

Welcome to the 2026-2027

Marlins Swim Team

It is the mission of Van Wert Marlins Swim Team to provide the youth of our community with a high-quality swim team and to promote the sport of competitive swimming in our area. We will create the opportunity for swimmers of all levels to develop mind, body, character and spirit and achieve the highest levels of personal growth as well as achievement in the sport.

This packet includes:

- Marlin Swim Information Sheet (keep for reference during the season)
- Meet Schedules (for your reference, sign up for meets using link below)

Complete the following forms online by October 5 (first day of practice)

- Family Information Sheet (1 per family): <https://forms.gle/372q22tV6dFYFRB1A>
- Meet Sign-Up/Signature Forms (1 per swimmer): <https://tinyurl.com/33sbc5nv>

Who is the Marlins Swim Club Boosters?

“The purpose of the Booster Club shall be to support, through programs and other activities, the Van Wert Marlins Swim Club and competitive swimming and diving generally in the Van Wert, Ohio area.”

“The parent(s) or guardian(s) of a swimmer or diver participating in Van Wert Marlins Swim Club programs shall become and remain a Booster Club member.”

President: Anita Smith

Vice President: Emily Holliday

Secretary: Kylee Moody

Treasurer: Kyle Holliday

At-large Members: Kyle Smith, Katie Drerup,
Kristen Pollock, Eric Muhlenkamp, 3 open spots

Van Wert Marlins Swim Team

Winter 2024/2025 Information

Coaches: Katie Drerup vanwertmarlins@gmail.com & Eric Muhlenkamp

Practice Schedule: Beginning October 5, 2025

- Monday, Tuesday & Thursday (subject to change depending on numbers and pool availability)
 - HS/MS - 3:30 - 5:00
 - Elementary - 4:00 - 5:00

Fee:

- **\$300 per swimmer payable to Van Wert Marlins Parent Booster Club.** Reduce the fee by \$50 per additional swimmer in the same family (\$250 second child, \$200 third, etc). High school swimmers who will only swim the beginning / end of season and switch to HS team, pay half: \$150
- **All fees need to be paid in full by Oct. 31.**
- Cash, check or Venmo (@VanWert-Marlins) accepted
- Please reach out to Katie if financial assistance is needed

Team Rules:

- **No bullying behaviors, negative attitudes or negative talk will be tolerated at any time from swimmers or parents.** Be positive, encourage your swimmer and your teammates, support our team and be involved.
- **Listen to coaches.** A coach's job is to help swimmers improve and keep them safe. Both require the swimmer's respect and attention.
- **No parents or spectators are allowed on deck during practice.** It is distracting for the kids. Feel free to watch from the observation area upstairs.
- **Respect our YM facility, our team equipment and the facilities we visit for meets.** Clean up your trash or mess after a meet. Help keep our team equipment in good condition.
- **If you are sick, do NOT come to practice.** Not only could we spread the sickness to others but practicing when you are sick has no benefit for the swimmer.
- **At LEAST one parent/adult for each swimmer must volunteer at meets.** Parent help is crucial for swim meets. Please do your share to support our team. If you are a first time parent, ask for help and we will train you.
- **Swimmers should sit as a team at meets.** This makes it easier for coaches to find swimmers and makes it more fun for the kids.
- **All swimmers must be able to swim the length of the pool.** This allows the coaches to spend more time teaching the other swimmers the strokes and keeps everyone safe.
- **All swimmers must be YMCA members.** For membership questions or information about YMCA scholarships, see Aquatic Director Martha Martin.

Attendance Requirements:

- Attendance at all practices is not mandatory BUT the more you practice, the better you will swim.
- Attendance at all the meets is not mandatory, however, attendance is strongly encouraged. Swimmers must attend 3 meets to compete at the Championship Meet. Please attend as many meets as possible. Our attendance at meets, especially away dual meets, is crucial to the success of our league.
- Notify Katie as soon as possible if you have a schedule change for a meet. Meet lineups are due several days in advance of meets and if your child is in a relay it is very difficult to change those lineups.

