



Be a Part of the Swim Team at TVHS???

That's right, TVHS is getting a winter swim team started. Why not be part of this great, new sport at your high school!

Swimming is now officially the most popular Olympic Sport in the United States. Not only is it great exercise, but it's also one of the fastest growing team sports in the country. You can represent your school in PIAA competition, but we need your help to get a team started!!!

For more information about joining this group, contact Mr. Brian Emerich at Robeson Elementary Center – email: bemerich@tvhsd.org or phone (484) 354-5575

FAQ's:

How will the team get started?

During the first year, swimmers will not be formed into an “officially sanctioned” high school team. Although they can represent TVHS in PIAA competitions, all training and meet participation will be done outside of the athletic department of TVHS. Mr. Brian Emerich, a teacher at Robeson Elementary Center, is coordinating group practices and scheduling meet competitions where swimmers can get officially sanctioned PIAA times. The hope is that we can demonstrate enough participation and commitment from swimming athletes to justify an “officially sanctioned” TVHS team to the school board for the 2010/2011 winter season.

What can we hope to get out of this first season?

Although there would not be a full season of dual meets versus other schools, the first year of competition would hopefully serve to establish commitment to the sport from high school athletes that would demonstrate the need for a team at our school. Swimming is a sport that will challenge one to improve as an athlete and would also identify student leaders that would help to get this great new team sport started at TVHS for future swimming athletes.

Where will the team practice?

During the first year, current local club swimmers would still continue to practice with their club teams. However, they can join other high school swimmers from TVHS in PIAA sanctioned contests. Non-club swimmers would practice together at a local facility. Aquabilities in Birdsboro has offered TVHS swimmers an opportunity for pool time Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays. We are also looking at St. Mary of Providence Center in Honey Brook as a potential site. There would be a fee charged to non-club swimmers for pool time at either of these sites. More specifics and total costs will be available in the near future. A group practice schedule would be coordinated by Mr. Emerich at these sites. After the first year, we will seek a facility where both club and non-club swimmers can practice together.

What kind of meets are available for competition?

Both club and non-club swimmers would have an opportunity to compete together at several types of meets. Downingtown West High School and Bishop Shanahan High School have both expressed interest in allowing TVHS swimmers the opportunity to swim exhibition heats during one of their regular dual meets versus other high schools. If we were able to field enough athletes, Bishop Shanahan would have some interest in an entire exhibition meet versus TVHS swimmers. There are also several “qualifying” and “invitational” meets held in the area, which allow swimmers to enter as either individuals or in relay teams to attempt making PIAA District Qualifying times. We would be able to attend any of these meets and we are looking at four potential meets of this type. Finally, if qualifying times were met, the ultimate goal would be to have some of our athletes compete in the PIAA District 3 Meet and the PIAA State Meet.

Will it cost anything to join the team?

If you are currently not a member of a swim club and need a place to train, there will be a registration fee for pool time at either Aquabilities in Birdsboro or St. Mary’s pool in Honey Brook. We are continuing to evaluate which facility gives us the best options and prices. If you are currently a member of another competitive winter club, then you would not need to pay for pool time at either of the aforementioned sites. Simply continue your training with your current club team. There may be meet entry fees required of ALL swimmers for some of the meets we would be attending during the first year. Generally, these entry fees are between \$3.00 and \$5.00 per event. More information on entry fees will be available after we have finalized our plans for attending meets.

Additionally, we may be able to do some fundraising with the help of the Twin Valley Athletic Boosters. They have offered opportunities for us to work the concession stands during football and/or basketball games in the coming weeks. If we can coordinate enough help from swim athletes and their parents, we may be able to raise some funds to help offset the meet entry fees.

When will the team start practicing and competing?

Again, club swimmers are probably already training with their individual groups. Non-club swimmers wishing to join the group being coordinated by Mr. Emerich will start training on or about December 1st. The first day PIAA allows competitions for the swim season is December 11th, so we would not be involved in any competitive events until at least that date. The final day PIAA allows competitions in order to qualify for District Meets is February 27th. The PIAA District 3 Swimming Championships are held on March 5th and 6th and the PIAA State Championships are March 17th and 18th.

What should I do if I want to join the team?

First of all, contact Mr. Emerich and let him know you are interested. He can be reached at his school email address – bemerich@tvsd.org. Then, complete an Aquatics Athlete Information form (which Mr. Emerich can email to you) and return it. If you are a club swimmer, be sure to include your club coach’s contact information on the form. Then, inform your club coach that you would like to swim for your high school this year, in addition to swimming with your club. This is perfectly acceptable and many of the swimmers in PIAA competition compete for both their club and high school teams. After completing the form and returning it to Mr. Emerich, check your email regularly for information about dates, meetings, facilities, fees and meets. Most importantly, **GET THE WORD OUT** to other interested athletes that could benefit from participating on the high school swim team. In addition to being a fun, team activity, swimming provides excellent cross-training benefits to all of the other sports’ athletes. If you are not in another winter sport, swimming would be a great way to stay in shape for your Fall or Spring sport!!! **HOPE TO SEE YOU IN THE POOL!!!!**