. I agree to volunteer for at least 1 job at each swim meet. I agree to sign up on-line before each meet, show up and work my shift(s). I understand that I may be asked to work more than 1 shift per meet. I agree to be flexible and understand that the job I signed up for may change the day of the meet.

Medical Waiver:

I give my permission for any board member, coach or team administrator associated with the Dickinson Gator Swim Club to seek and give appropriate medical attention for my child in the event of an accident or injury. I will be responsible for any and all costs associated with necessary medical attention/treatment. I waive and release the Dickinson Gator Swim Club, board members, team administrators, and Dickinson Civic Association pool from all rights and claims for damages from injury, or loss to person or property which may

be sustained or occur during participation in swim team activities whether or not damages or loss is due to negligence.

I agree to supervise or designate a responsible party (other than the coach, assistant coach or board member) to supervise my child before, during and after all practices and meets (either home or away).

My child is/are physically fit and capable to participate in all Dickinson Gator Swim Club activities.

Code of Conduct

Parent Code of Conduct:

I hereby pledge that:

- I will provide positive support, care and encouragement for my swimmers participating in the Clear Creek Swim League.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all swimmers, coaches, and officials at every meet, practice, or other CCSL events.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my swimmer ahead of personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will demand an environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all CCSL sanctioned activities.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my swimmer in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will do my best to assist with the functions of meets knowing that without volunteers, there can be no event.
- I will ask my child to treat other swimmers, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- I promise to communicate through the team coach or other team representative. I understand that concerns and constructive criticisms are welcome and should be expressed away from swimmers.
- I promise to share my concerns pertaining to the behavior of meet officials, coaches, spectators or other volunteers with the appropriate League Representative.

- I promise to fulfill my financial obligations.

Swimmer Code of Conduct:

I hereby pledge that:

- I will accept responsibility for my participation by following this Swimmer's Code of Conduct Pledge.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow swimmers, coaches, officials and parents at every meet and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, other swimmers, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to have fun during my CCSL experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun!
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all CCSL sanctioned activities.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I will do my very best in school.
- I will remember that swimming is an opportunity to learn and have fun.

Parent Participation Responsibilities

Parent participation is the heart of our organization. Participating as an adult in the Gator organization can be a fun and fulfilling experience. It takes 75+ parents to "run" a swim meet. Parent volunteers will be required to work at the meets in which their children participate throughout the season. There are multiple opportunities with various duties and time commitments. No experience is necessary!

Families must have at least one volunteer for each meet if you have swimmers participating. Volunteers for the family can be 15 years old or older, and can be any family member or friend willing to volunteer that day. Only one volunteer per family is required, even with multiple swimmers. If you know you will not be

available to volunteer at a meet where you have a swimmer, it is imperative that you communicate this with the Volunteer Coordinator prior to the meet. Empty positions will be filled on the Thursday before the meet and will not be changed once finalized. If you have a last minute conflict, you are responsible for filling your position.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to those parents, guardians, and friends who do give so much of their time to this quality program for our children. Without the help of our Gator parents these meets would not be possible.

Parent Participation Opportunities

The following positions do not require any experience and are a great way to get involved with the team. These are just a few examples of what jobs we have available:

Setup/Cleanup:

At home meets: Set out (and later return) chairs and tables for swimmers, timers, and scorers. At away meets: Setup (and later take down) team tents.

Concessions:

A key function to ensure the team raises funds to keep our registration fees the lowest in the league. Work during home swim meets to setup concessions and clean up the concession area.

Ready Area Coordinators (1&2):

Coordinator #1 – Calls for and organizes swimmers by event and lane in the ready area. Coordinates ready area helpers. This requires good lungs and high tolerance for child chatter.

Coordinator #2 – Moves full groups of swimmers from ready area to the blocks. This requires a keen eye to keep swimmers from moving up too soon and swimming in wrong events, which may cause major delays in the meets. Coordinates ready area assistants.

Timers:

Time swimmers using the team provided stop watches and record the times on the heat log provided. Two timers will be in each lane and the Head Timer will have backup watches in the event you or your stopwatch misses a start or malfunctions. This is the best seat to watch a swim meet!

Head Timer:

Encourages parents to volunteer for timing during home and away meets; coordinates timers' schedules (usually two sessions per meet); coordinates runners; starts two or three extra stopwatches for timers who may miss a start or have malfunctioning stopwatches.

Runner:

A minimum of two, well-organized people to collect heat logs from timers and DQ slips from officials and delivers them to the scorers' table.

Head Scorer:

Determines official times from heat logs and coordinates computer entries.

Scorers:

Assist Head Scorer in verifying times from heat logs.

Floater:

Help fill in anywhere Volunteer Coordinator needs you.

The following positions require CCSL training and are integral to running a meet. This is a great way to get involved with the team. Please consider taking the training and helping the team. Training dates will be announced at the beginning of each season. Please see a board member if you are interested in attending training.

***Clerk Of Course (CCSL Training Required):**

Receives scratches and substitutions from coaches and makes appropriate changes to event entries, entry lists, and score sheets. This person also combines events, when possible, to keep the meet duration as short as possible and determines eligibility of swimmers.

***Starters (CCSL Training Required):**

Calls swimmers to the blocks, starts each heat of races, calls false starts and possibly some stroke and turns.

***Referees (CCSL Training Required):**

Senior official at swim meets responsible for (final authority) all decisions and rule interpretations. Starter and Referee may be the same person during a swim meet.