Communication:

- Sports You will be used for all communications
 - Download the App and use the code "P5WJ4H7A" or the QR code to the right to join
- Facebook: Van Wert Marlins Swim Team
- Northwest Ohio YMCA Swim League website:
https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?_tabid_=0&team=recnwoysl



Swim Meet Packing List - suggestions/information:

- Dual meets are generally 3 hours long. Invitationals are longer. Pack accordingly.
- Extra gear: goggles, swim suit, cap, towels, etc.
- Blanket & chairs (many times we are sitting in a gym away from the pool)
- Small games and things to keep the kids entertained during long days
- Healthy snacks and drinks/water
- Sharpies, highlighters and pens
- Cash for heat sheets and concessions if available
- Dry clothes including warm clothes (sweatshirt, sweatpants) because sometimes the gyms are cold.

Suits

- Every swimmer should have at least **2** suits. These suits should stay separate so the meet suit doesn't wear out as quickly and is tight on the swimmer.
 - Practice suit
 - Girls **MUST** have one piece suits.
 - Boys **MUST** have swim trunks – no cut offs. It is recommended boys wear a knee length "jammer" competition suit or a "speedo" style suit. Regular swim trunks are allowed but slow.
 - Meet suit
 - Team suit is the *Dolphin Uglier Crystalline*. You are strongly encouraged to buy the team suit. However, if it is not possible we ask that you wear either blue or black for meets.
- Do not machine wash (and NEVER machine dry) competition swimsuits. Hand wash and line dry.

Practice Equipment:

- Every swimmer should have 2 pairs of good goggles.
- Anyone with hair long enough to get in your eyes should have 2 swim caps. (The provided team cap may only be used at meets)

Meet Equipment:

- Every swimmer is provided with a team cap that should be worn to swim at every meet.
- It is recommended that every swimmer have back up suits with them at meets in case of emergency.

Team Store - SwimOutlet.com

- Access our team store at swimoutlet.com/collection/vwmarlins or the QR code.
- You are NOT required to order items from the online store
- Benefits of ordering for online team store
 - Convenience
 - Team earns commission to purchase equipment
 - FREE SwimOutlet+ Membership



2026-2027 Marlins Swim Meet Schedule

This sheet is for your reference only. Please complete the meet sign up form for each swimmer

<https://tinyurl.com/33sbc5nv>

Reminder: Simmer MUST swim 3 meets to be eligible for the championship meet.

Date	Location/Event	Plan to Attend?	
10/24/2026	Wapakoneta Invite (No 1st year swimmers)	_____ Yes	_____ No
11/7/2026	@ Putnam	_____ Yes	_____ No
11/14/2026	Lima Invitation (No 1st year swimmers)	_____ Yes	_____ No
11/21/2026	Home vs Francis	_____ Yes	_____ No
12/5/2026	SWIM-A-THON Fundraiser	_____ Yes	_____ No
12/12/2026	Home vs Wolf Creek	_____ Yes	_____ No
1/9/2027	@ Defiance	_____ Yes	_____ No
1/23/2027	@ Williams Co (Bryan)	_____ Yes	_____ No
2/6/2027	Tiffin Invitation	_____ Yes	_____ No
2/13/2027	@ Wapak	_____ Yes	_____ No
2/27/2027	8 & Under Champs @ Lima	_____ Yes	_____ No
3/6 - 3/7	9 & Over Champs @ BGSU	(Saturday)_____ Yes	_____ No
		(Sunday)_____ Yes	_____ No

Addresses

Wapakoneta YMCA: 1100 Defiance St, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Putnam Co. YMCA : 101 Putnam Pkwy, Ottawa, OH 45875

Lima YMCA : 345 S Elizabeth St, Lima, OH 45801

Defiance Co. YMCA : 1599 Palmer Dr, Defiance, OH 43512

Williams Co. YMCA : 1 Faber Dr, Bryan, OH 43506

Tiffin YMCA: 180 Summit St, Tiffin, OH 44883

BGSU Rec Center: 1411 Ridge St, Bowling Green, OH 43403