***Stroke & Turn Judges (CCSL Training Required):**

Responsible to judge (generally four lanes) the technical form of the swimmers'

strokes and turns in accordance with league rules. You are responsible to disqualify and explain disqualification to swimmers in an effort to improve the swimmers' performance.

Personal Equipment

Swimsuit Requirements:

Girls — Wear one-piece (competition style) swimsuits to all swim meets and practices. *Two-piece suits are not allowed.*

Boys — Wear competition swimsuits to all swim meets and practices. Board shorts are not recommended.

Caps & Goggles:

Swim caps and goggles are highly recommended. You will find that both are generally essential to a productive swim season.

Caps — for boys and girls, caps help reduce the effects of chlorine on hair. The experienced swimmer knows that caps are effective in reducing drag in the water.

Goggles — Goggles are very effective in eliminating eye irritation caused by chlorine. It is a good idea to keep a few pairs of extra goggles in your car or bag for emergencies.

Team Swimsuits:

This season we are welcoming a new team swim suit; the TYR Alliance Splice! Swim Shops of Southwest will be at the pool on May 23rd from 5-7 with a whole set-up of swim gear. Girls suits will be \$50 and boys \$38 (+tax). We realize that swimsuits are an additional expense; therefore the team suits are always optional.

We recommend that meet swimsuits be worn only during the swim meets to preserve the life of the suit. Practice suits tend to take a beating, and do not last more than a year. Ask any experienced swim parent about proper care and maintenance of swimsuits, caps, and goggles.

Team T-Shirts and Swim Caps:

Team t-shirts and swim caps for swimmers are included in the registration fee. At registration, you must select the size for your swimmer and indicate it on the registration form. Each child will receive a swim cap with the team logo on it. Wearing a team cap helps identify Gator swimmers during their events. Once a swimmer accomplishes Reserve or Champ time, a new swim cap will be supplied with Reserve or Champ noted on the cap to show off their success.

Additional Information

Merchandise:

To promote team spirit, t-shirts are available for purchase by parents, grandparents, siblings and even total strangers for \$20/ea. Team Shirts from previous years will be available for \$5.00/ea. “We Love Gator Swim” yard signs can be purchased for \$15/ea. and come with a metal stake for easy display your front yard. Additional swim caps may also be purchased for \$5/ea. Please see a Board Member for details.

Team & Individual Pictures:

Team and individual pictures will be taken and available for purchase. All swimmers should wear their team swimsuit or t-shirt for the individual photo and their team t-shirt for the group photo. Purchase of pictures is optional. However, we would love for all swimmers to please be in the team picture even if you don’t plan to purchase a copy.

Images Inc. will be at the pool on June 2nd at 5:00PM to take our pictures. An official time for the group photo is to be determined.

Champ Series:

The Champs Series is a two-day meet at the end of the season for swimmers who have met or surpassed the qualifying times established by CCSL. The first day will be for swimmers who have made Reserve time. Day two will be for swimmers who have qualified with a Champ time. Swimmers must swim in two sanctioned meets to be eligible for the Champ Series. Reserve & Champ times will be posted at the pool and swimmers will be notified if they have made a time or are very close to making time.

Swimmers who are close to making time, will be invited to the Last Chance Meet the Tuesday before Champ Series.

Communications:

We will make every effort to publish weekly on our social media pages and via email. Please be sure to provide an accurate email address at registration. Make sure to join our Facebook page and download the REMIND app at the beginning of each season.

Follow us on:

Facebook: @ Dickinson Gator Swim Team (private group)

@ The Dickinson Gator Swim Club (public page)

Instagram: @DickinsonGatorSwimTeam

Remind: Text @gataswim to 81010

Awards/Recognition:

Recognition will be given to swimmers for the following achievements:

{awards are subject to change}

- Most Improved
- Attaining Champ/Reserve times
- High Point Scorer
- Swimmers breaking CCSL and/or Gator records
- Meet Perfect Attendance
- Other recognitions as determined by coaching staff

Swimmers must attend at least two meets to be eligible for awards. Awards, certificates, and medals will be given to swimmers at the end of year party.

Dates to Remember:

May 22nd – Pool Clean Up Day

May 23rd – Swimsuit Sale

May 26th - (Graduation) No practice

May 30th - No Practice

July 4th – No Practice

July 7th – Last Day of Practice!

End of Year Party:

The Gators primary social event of the year is the end of season pool party and will be held at the conclusion of the season. This event also serves as our annual general membership meeting to elect new board members. Details and date will be posted when available.

2022 Meet Schedule

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Gator Mini Meet – Home Meet

Saturday, June 4, 2022

El Lago @ Dickinson – Home Meet

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Dickinson @ Nassau Bay

Nassau Bay Yacht Club

18250 Nassau Bay Dr.

Nassau Bay, TX 77058

Saturday, June 18, 2022

Dickinson @ Clear Lake City

Clear Lake Rec Center

16511 Diana Ln.

Houston, TX 77062

Saturday June 25, 2022

Dickinson @ Angleton

Angleton HS Aquatic Center

1 Stadium Drive

Angleton, TX 77515

(Behind the Visitors Side of the Stadium)

Saturday, July 9, 2022

Southbelt @ Dickinson – Home Meet

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Last Chance Meet @ Baytown RSS High School - (Optional)

{Swimmers Pay per Event}

Saturday, July 16, 2022 & Sunday, July 17, 2022

Champ Series (must qualify)

Location and Time – To be Determined

Home Meet Dining

Gator Concession Stand

Our Concession Stand will include, donuts and coffee, drinks (i.e. water, Gatorade, an Assortment of Caffeine), and snack items.

